City of Bellevue Post Office Box 90012 • Bellevue, Washington • 98009 9012

February 2, 2010

Kevin Kiernan, Director
King County Solid Waste Division
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Kiernan:

The City of Bellevue appreciates the efforts of the King County Solid Waste Division staff in providing a collaborative process during the development of the Draft 2009 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Bellevue believes this approach has resulted in an improved draft Plan and encourages continued collaboration between King County and its stakeholders and customers as the Plan update process continues.

After reviewing the draft Plan, the Bellevue City Council asked Bellevue staff to forward the following comments:

1. Chapter 3 – Waste Prevention and Recycling
   - Bellevue supports promoting voluntary use of durable customer-owned re-usable bags at grocery and other retail stores.
   - Bellevue supports promoting the voluntary use of bio-degradable bags by consumers for the purpose of collecting organic materials, such as kitchen scraps, for placement in yard debris or other organics collection containers.
   - Bellevue supports education and voluntary efforts to promote the use of bio-degradable bags by retailers as an alternative to plastic bags.
   - Bellevue continues to support the Solid Waste Division's grant program that provides funding to cities to assist in carrying out local waste prevention and recycling programs. However, Bellevue does not support a new competitive grant program that would award ratepayer funds to private hauling companies.

2. Chapter 5 – Solid Waste Transfer System
   - The new Factoria Transfer Station is expected to open during 2015, and the Houghton Transfer Station, located in south Kirkland, is scheduled to be closed in 2017. In order to minimize impacts to the Factoria Transfer Station, the transfer station facility proposed for construction in northeast King County (north of Kirkland) must be built and operating before the County closes the Houghton Transfer Station. The Houghton Transfer Station must not be closed until the impacts from the Houghton closure on the Factoria Transfer Station have been thoroughly researched and mitigated.

3. Chapter 6 – Landfill Management and Solid Waste Disposal
   - Bellevue supports King County's efforts to extend the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill as long as possible to avoid the additional costs of waste disposal after closure of Cedar Hills.
   - Prior to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill reaching its maximum capacity, King County should commit to early waste export project(s) as soon as reasonably possible in order to preserve negotiating leverage with potential final disposal service vendors. The pilot project(s) should

be structured to provide the County the data it needs for decision-making while not providing any single company a competitive advantage in future contracts. When considering a successor site/alternative to the Cedar Hills Landfill, King County's decision-making process should ensure transparency and include criteria such as cost-benefit analysis data and environmental impacts.

Bellevue appreciates this opportunity to provide the Division comments on the draft Plan, and we look forward to the continued collaborative Plan development process.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Joyce Nichols at 425-452-4867.

Sincerely,

Denny Vidmar
Director
Utilities Department

Cc: Diane Carlson
Nav Otal