

APPENDIX B

Wastewater Policies

Background

On April 22, 1959, the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Metro) adopted its Comprehensive Sewage Disposal and Stormwater Drainage Plan (Metro Resolution No. 23). For the following 40 years, this Plan, which became the Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan, was amended many times until it was re-adopted by the Metropolitan King County Council by Ordinance No. 12074 on December 6, 1995. Since that date, the Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan has become a “functional plan” under King County’s Comprehensive Plan. The Metropolitan King County Council further amended the Financial Policies by Motion No. 9869 on May 28, 1996.

To aid the Metropolitan King County Council and the Regional Water Quality Committee in the adoption of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (an amendment to the Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan), the Department of Natural Resources consolidated the policies adopted in several Metro resolutions and King County ordinances. The majority of the consolidated existing policies were reviewed by King County’s Regional Water Quality Committee in 1995 which sent three messages [RWQC 95-02 (6/9/95); 95-03 (6/9/95); and 95-04 (8/18/95)] to the Metropolitan King County Council highlighting specific wastewater services policies for consideration in the preparation of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan.

This appendix presents both existing and new wastewater policies according to the six wastewater elements and other related categories. These policies will need to be adopted by the Metropolitan King County Council in order to implement the Executive’s Preferred Plan. Some of the existing policies have proposed revisions and updates for consistency with the Executive’s Preferred Plan. These revisions are noted by underlining new language and crossing out language to be deleted.

Treatment Plant Policies (TPP)

Existing Policies

TPP-1: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall provide secondary treatment to all base sanitary flow delivered to its treatment plants.

New Policies

TPP-2: King County shall provide additional wastewater treatment capacity to serve growing wastewater needs by constructing a new North Treatment Plant in north King County or south Snohomish County and then expanding the treatment capacity at the East Treatment Plant. The West Treatment Plant shall maintain its current capacity, retaining future capacity in reserve as a safeguard against unexpected circumstances which shall include, but not be limited to factors such as higher than anticipated population growth, new facilities to implement the combined sewer overflow reduction program, or new regulatory requirements.

TPP-3: Any improvements to the West Treatment Plant whether for additional CSO volumes, future water reuse options, or any other reason shall meet the terms of the West Point Settlement Agreement.

TTP-4: King County shall undertake studies to determine whether it is economically and environmentally feasible to discharge highly treated wastewater to Lake Washington or Lake Sammamish watersheds.

TTP-5: When there are opportunities to transfer flows between King County's facilities and facilities owned and operated by other wastewater utilities in the region, King County shall evaluate them. Such evaluation shall include, but not be limited to cost, environmental and community impacts, liability, engineering feasibility, flexibility, impacts to contractual and regulatory obligations, and consistency with the level of service provided at King County owned and operated facilities.

TTP-6: King County may explore the possibility of constructing one or more satellite treatment plants. King County may build these plants in cooperation with a local community and provide the community with high-quality reclaimed water through the regional water supply agency.

TTP-7: King County shall establish one or more committees to aid in the siting of a North Treatment Plant. The King County Executive may appoint these representatives, and at a minimum, they shall evaluate siting criteria to be used and a narrowed list of sites for consideration by the King County Executive.

TTP-8: A comprehensive public involvement program shall be developed and implemented to provide the public, at a minimum, the opportunity to give input on the criteria and the screening process used for selecting the list of possible sites for the new treatment plant, its conveyance system and outfall, as well as to provide comment on the final selection of a site.

TTP-9: The King County Executive shall have the final decision of which site will become the location for a North Treatment Plant.

Conveyance Policies (CP)

Existing Policies

There are no existing Conveyance Policies.

New Policies

CP-1: To protect public health and water quality, King County shall plan, design, and construct wastewater facilities to avoid sanitary sewer overflows. The 20-year design storm shall be used as the design standard for King County's separated wastewater system except for the Renton Effluent Transfer System (RETS) which shall be designed with a two-year design standard. When effluent volumes exceed the two-year design standard and exceed the capacity of the RETS, secondary treated effluent from the East Treatment Plant will be discharged to the Green/Duwamish River until the flow subsides such that the flow can be discharged through the RETS.

CP-2: King County shall construct the necessary wastewater infrastructure (pipelines, pumps, regulators, etc.) to convey wastewater to the treatment plants for treatment as well as convey treated effluent to waterbodies for discharge.

CP-3: King County shall evaluate assumptions used to size future conveyance facilities to allow for flexibility to convey future flows that may differ from present population projections or development patterns.

Inflow/Infiltration Policies (I/IP)

Existing Policies

~~I/IP-1: A 20-year peak flow shall be the minimum design standard for conveyance capacity in the Water Pollution Control Division's separated system. Higher peak flow standards will be pursued when shown to be cost-effective or required by local agreement.~~

~~I/I-2: The Water Pollution Control Division shall rehabilitate portions of its system to prevent I/I whenever the cost of rehabilitation is less than the costs of conveying and treating that flow.~~

~~I/I-3: The Water Pollution Control Division shall work collaboratively with local agencies to reduce I/I into the conveyance system by providing information, technical advice cost-minimizing strategies and by developing an equitable funding strategy.~~

~~I/I-4: The Water Pollution Control Division shall monitor component agency systems for inflow and infiltration in order to better identify long-term system operating and capital needs and aid in the equitable distribution of costs.~~

New Policies

I/IP-1: King County is committed to controlling I/I within its regional conveyance system and shall provide the resources necessary to ensure I/I levels remain within accepted standards.

I/IP-2: King County shall work collaboratively with local service providers to reduce I/I in local conveyance systems by providing regional focus, financial assistance, and technical support.

I/I-3: King County shall share the cost of assessing the current status of I/I in the local collection systems tributary to King County. These assessments shall be completed by 2003 and will define current I/I levels in local conveyance systems and establish cost effective removal levels.

I/I-4: King County shall commit through 2010 to share in the cost of correcting local system I/I that is judged to be cost effective to eliminate (less expensive to control locally than to transport and treat regionally) and of regional significance.

I/I-5: King County shall implement an excessive I/I surcharge by the year 2010 specifically designed to encourage local service providers to remove I/I that is cost effective to control locally and which unfairly burdens King County's regional facilities.

Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction Policies (CSORP)

Existing Policies

~~CSORP-1: The Water Pollution Control Division shall plan to control CSO discharges and to work with state and federal agencies to develop cost-effective regulations that protect water quality. The Water Pollution Control Division shall meet current regulations and agreements, which are the following:~~

~~The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Public Law 92-500) of 1972 and its amendments, NPDES Permit Requirements (No. WA-002918-1(m), S11.C.2, and Chapter 173-245 of the Washington Administrative Code. By agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Water Pollution Control Division will reduce the volume of CSOs by 75 percent (from baseline established in 1988) over the Water Pollution Control Division's entire service area by the year 2005.~~

King County shall plan to control CSO discharges and to work with state and federal agencies to develop cost-effective regulations that protect water quality. King County shall meet current regulations and agreements, such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Public Law 92-500) of 1972 and its amendments; NPDES Permit Requirements (No. WA-002918-1(m), S11.C.2; and Chapter 173-245 of the Washington Administrative Code.

~~CSORP-2: The Water Pollution Control Division shall give CSO discharges that can potentially impact human health the highest priority for control.~~ King County shall give CSO discharges that have the highest potential to impact human health the highest priority for control.

~~CSORP-3: The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall participate with the City of Seattle in the Municipal Stormwater NPDES permit application process.

~~CSORP-4: Although the Water Pollution Control Division's~~ King County's wastewater collection system is impacted by the intrusion of clean stormwater, conveyance and treatment facilities shall not be designed for the interception, collection and treatment of clean stormwater.

~~CSORP-5: To protect water quality, the Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall accept stormwater runoff from industrial sources and shall establish a fee to capture the cost of transporting and treating this stormwater. A permit Specific authorization for such discharge is required.

~~CSORP-6: The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County, in conjunction with the City of Seattle, shall implement stormwater management programs in a cooperative manner that results in a coordinated joint effort and avoids duplicative or conflicting programs.

New Policies

CSORP-7: King County shall develop a long-range sediment management strategy to prioritize clean up of contaminated sediments at specific CSO locations.

CSORP-8: King County shall complete the CSO Water Quality Assessment in 1998 and will use its results to assess CSO projects and priorities prior to the issuance of the year 2000 *CSO Update*.

Biosolids Policies (BP)

Existing Policies

~~BP-1: The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall strive to achieve beneficial use of wastewater solids. A beneficial use can be any use that proves to be environmentally safe, ~~and economically sound, and utilizes the advantageous qualities of the material.~~

BP-2: Biosolids derived products shall be used as a soil amendment in landscaping projects funded by King County.

~~BP-3: New and innovative technologies for wastewater solids processing, energy recovery, and beneficial uses brought forward by public or private interests shall be considered, along with King County or other public and private ownership of facilities.~~ King County shall seek to advance the beneficial use of wastewater solids, effluent, and methane gas through research and demonstration projects.

~~BP-4: The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall seek to maximize program reliability and minimize risk by: (a) maintaining reserve capacity to manage approximately 150 percent of projected biosolids; (b) considering diverse technologies, end products, and beneficial uses; and/or (c) pursuing contractual protections including interlocal agreements, where appropriate.

~~BP-5: The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall produce and use wastewater solids within the stipulations of state and federal laws.

~~BP-6: The Water Pollution Control Division King County~~ shall strive to produce the highest quality biosolids economically and practically achievable and ~~will~~ shall continue efforts to reduce trace metals in biosolids consistent with 40 CFR 503 pollutant concentration levels (exceptional quality) for individual metals. ~~King County shall continue to provide Class B biosolids and explore technologies that will enable the County to generate Class A biosolids, cost-effectively or for better marketability. Future decisions shall be based on marketability of biosolids products.~~

~~BP-7: When biosolids derived products are distributed outside the Water Pollution Control Division King County~~ wastewater service area, ~~the property owners~~ local sponsors using the products shall act as lead in securing any permits required by the local government body.

~~BP-8: The Water Pollution Control Division King County~~ shall work cooperatively with statewide organizations on biosolids issues.

~~BP-9: The Water Pollution Control Division King County~~ shall seek to minimize the noise and odor impact associated with processing, transporting and applying of biosolids, consistent with constraints of economic and environmental considerations and giving due regard to neighboring communities.

~~BP-10: Where cost-effective, King County~~ shall beneficially use methane produced at the treatment plants for energy and other purposes.

~~BP-11: The Water Pollution Control Division~~ shall seek to advance the beneficial use of wastewater solids through research and demonstration projects. Deleted as included under BP-3.

~~BP-10: King County~~ shall continue to beneficially reuse biosolids, make decisions based on marketability of biosolids product, and provide Class B biosolids. Deleted as included under BP-6.

New Policies

There are no new Biosolids Policies.

Water Reuse Policies (WRP)

Existing Policies

~~WRP-1: Recycled wastewater could provide a significant source of water supply for the region's non-potable uses, and could reduce the demand for fresh water supply. Therefore, the Regional Wastewater Services Plan shall include a plan for a water reuse program in keeping with the following:~~

- ~~• The cost of making the supply of recycled water available should be borne by water users (suppliers), and sewer rate subsidies of these programs eliminated.~~
- ~~• The Water Pollution Control Division's financial participation in the provision of recycled water should be equal to sewer system costs that are reduced or avoided due to the recycling program.~~
- ~~• The Water Pollution Control Division shall actively participate in the development of water quality laws, standards and programs to ensure cost-effective maintenance or enhancement of environmental and public health.~~

New Policies

~~WRP-1: King County~~ shall encourage the use of reclaimed water while protecting the health and safety of all citizens in the County and the protection of the environment. The County shall develop a reclaimed water program to help meet the goals of the County to preserve water supplies within the region and to ensure that any reclaimed water reintroduced back into the environment will protect the water quality of the receiving water body and the aquatic environment.

WRP-2: Recycling and reusing highly-treated reclaimed water shall be investigated by King County as a possible significant new source of water to enhance or maintain fish runs, supply additional water for the Region's non-potable uses, preserve environmental and aesthetic values, and defer the need to develop new potable water supply projects.

WRP-3: King County's Water Reuse Program and projects shall be coordinated with the regional water supply plans and regional basin plans, in accordance with State and Federal standards. King County recognizes that water reuse and water supply/resources must be developed in conjunction with each other to allow the most effective management of resources in the County.

WRP-4: Direct non-potable projects shall continue to be implemented on a case-by-case basis. To evaluate direct non-potable projects, King County shall develop criteria which may include, but are not limited to: cost, environmental benefits, fisheries habitat maintenance and enhancement potential, community and social benefits and impacts, public education opportunities, risk and liability, demonstration of new technologies, and enhancing economic development.

WRP-5: King County shall work with local water purveyors, when the local purveyors update their water comprehensive plans, to evaluate the opportunities for water reuse within their local service area.

WRP-6: King County shall develop a proactive reclaimed water public education and involvement program. This program shall be developed to correspond with the development of the Water Reuse Program and be coordinated with other water conservation education programs.

WRP-7: King County shall establish a forum or multiple forums to provide opportunities for coordination and communication with the Washington State departments of Health and Ecology (which have the State regulatory role in the planning, design, and construction of reuse facilities). King County shall involve other stakeholders, including but not limited to: the Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, regional water suppliers, tribal governments, local water and wastewater districts, cities, local health departments, watershed forums, and environmental and community groups.

WRP-8: King County shall work, on a case-by-case basis, with the Washington State Departments of Health and Ecology on those types of water reuse projects which are not specifically cited in the 1997 Department of Health and Ecology Water Reclamation and Reuse Standards..

WRP-9: King County shall hold and maintain the exclusive right to any reclaimed water generated by the wastewater treatment plants owned and operated by King County.

WRP-10: The projects potentially planned under King County's Water Reuse Program shall not impair any existing water rights unless compensation or mitigation for such impairment is agreed to by the holder of the affected water rights.

WRP-11: King County shall retain the flexibility to produce and distribute reclaimed water at all treatment plants including retaining options to add additional levels of treatment.

WRP-12: King County shall continue to fund pilot-scale and water reclamation demonstration projects, in whole or in part, from the wastewater utility rate base.

WRP-13: King County shall complete an economic and financial feasibility assessment, including environmental benefits, when water reclamation projects other than pilot scale or demonstration projects are proposed. The economic analysis, with a scope consistent with the size of the project, shall include the assessment of marginal costs including stranded costs and benefits to estimate equitable cost splits between participating governmental agencies and utilities. The analysis shall also include a review of existing and planned water and wastewater facilities in an approved plan to ensure that reuse facilities are justified when any resulting redundant capacity is taken into account.

Financial Policies (FP)

Existing Policies

FP-1: The Water Quality Program will maintain a multi-year financial plan and cash-flow projection of six years or more, estimating service growth, operating expenses, capital requirements, reserves and debt service. The financial plan will be reviewed and adopted by the Council and used as a policy basis for budget and related financial planning.

FP-2: Bond covenants will set requirements that ensure a prudent budget standard. Net operating income (operating income minus operating expense) must exceed parity bond debt service requirements by at least 15 percent. The resulting balance on operations is available along with bond proceeds to cover annual capital expenditures. Staff will advise Council if either operating or capital expenditures are expected to exceed adopted levels.

FP-3: If the operations and maintenance component of the proposed annual budget increases by more than a reasonable cost of the addition of new facilities, increased flows, new programs authorized by the Council, and inflation, a feasible alternative spending plan will be presented, identifying steps to reduce cost growth. An alternative-spending plan will also be available in the event that actual revenues drop below prudent estimates. A program of reviewing business practices for savings and efficiency potential will be ongoing.

FP-4: Reserves needed for future liabilities, claims, and replacement will be reported in budget planning.

FP-5: To maintain sufficient funds to meet bond covenants for betterment reserves, requirements for cash flow and potential future liabilities, the water quality program will maintain a minimum cash balance of \$5 million each year. This amount may be changed in budget planning and will be included in the annual Sewer Rate Explanation Report.

Sewer rates will be set at a level sufficient to meet the following financial policies (FP-6 to FP-9):

FP-6: *Debt Service Coverage:* Bond covenants require the ratio of net operating income to debt service to be 1.15. For rate-setting purposes, the policy is to target the ratio at a minimum of 1.25. Budgets will be planned and monitored against this 1.25 standard. This policy assures budgets are planned with a margin of error so that bond covenant agreements are met.

FP-7: *Emergency Reserves:* Bond covenants require three emergency funds. The Operating Reserve is required to have a balance the greater of \$300,000 or five percent of total operating and maintenance costs and may be used for operating costs if sufficient revenues are not available. The Contingency Reserve is required to have a minimum balance of \$2,000,000 and may be used for emergency repairs or unforeseen capital improvements. The Betterment Reserve is required to have a minimum deposit each year of \$750,000 and may be used for emergency repairs, capital improvements in the Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan, replenishment of other reserves, and payment of outstanding parity bonds. Council approval shall be sought for any use of these funds.

FP-8: *Maintenance of the System:* Revenues will be sufficient to maintain capital assets in sound working condition, providing for maintenance and rehabilitation of facilities at a level intended to minimize total cost while continuing to provide reliable, high quality service and maintain high water quality standards.

FP-9: *Sewer Bond Covenant Provisions:* Covenants contained in Resolution No. 90 and subsequent resolutions authorizing issuance of bonds are hereby affirmed.

FP-10: King County will attempt to structure the term of its borrowings to match the expected useful life of the assets to be funded. The water quality capital program will be financed predominantly by

annual staged issues of long-term general obligation or parity bonds backed by sewer revenues, provided that:

- All available sources of grants are utilized;
- The balance on operations available after reserve requirements are met will be used for the capital program; any excess reserves may also be used for capital;
- Consideration is given to competing demands for use of King County's overall general obligation debt capacity; and
- Consideration is given to the overall level of debt financing that can be sustained over the long term given the size of future capital expenditures, potential impacts of credit ratings, and other relevant factors such as intergenerational rate equity and the types of projects appropriately financed with long-term debt.

FP-11: To achieve a better maturity matching of assets and liabilities, thereby reducing interest rate risk, short-term borrowing will be used to fund a portion of the capital program, provided that:

- Outstanding short-term debt comprises no more than 15 percent of total outstanding parity and general obligation bonds;
- Appropriate liquidity is in place to protect the day-to-day operations of the division.

FP-12: A report will be prepared in support of the proposed annual sewer rates, including the following information:

Key Assumptions: Key financial assumptions such as inflation, bond interest rates, investment income, size and timing of bond issues, and the considerations underlying the projection of future growth in residential customer equivalents;

Significant Financial Projections: All key projections, including the annual projection of operating and capital costs, debt service coverage, cash balances, revenue requirements, revenue projections, and a discussion of significant factors that impact the degree of uncertainty associated with the projections; and

Historical Data: A discussion of consistent over or under projections of costs and revenues from previous recent budgets, and;

Policy Options: Calculations and/or analyses of the effect of certain policy options on the overall revenue requirement. These options will include alternative capital improvement accomplishment percentages (including a 90 percent, a 95 percent, and a 100 percent accomplishment rate), and that rate will be selected which most accurately matches historical performance for capital projects and which will not negatively impair the bond rating.

FP-13: Water quality services performed for a fee for other public or private organizations will be reimbursed to recover all direct and indirect costs of the service unless otherwise directed by council. The Department Director may waive this policy in specific circumstances where recovery of all direct and indirect expenses may interfere in the wastewater program goals or mission.

- King County should periodically review the sewage treatment capacity charge to ensure that the true costs of system expansion are reflected in the assessed charge. All reasonable steps should be taken to coordinate fee assessments and accounting with local sewer service providers to reduce redundant program overhead costs.

- Selective monitoring should be increased for inflow and infiltration system flows of component agencies. While this may not have an immediate financial impact, it could better identify long-term system operating and capital needs, and could aid in the equitable distribution of costs. See **new policies on I/I reduction**.
- As a program policy, King County will continue its long-standing commitment to research and development funding at least at current functional levels.
- Expenditures from the Water Quality Program budget on behalf of septic systems will be conducted only if financially beneficial to sewer customers.
- King County will attempt to adopt a multi-year sewer rate to provide stable costs to ~~Water Pollution Control customers~~ sewer customers. If a multi-year rate is established, a rate stabilization reserve account will be created to ensure that adequate funds are available to sustain the rate through completion of the rate cycle. Funds will not be removed from this rate stabilization account without prior review of the Regional Water Quality Committee.
- King County will prepare explicit policies for the setting of customer rates, in consultation with the Regional Water Quality Committee, for adoption into future budget policies by the Metropolitan King County Council.

FP-14: ~~The customers of the Water Pollution control sewer system~~ Sewer customers will pay their pro rata share of the cost of the system which serves them. To implement this policy:

- A capacity charge is levied against new connections, reconnections, or establishment of a new service. This charge is intended to ensure that excess capacity built into the system to serve future customers is paid for by these new customers. ~~to pay for the capital cost of excess capacity that has already been built to serve future customers.~~ The charge is currently set at the maximum amount permitted by state law. King County shall pursue changes in state law to attain greater flexibility in setting capacity charges in order to ensure that new growth will pay an equitable portion of the costs of expanding system capacity.
- Based on an analysis of residential construction patterns, ~~Water Pollution Control~~ King County currently uses a value of 750 cubic feet per month to convert water consumption of volume-based customers to residential customer equivalents for billing purposes. King County will periodically review the appropriateness of this value to ensure that all accounts pay their fair share of the cost of the sewer system.

FP-15: Water quality activities, programs and projects, in addition to those that are functions of sewage treatment, may be eligible for funding assistance from sewer rate revenues as may be recommended by the Regional Water Quality Committee after consideration of criteria and limitations suggested by the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee, and will be limited to 1.5 percent of the annual ~~Water Quality Program's Wastewater~~ annual operating budget. This policy will remain in effect until such time as a financial plan for the Surface Water Regional Needs Assessment is developed.

FP-16: The calculation of general government overhead to be charged to the wastewater fund will be based on a methodology which provides for the equitable distribution of overhead costs throughout Metropolitan King County government. Estimated overhead charges will be calculated in a fair and consistent manner, utilizing a methodology that best matches the estimated cost of the services provided to the actual overhead charge. The overall allocation formula and any subsequent modifications will be reported to the Regional Water Quality Committee.

FP-17: The assets of the water quality fund are pledged to be used for the benefit of the sewer system including operating expenses, debt service payments and capital improvements associated therewith. The fund will be fully reimbursed for the costs associated with any use or transfer of such assets for

other county government purposes. The Executive will provide reports to the Regional Water Quality Committee pertaining to any significant transfers of assets for other county government purposes in advance of and subsequent to any such transfers.

New Policies

FP-18: King County shall charge its customers rates sufficient to cover the costs of constructing, operating and maintaining its facilities and services and shall strive to maximize other sources of revenue.

Wastewater Services Policies (WWSP)

Existing Policies

WWSP-1: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall provide wastewater services to fulfill the contractual commitments to its component agency customers in a manner that promotes environmental stewardship, recognizes the value of wastewater in the regional water resource system, and reflects a wise use of public funds.

WWSP-2: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall ~~should~~ continue to establish ~~government-to-government (e.g. tribal)~~ tribal relations as appropriate and structure processes for joint water quality stewardship.

WWSP-3: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall not accept additional wastewater directly from private facilities within the boundaries of a local public agency without the prior written consent of such local public agency.

WWSP-4: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division's~~ King County's service area generally has been developed along those boundaries defined in the original *Metropolitan Seattle Sewerage and Drainage Survey*, which was adopted as ~~The Water Pollution Control Division's~~ King County's wastewater comprehensive plan and amended. ~~The Water Pollution Control Division's~~ King County's service area is, specifically, an aggregation of the service areas of the local governments with whom a sewage disposal agreement has been established (Agreement for Sewage Disposal, Section 2.). ~~The Water Pollution Control Division's~~ King County's service area boundary is therefore coincident with the perimeter of this aggregation, and shall not exceed the Urban Growth Boundary for King County and the portion of sewer service provided to Snohomish County and Pierce County within ~~that those~~ County's Counties Urban Growth Boundaries.

WWSP-5: Proposed extensions to an existing interceptor owned by ~~the Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County must be consistent with King County's land use plans and policies, and certified by potentially affected land use jurisdictions as consistent with their adopted land use plans and policies.

WWSP-6: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall operate and maintain its facilities to protect public health and the environment, comply with regulations, and improve services in a fiscally responsible manner.

WWSP-7: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall plan, design and construct wastewater facilities in accordance with standards established by regulatory agencies and manuals of practice for engineering.

WWSP-8: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County facilities shall be constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent raw sewage overflows and to contain overflows in the combined collection system. In the event of a raw sewage overflow, a rapid and coordinated response including notification of public health agencies, the media, the public, and the affected jurisdiction shall be initiated. Preserving water quality and public health shall be the top priority, to be implemented by immediately initiat-

ing repairs or constructing temporary diversion systems that return flow back to the wastewater system.

WWSP-9: To ensure the region's multi-billion dollar investment in wastewater facilities, ongoing maintenance and repair shall be a high priority of ~~the Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County. The Wastewater Treatment Division's maintenance budget, staffing levels and priorities shall be developed to reflect the long-term useful life of wastewater facilities.

WWSP-10: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County King County shall establish a ~~five-year~~ Capital Facilities Assets Management Plan, updated annually, establishing replacement of worn, inefficient and/or depreciated capital assets to ensure continued reliability of the wastewater infrastructure.

WWSP-11: ~~To ensure worker, public and system safety, the Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall design, construct, operate, and maintain its facilities to meet or exceed regulatory requirements for air, water and solids emissions as well as to ensure worker, public and system safety.

WWSP-12: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall accept sewage, septage and biosolids from outside its service area provided that it is consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan, capacity is available and no operating difficulties are created. King County will establish a rate to recover costs from accepting sewage, septage and biosolids from outside its service area.

WWSP-13: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division shall transport, treat and dispose/recycle sewerage within those portions of the Lake Washington and Lower Green River basins in the Urban Growth Area in a reliable and cost-efficient manner.—Deleted as covered under other policies.~~

WWSP-14: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division shall provide water pollution abatement service for areas within the Urban Growth Area when such areas can be feasibly served under the terms, conditions and rates established by the King County Council.~~

New Policies

There are no new Wastewater Services Policies.

Water Quality Protection Policies (WQPP)

Existing Policies

WQPP-1: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall participate in identifying and resolving water quality issues pertaining to public health and ecosystem protection in the region to ensure that the public's investment in wastewater facilities and water resource management programs is protected.

WQPP-2: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall evaluate the impacts and benefits of actions that affect the quality of the region's waters and identify measures to meet and maintain water quality standards.

WQPP-3: ~~Forecast future aquatic resource conditions that may affect wastewater treatment decisions and work collaboratively to identify cost-effective alternatives to mitigate water quality problems and enhance regional water quality. King County shall forecast future aquatic resource conditions that may affect wastewater treatment decisions and work cooperatively to identify cost-effective alternatives to mitigate water quality problems and enhance regional water quality.~~

WQPP-4: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall participate with its regional partners to identify methods, plans and programs to enhance water quality and water resources in the region.

WQPP-5: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall share and make publicly available water quality information resulting from water resource sampling, monitoring, analysis and other Department of Natural Resources ~~Division~~ research activities.

WQPP-6: ~~To support the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and other permit applications, and ensure permit compliance, the Water Pollution Control Division shall implement and maintain water quality, monitoring, evaluating and reporting programs.~~

King County shall implement and maintain water quality, monitoring, evaluating and reporting programs to support the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for wastewater and other permit applications, and ensure permit compliance.

WQPP-7: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall actively participate in the development of water quality laws, standards and program development to ensure cost-effective maintenance or enhancement of environmental and public health.

WQPP-8: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall assess the risk to human health and the environment from wastewater treatment and conveyance activities, and use this information in evaluating water pollution abatement control options.

WQPP-9: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division will disseminate information and provide education to the general public, private sector, and governmental agencies regarding the status, needs and potential futures of the region's water resources.~~ Deleted as covered under public involvement.

New Policies

There are no new Water Quality Protection Policies.

Wastewater Planning Policies (WWPP)

Existing Policies

WWPP-1: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall plan comprehensively to provide for the design and construction of facilities that meet the wastewater system needs of the service area and shall coordinate with other local jurisdictions to ensure that construction-related disruption to neighborhoods is minimized.

WWPP-2: In planning future treatment systems, ~~the Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall make a long-term assessment of wastewater treatment needs.

WWPP-3: The comprehensive plan (Regional Wastewater Services Plan) shall provide a framework for the allocation of capital funds.

WWPP-4: In planning for facilities, ~~the Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall work collaboratively with other jurisdictions and look for opportunities to achieve cost savings.

WWPP-5: Facility sizing shall take into account the need to accommodate build-out population.

New Policies

WWPP-6: King County shall monitor conditions that could affect the plan and “check in” at key points during implementation to ensure that decisions are appropriate. Conditions to be monitored shall include but not be limited to population growth, development in new technologies, regulations, environmental conditions, and public opinion.

WWFPP-7: King County shall actively solicit and incorporate public opinions throughout the implementation of its wastewater plan.

Environmental Mitigation Policies (EMP)

Existing Policies

EMP-1: ~~In developing mitigation for environmental impacts created by the operation, maintenance, expansion or replacement of sewage conveyance, treatment and disposal facilities, mitigation measures shall be:~~

- ~~• Causally related to these actions.~~
- ~~• Related to specific adverse environmental impacts on the Water Pollution Control Division's proposed actions, and to impacts identified in the Water Pollution Control Division's environmental documents.~~
- ~~• Reasonable, and although expenditures for mitigation need not be strictly proportional to the impacts, cost is recognized as a factor in determining reasonableness.~~

King County shall work with affected communities to develop mitigation measures for environmental impacts created by the construction, operation, maintenance, expansion or replacement of wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal facilities. These mitigation measures shall:

- Address the adverse environmental impacts caused by the project
- Address the adverse environmental impacts identified in King County's environmental documents; and
- Be reasonable in terms of cost and magnitude as measured against severity and duration of impact.

EMP-2: Mitigation measures identified through the SEPA process shall be incorporated into design plans and construction contracts to ensure full compliance.

New Policies

EMP-3: The siting process and mitigation for new facilities shall be consistent with the Growth Management Act and the State Environmental Policy Act, as well as the requirements and conditions established by the jurisdictions governing the permitting process.

EMP-4: King County shall mitigate the long-term and short-term impacts for wastewater facilities in the communities in which they are located. The County's goal is to construct regional facilities that enhance the quality of life in the region and in the local community, and are not detrimental to the quality of life in their vicinity. Mitigation as it is used in this policy is as defined in SEPA (WAC 197-11-768).

Public Involvement Policies (PIP)

Existing Policies

PIP-1: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall maintain public information/ education programs and engage the public and component agencies of local sewer service in the planning, designing, and operating decisions affecting them.

PIP-2: Public information and education programs shall be developed to support ~~the Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County wastewater programs, and ~~will~~ shall lay the groundwork for public understanding of and involvement in specific ~~Departmental~~ Department of Natural Resources programs.

PIP-3: ~~The Water Pollution Control Division~~ King County shall involve public officials and citizens of affected jurisdictions early and actively in the planning and decision-making process for capital projects.

PIP-4: Affected residents and businesses shall be informed in advance of capital construction projects. ~~Every reasonable effort shall be made to mitigate identified impacts.~~

PIP-5: Citizens' Water Resources Advisory Committee. Purpose: ~~A standing citizen advisory committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the King County Executive and Council on matters concerning water resource issues, and shall have a strong role in Water Pollution Control Division planning activities.~~

New Policies

PIP-5: King County shall disseminate information and provide education to the general public, private sector, and governmental agencies regarding the status, needs and potential futures of the region's water resources.