



Dear Friends,

Forty years ago, concerned residents rallied and formed a grassroots movement to clean up Lake Washington. The water was so polluted with untreated wastewater that their families could not swim or fish in it. These residents accomplished their goal, but they did so much more. Their efforts resulted in the first-rate wastewater collection and treatment system that we enjoy today.

Now we have the opportunity to do the same for ourselves and for future generations. The big difference between 40 years ago and today, however, is that we can rally before our water resources degrade to the point where we can no longer enjoy them. But we must act quickly: the recent proposal to list Puget Sound salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires us to act quickly to protect water quality, and growing population in King and Snohomish Counties threatens to exhaust the capacity in our existing wastewater system by the year 2010.

For the past several years, we have been developing possible ways to meet the increasing demands of population growth while keeping our system flexible enough to respond to new circumstances like the ESA. We asked the public to help us decide on the best approach to take. Now I am pleased to

present my recommendations for managing the wastewater needs of this region for another 40 years or more:

- Build a new north treatment plant, associated conveyance improvements, and a new outfall system that discharges treated effluent to Puget Sound
- Accelerate the program to control combined sewer overflows
- Implement a new incentive-based program to reduce inflow and infiltration
- Continue recycling biosolids and evaluate new biosolids technologies
- Investigate new ways to recycle and reuse water from new and existing treatment plants to help meet other water resource needs in the region

I urge you to become involved in developing a final Regional Wastewater Services Plan. Please review this document for more detail on these recommendations and provide us with your comments, questions, and concerns during the upcoming Council adoption process. Together, we can protect and preserve our important water resources.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims
King County Executive