



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**February 19, 2016**

**Resolution 16-03**

**Proposed No. 16-03.2**

**Sponsors**

1           A RESOLUTION supporting ongoing collaboration for the  
2           purpose of improving the health and well-being of King  
3           County residents by ensuring safe drinking and surface  
4           water in King County.

5           WHEREAS, proper septic system use and routine maintenance are vital to  
6           protecting public health, preserving our highly valued groundwater, lakes, streams and  
7           Puget Sound and avoiding costly repairs that can result from neglect, and

8           WHEREAS, an estimated forty thousand to sixty thousand septic systems treat  
9           wastewater from homes and businesses, serving more than six percent of King County's  
10          developed properties, and

11          WHEREAS, while septic systems protect water quality when designed, installed  
12          and used correctly, it is estimated that more than twenty thousand septic systems in King  
13          County were installed before modern safety standards, potentially resulting in more than  
14          one billion gallons of insufficiently treated wastewater from inadequate septic systems  
15          each year posing a threat to human health, and

16          WHEREAS, Puget Sound county boards of health are authorized by RCW  
17          70.05.190 to impose and collect reasonable rates or charges sufficient to pay for the  
18          actual costs of administration and operation of the septic system program management  
19          plan and contract with the county treasurer to collect the rates or charges, and

20 WHEREAS, there is documented pollution from septic systems, agriculture, and  
21 other sources in one hundred ninety-two listed segments of rivers, streams and marine  
22 waters and eight hundred thirty-four acres of potential commercial shellfish beds in Puget  
23 Sound, and

24 WHEREAS, Public Health - Seattle & King County is mandated by chapter 246-  
25 272A WAC to monitor and regulate septic systems and by chapter 70.118A RCW to  
26 implement a septic system program management plan to protect the public's health, and

27 WHEREAS, clean and healthy surface and groundwater in King County requires  
28 a collaborative approach from many King County agencies, including Public Health -  
29 Seattle & King County, the department of natural resources and parks, the department of  
30 information technology, the office of the county executive, the office of the county  
31 assessor, and those entities involved in waste water treatment, including local  
32 jurisdictions and sewer districts, and

33 WHEREAS, with the support of local partners, Public Health - Seattle & King  
34 County must develop a robust, sustainably funded system to identify and monitor septic  
35 systems, provide education to septic system owners and installation and maintenance  
36 professionals;

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King  
38 County:

39 The board calls for collaboration between partner agencies and local jurisdictions  
40 to address water pollution in King County and encourages action to:

41 A. Develop a list of all septic systems located in King County;

42 B. Update the King County On-site Septic System Management Plan, July 2007;

43 and

44 C. Seek sustainable funding to support a countywide system to oversee the proper  
45 management of septic systems.

46

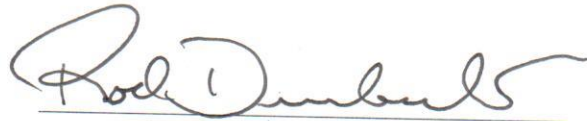
Resolution 16-03 was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 2/18/2016, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Baker, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. McDermott,  
Ms. Wales, Mr. Dembowski, Dr. Delecki, Dr. Daniell and Ms.  
Gonzalez

No: 0

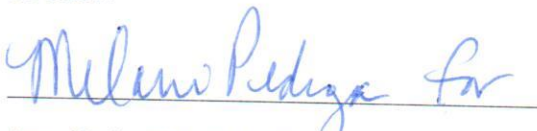
Excused: 2 - Dr. Danielson and Ms. Juarez

BOARD OF HEALTH  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

**Attachments:** None