

DRAFT
Summary of Rates & Finance Subcommittee April 4, 2019 meeting
For MWPAAC General Meeting on April 24, 2019

1. Capacity Charge Affordability Study Update – Recommended Changes to King County Code

Presenter: Alison Saperstein, Program Manager – King County WTD

Alison provided an update for “final” proposed changes to the King County Code 2020 Rate Ordinance:

- Low-income homeowners may opt to defer capacity charge payments which will be guaranteed by a low-interest lien against the property.
- More “affordable housing” units will qualify for the low-income housing capacity charge rate.
- Emergency and transitional housing will be eligible for reduced capacity charges.
- Will the program have a “set amount” of discounts available each budget period or will the program be open-ended?

A lengthy Q&A session ensued. Alison addressed many of those issues including:

- WTD staff would identify eligibility; this would not fall on component agencies
- County would prepare and distribute literature communicating the changes to the capacity charge
- New definitions of what units qualify for low incoming rates
- Requirements of low-income, owner occupied properties
- Restrictions on multifamily rental rates

Alison concluded the presentation stating that WTD continues to estimate an annual cost of \$2.2 - \$3.0 million. Still outstanding is how these changes will be funded; through the capacity charge or through monthly sewer rates.

A handout was provided and is available online.

Questions?

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