



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3210
Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-4040 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

August 20, 2008

Scott Thomasson

Chair, Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

201 South Jackson Street

MS KSC-NR-0512

Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Thomasson:

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2008, on behalf of the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC), commenting on the Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study and identifying elements to include in the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan. I appreciate MWPAAC's thoughtful recommendations and willingness to devote time and energy to the development of this important regional plan.

The planning process for the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan (Plan) is just beginning. As a first step, we are seeking input on what the Plan should address from a broad range of stakeholders. It is of utmost importance that we take the time to listen to the recommendations and suggestions of as many stakeholders possible. Just as MWPAAC so clearly identified the elements you feel are most critical for the Plan to include, I want to learn about the elements that are important to tribal governments, local jurisdictions, individual water and wastewater utilities, environmental groups, business groups, civic groups, equity and social justice groups, recreational organizations, and agricultural interests. We will then compile all the issues that have been identified, including the topics raised in your letter, to determine, in as thoughtful and deliberative manner as possible, if and how they can be addressed in the Plan.

To ensure a robust and meaningful stakeholder process, there will be individual meetings and workshops with stakeholders throughout the two-year planning effort to develop the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan. I am heartened to know that MWPAAC's Engineering and Planning Sub-Committee is already scheduled to meet monthly with the Wastewater Treatment Division to ensure MWPAAC is fully involved in this effort.

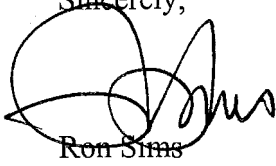
Development of the comprehensive plan allows us to explore ways to use our treated effluent as a resource rather than a waste product. Reclaimed water is a safe, reliable, and available resource that can help meet some of the most complex near- and long-term challenges facing our region, such as climate change impacts, Puget Sound recovery efforts, increased urbanization, and

Scott Thomasson
August 20, 2008
Page 2

the need for greater protection and enhancement of our region's wetlands, groundwater, and salmon-bearing streams and rivers. I am confident that we will be able to develop a Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan that helps meet these challenges and addresses the issues and concerns you thoughtfully raised in your letter.

Thank you for sharing your recommendations on this important effort. I look forward to MWPAAC's continued involvement and engagement in the development of the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Ron Sims
King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Ross Baker, Chief of Staff

Saroja Reddy, Policy Staff Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Frank Abe, Communications Director

Regional Water Quality Committee Members

Theresa Jennings, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Christie True, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP