



## Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0512  
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### MEMBERS:

*Alderwood Water and  
Wastewater District*

*City of Algona*

*City of Auburn*

*City of Bellevue*

*City of Black Diamond*

*City of Bothell*

*City of Brier*

*City of Carnation*

*Cedar River Water and Sewer District*

*Coal Creek Utility District*

*Cross Valley Water District*

*Highlands Sewer District*

*City of Issaquah*

*City of Kent*

*City of Kirkland*

*City of Lake Forest Park*

*Lakehaven Utility District*

*City of Mercer Island*

*Midway Sewer District*

*Northeast Sammamish Sewer District*

*Northshore Utility District*

*Olympic View Water and Sewer District*

*City of Pacific*

*City of Redmond*

*City of Renton*

*Ronald Wastewater District*

*Sammamish Plateau Water and  
Sewer District*

*City of Seattle*

*Skyway Water and Sewer District*

*Soos Creek Water and Sewer District*

*Southwest Suburban Sewer District*

*City of Tukwila*

*Val Vue Sewer District*

*Vashon Sewer District*

*Woodinville Water District*

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Kurt Triplett  
King County Executive  
401 Fifth Ave., Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104

SUBJECT: Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan

Dear Executive Triplett:

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) has been briefed numerous times on the status of the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan (RWCP). At our July 22, 2009 meeting, we received an update on the Purpose and Need Statement, and the RWCP process that the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) has submitted for your review and transmittal to the King County Council. MWPAAC requested several changes to the process, Purpose and Need Statement and the evaluation criteria used to determine if potential reclaimed water uses and the strategies that serve them address the reclaimed water planning drivers, which WTD is forwarding to you. In addition, MWPAAC also approved two recommendations relating to the RWCP at its July 22nd meeting.

First, given the current economic climate, MWPAAC recommends delaying the RWCP until 2011 or beyond. The recommendation to delay the RWCP was approved by MWPAAC's members by an eight to six vote. Those who voted in support of the deferral stated their reason for doing so was concern over spending scarce resources on a long-term planning effort during difficult economic times. The MWPAAC members voting to continue on schedule with the RWCP argued there should be a plan in place that guides WTD's future decisions with respect to reclaimed water and, without such a plan, decisions on any expanded use of reclaimed water will be made ad hoc.

Second, MWPAAC recommends that should the RWCP continue on schedule, the financial policies contained in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan should be reviewed and revised to address reclaimed water pricing and cost allocation issues as soon as possible during the early stages of the RWCP. The majority of the existing reclaimed water policies were adopted in 1999. Although some were amended in 2006, we believe additional revisions are needed. The current timeline for completion of the RWCP shows the policies for the pricing of reclaimed

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water will be completed in 2013. In response to MWPAAC's comments, WTD has indicated it will be moving this date up so that the pricing of reclaimed water is discussed earlier in the RWCP process. We believe it is very important that the King County Council update these policies in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan before WTD begins marketing expanded uses of and negotiating new contracts for reclaimed water.

One possible avenue for review of policies for the pricing of reclaimed water is the newly formed Financial Policies Work Group that will report to the King County Council's Regional Water Quality Committee. The following are represented on the work group: King County sewer districts, Snohomish County sewer districts, Suburban Cities, MWPAAC, City of Seattle, City of Bellevue, the King County Executive and King County Council. This work group will review specific financial policies in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan and make recommendations to the Regional Water Quality Committee regarding possible revisions to those policies. The work plan for the group is still being defined and the development of financial policies relating to reclaimed water could be added to the work plan.

MWPAAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RWCP and wishes to acknowledge that WTD staff has closely involved MWPAAC in the RWCP process and incorporated many of our comments into the process, Purpose and Need Statement and the proposed evaluation criteria. We ask that you carefully consider our comments regarding reclaimed water and the RWCP and recognize that deferral of the planning process, or alternatively addressing pricing policies earlier in the process, will assist you in your efforts to reduce expenditures and avoid higher sewer rates.

Sincerely,



Scott Thomasson  
Chair

cc: King County Council Members  
Regional Water Quality Committee Members  
MWPAAC Members  
Theresa Jennings, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources (DNRP)  
Christie True, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP