



King County

Kurt Triplett

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

September 24, 2009

Scott Thomasson, Chair
Metropolitan Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee
King Street Center
201 S. Jackson Street
Mail Stop KSC-NR-0512
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Thomasson:

Thank you for your letter of August 13, 2009, regarding King County's process to develop a Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan (RWCP) for the region. I am pleased that the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) is actively engaged in the RWCP planning process, and has worked to incorporate changes into the planning process and associated schedule. Several state agencies, environmental groups, and other interested parties also shared their perspectives with me about the need for and timeliness of the RWCP planning process. Collectively, these perspectives coalesced into the point that a full examination of the feasibility of expanding the regional reclaimed water system now will inform future infrastructure decisions, and help us to prepare for an uncertain future with regard to climate change and the declining health of Puget Sound. I did consider MWPAAC's two recommendations contained in your letter, as well as all other stakeholder input received prior to forwarding my recommended RWCP planning process and schedule to the King County Council.

Regarding MWPAAC's first recommendation to delay the RWCP planning process until 2011 or beyond, I understand MWPAAC's concern about investing resources in a long-range planning effort during these challenging economic times. I also appreciate MWPAAC's internal debate over conserving financial resources versus developing a plan that will guide future decisions about the future of reclaimed water in the region. I am recommending that the RWCP planning process proceed without delay—but with a shorter schedule than the schedule shared with MWPAAC and other interested parties by the King County Wastewater Treatment Division. I believe that developing the RWCP now to guide future decisions is a necessary investment.

With regard to your second recommendation to review and revise existing reclaimed water financial policies as soon as possible, I believe a timely review of these policies that is based on updated information is warranted. The recommended schedule should address MWPAAC's

desire to review and revise these policies to address pricing and cost allocation issues as soon as possible. I believe the steps contained in the RWCP planning process will provide important and timely information to guide review and revision of those policies.

Therefore, based on my review of all the input I received, as well as my support of the purpose and need for the RWCP as articulated in the Purpose and Need Statement, I am forwarding legislation to the King County Council to approve the planning process so that the RWCP can proceed without delay. The schedule for completing the planning process has been condensed so that a decision on whether to proceed with developing a complete RWCP or only amending existing policies can be made by August 2010; and, if developed, a final RWCP can be ready for consideration by the King County Council by July 2011.

Thank you to all MWPAAC members for remaining involved in the RWCP planning process. I encourage you to contact Christie True, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division, in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-684-1236 if you have any specific questions or need additional information.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,



Kurt Triplett
King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Tom Bristow, Interim Chief of Staff
 Saroja Reddy, Policy Staff Director
 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
 Frank Abe, Communications Director
Regional Water Quality Committee Members
Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee Members
Theresa Jennings, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Christie True, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP