



Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0512
Seattle, WA 98104 206-263-6070

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

0508_MWPAACtrhd.eps

October 29, 2009

The Honorable Larry Phillips, Chair
Regional Water Quality Committee
516 3rd Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

SUBJECT: Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan Process
Legislation (2009-0513)

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) has been briefed on the status of the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan (RWCP).

We do not believe the proposed reclaimed water planning process addresses our primary concerns: (1) the issue regarding the County's authority to distribute and sell reclaimed water, which is at issue in the litigation initiated by Cedar River Water and Sewer District and Soos Creek Water and Sewer District, should be resolved prior to moving ahead on any plan which involves King County engaging in the water supply business and (2) the financial policies governing reclaimed water must be revised prior to the RWCP process to reflect MWPAAC's overriding concern that wastewater customers should not be expected to subsidize a water utility that has not been shown to have any economic viability and from which they do not derive any benefit.

MWPAAC recommended, at its July 22, 2009 meeting, delaying the RWCP until 2011 or beyond. The recommendation to delay the RWCP was approved by a majority vote of MWPAAC members. Those who voted in support of the deferral stated that a major 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.

If the County Council approves the planning process forwarded by the Executive, MWPAAC recommends that the financial policies contained in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan be reviewed

The Honorable Larry Phillips

October 29, 2009

Page 2

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 water will be updated in 2010 with Council action on the revised policies being completed in 2011. We believe it is very important that the King County Council update these policies in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan before the Wastewater Treatment Division begins marketing expanded uses of and negotiating new contracts for reclaimed water.

As you know, the Regional Water Quality Committee has included the review of policies for the pricing and cost allocation of reclaimed water as part of the work plan for its Financial Policies Work Group. Depending upon the timing, it is possible the work group's efforts and the RWCP process will be collaborative. However, should the RWCP process not address the review of policies for the pricing and cost allocation of reclaimed water in a timely manner, MWPAAC suggests the work group move forward as quickly as possible to address this issue.

MWPAAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RWCP and asks that you carefully consider our comments regarding reclaimed water and the RWCP process legislation and recognize that deferral of the planning process, or alternatively addressing pricing and cost allocation policies earlier in the process, will reduce unnecessary expenditures and avoid higher sewer rates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Thomasson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Thomasson
MWPAAC Chair

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