

**MWPAAC RWSP Policy Review Task Force  
Discussion/Proposed Amendments  
Water Quality Protection Policies *WORKING DRAFT***

Existing Water Quality Protection Policies K.C.C. 28.86.120	Task Force Proposed Amendments as of February 18, 2015	Task Force Comments/Discussion	Sub-committees and full MWPAAC comments
A. Explanatory materials. The water quality protection policies are intended to guide King County in identifying and resolving regional water quality issues, protecting public and environmental health and protecting the public’s investment in wastewater facilities and water resource management. Research and analysis are required and will be used to evaluate water quality in county streams and other bodies of water within the service district.	<p><u>Explanatory material. King County has a history of protecting water quality. The continued development and operation of the regional wastewater system plays an important role in protecting the water quality of Puget Sound, and the lakes, rivers, and streams in the regional wastewater service area. Keeping new and ongoing sources of pollutants out of local waters is a high priority for King County.</u></p> <p><u>Several King County agencies have various responsibilities in tracking, monitoring, and implementing programs to continue to protect the region’s water quality. These water quality protection policies are intended to guide the county in its ongoing work to track, monitor, and resolve water quality issues that pertain to the county’s regional wastewater function and to meet wastewater-related permit requirements, regulations, and water quality standards.</u></p>	<p><i>January 29, 2015 discussion:</i> The task force suggested a slight change in the last sentence of the first paragraph the word “is” before “a high priority” replaces “continues to be”.</p> <p><i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> There was a comment that it would be helpful to make a better tie to permits and discharges.</p> <p>There was discussion on the broadness of the policies and that they seem to go beyond the operations of the county’s wastewater division. They tend to try to be everything on water quality. If they are to keep their broadness, they should mention all the other players involved, discuss which policies are related to stormwater or other programs.</p> <p><i>In response to the discussion, WTD staff attempted to summarize that King County has a broad water quality program, and that these policies provide direction for the wastewater system.</i></p>	<p><i>Full MWPAAC approved the Task Force proposed amendments at its meeting on April 22, 2015.</i></p> <p><i>There were no comments or proposed changes made to any of the Task Force proposed amendments at the Engineering and Planning subcommittee meeting on March 5, 2015 or at the Rates and Finance subcommittee meeting on April 2, 2015.</i></p>
WQPP-1: King County shall participate in identifying and resolving water quality issues pertaining to public health and ecosystem protection in the region to ensure that the public's investment in wastewater facilities and water resource management programs is protected.	<p>WQPP-1: ((King County)) <u>The county’s wastewater division shall continue to work with other county, local, and state agencies in participating in anticipating, identifying and/or resolving water quality issues or impacts associated with wastewater functions.</u> ((pertaining to public health and ecosystem protection in the region to ensure that the public's investment in wastewater facilities and water resource management programs is protected.))</p>	<p><i>January 29, 2015 discussion:</i> Task force members expressed a desire for this policy to have a nexus to wastewater. There were questions on whether or not the policy could be limited by wastewater functions.</p> <p><i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> There were questions on what this policy is really trying to say. Questions were raised about why does WTD test Lake Sammamish. Should this policy be in a policy section that deals with the county’s wastewater function? One member noted that the issue is the level of responsibility.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to delete reference to “water resource management programs”.</p>	
WQPP-2: King County shall evaluate the impacts and benefits of actions that affect the quality of the region’s waters and identify measures to meet and maintain water quality standards.	<p>((WQPP-2: King County shall evaluate the impacts and benefits of actions that affect the quality of the region’s waters and identify measures to meet and maintain water quality standards.))</p>	<p><i>January 29, 2015 discussion:</i> Task Force members noted that it is difficult to define what this policy means. There was recognition that we are required to meet our permit requirements and associated water quality standards. There was general agreement to delete this policy.</p> <p><i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> The question was raised about whose actions are being evaluated? Is it other agency’s actions?</p>	
WQPP-3: King County shall forecast future	WQPP-((3))2: King County shall forecast future aquatic	<i>January 29, 2015 discussion:</i>	

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aquatic resource conditions that may affect wastewater treatment decisions and work cooperatively to identify cost-effective alternatives to mitigate water quality problems and enhance regional water quality.	resource conditions that may affect wastewater treatment decisions and work cooperatively <b>with others</b> to identify cost-effective alternatives to mitigate water quality problems and enhance regional water quality.	<p>There was a suggestion to add the words “with others” to the policy.</p> <p>In response to the question about aquatic resources, WTD staff checked in with their water quality experts and aquatic resources refers to biota (animal, plant life, etc.).</p> <p><i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> There was a question about what does “aquatic resources” mean. One member asked if it be better to say “receiving waters”.</p> <p>Another member thought the policy could remain as is.</p>	
WQPP-4: King County shall participate with its regional partners to identify methods, plans and programs to enhance water quality and water resources in the region.	<del>((WQPP-4: King County shall participate with its regional partners to identify methods, plans and programs to enhance water quality and water resources in the region.))</del>	<p><i>January 29, 2015 discussion:</i> Task Force members felt that this policy is now duplicative with the amended WQPP-1 and suggested deleting it.</p>	
WQPP-5: The King County executive shall implement a comprehensive water quality monitoring program of streams and water bodies that are or could be impacted by influent, effluent, sanitary system overflows or CSOs. The range of data to be gathered should be based on water pollutants and elements that scientific literature identifies as variables of concern, what is needed to substantiate the benefits of abating combined sewer overflows and what is required by state and federal agencies. The executive shall submit summary reports and comprehensive reviews of this information to the King County council as outlined in K.C.C. 28.86.165.	WQPP- <del>((5))</del> <b>3</b> : The King County executive shall implement a comprehensive water quality monitoring program of streams and water bodies that are or could be impacted by influent, effluent, sanitary system overflows or CSOs. The range of data to be gathered should be based on: water pollutants and elements that scientific literature identifies as variables of concern; what is needed to substantiate the benefits of abating combined sewer overflows; and what is required by state and federal agencies. The executive shall submit summary reports and comprehensive reviews of this information to the King County council as outlined in K.C.C. 28.86.165.	<p><i>February 18, 2015 discussion:</i> Members suggested adding the colon and semi-colons in red.</p> <p><i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> There was a question about who pays for the monitoring program.</p>	
WQPP-6: King County shall implement and maintain water quality, monitoring, evaluating and reporting programs to support the national pollutant discharge elimination system for wastewater and other permit applications, and ensure permit compliance.	WQPP- <del>((6))</del> <b>4</b> : King County shall implement and maintain water quality, monitoring, evaluating and reporting programs to support the national pollutant discharge elimination system for wastewater and other permit applications, and ensure permit compliance.	<p><i>January 29, 2015 discussion:</i> There were questions on whether or not this policy is really needed; others felt it should be left as is.</p> <p><i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> The task force didn’t think any changes were needed to this policy. There was a question about whether or not the policy is even needed since it is tied to permit requirements.</p>	
WQPP-7: King County shall actively participate in the development of water quality laws, standards and program development to ensure cost-effective maintenance or enhancement of environmental and public health.	WQPP- <del>((7))</del> <b>5</b> : King County shall actively participate in the development of water quality laws <b>and</b> standards <del>((and program development to ensure cost-effective maintenance or enhancement of environmental and public health))</del> <b>that may affect the operations and maintenance of the regional wastewater system.</b>	<p><i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> Some Task Force members thought this policy goes beyond WTD needs and did not see anything tied to WTD. There was a suggestion to show the tie to WTD’s needs.</p>	

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WQPP-8: King County shall assess the risk to human health and the environment from wastewater treatment and conveyance activities, and use this information in evaluating water pollution abatement control options.	WQPP-((8)) <del>6</del> : King County shall assess the risk to human health and the environment from wastewater treatment and conveyance activities, and use this information in evaluating <del>((water pollution abatement control))</del> <u>wastewater functions</u> .	<i>January 29, 2015 discussion:</i> Task Force members suggested “wastewater functions” be used in place of “water pollution abatement control”.  <i>January 6, 2015 discussion:</i> There was a comment that “water pollution abatement control” is old language.	