

Appendix K  
RWSP Public Involvement Policies



## **RWSP Public Involvement Policies**

A. Explanatory material. The public involvement policies are intended to guide the county in maintaining public information and education programs and to engage the public and component agencies in planning, designing and operating decisions that affect them.

<b>Public Involvement Policies</b>	<b>How Implemented in 2004–2006</b>
PIP-1: King County shall maintain public information/education programs and engage the public and component agencies of local sewer service in the planning, designing and operating decisions affecting them.	<p>WTD engages public officials and residents of affected jurisdictions in the planning and decision-making process for its projects and programs. WTD holds monthly meetings to share information on programs and projects that are at various stages of planning and implementation with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC).</p> <p>Implementation of this policy in 2004 through 2006 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agricultural design for the future Carnation Treatment Plant was selected based on input from the public and Carnation City Council.</li> <li>• In response to community concerns, the design of the new Hidden Lake Pump Station was changed to ensure that it architecturally fits in its residential neighborhood.</li> <li>• In response to suggestions made at community meetings, the design of the new Juanita Bay Pump Station will protect sight lines from neighboring residences to the extent possible. In addition, native plant landscaping, building perimeter, and sidewalks will complement the neighborhood and nearby park.</li> <li>• Meetings were held around the Brightwater Treatment Plant and portal areas to update community members on design and mitigation issues and solicit their ideas and feedback. Comments were incorporated into the Brightwater systemwide mitigation package.</li> <li>• WTD worked with MWPAAC's Engineering and Planning Subcommittee to develop selection criteria and select projects for the initial I/I projects.</li> <li>• WTD staff met with staff from the component agencies to discuss regional conveyance system needs in their areas in preparation of the conveyance system improvement program update.</li> </ul>
PIP-2: King County shall develop public information and education programs to support county wastewater programs and shall lay the	In addition to the information in PIP-1 and PIP-3, WTD's public information and outreach activities

**Appendix K. Public Involvement Policies and Implementation in 2004-2006**

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<p>groundwork for public understanding of and involvement in specific programs.</p>	<p>include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker’s bureau</li> <li>• Community open houses</li> <li>• Wastewater treatment plants and facilities tours</li> <li>• Informational booths at community fairs, festivals, and other events</li> </ul> <p>WTD’s Web site includes information on the county’s wastewater system and process, programs planned for the future, projects in design and construction, and information on sewer rates and the capacity charge.</p> <p>WTD’s Industrial Waste program has programs for businesses on pollution prevention, waste reduction, and water reuse.</p> <p>WTD’s media relations keeps local news media informed about WTD projects and programs that affect the neighborhoods they serve as well as general information on the county’s wastewater system.</p> <p>See PIP-5 for more information on WTD’s informational and educational programs.</p>
<p>PIP-3: King County shall involve public officials and citizens of affected jurisdictions early and actively in the planning and decision-making process for capital projects.</p>	<p>WTD’s public involvement program carries out activities to ensure public officials and affected residents and businesses have the opportunity to be informed and involved in the planning and decision-making process regarding capital projects. Activities include meetings, open houses, project Web sites, project bulletins and newsletters, mailings, and tours of facilities.</p>
<p>PIP-4: King County shall inform affected residents and businesses in advance of capital construction projects.</p>	<p>WTD’s public involvement program includes informing affected residents and businesses of potential WTD related construction projects and activities. The program includes pre-construction meetings, fliers, signs, direct on-the-ground contact, and 24-hour project hotlines. Public involvement staff form part of WTD’s construction project teams and is available to respond to questions and concerns. Procedures are in place to document and track questions, concerns, or complaints, and ensure prompt response. Lessons-learned evaluations are conducted to identify what has worked and applied to other projects.</p>
<p>PIP-5: King County shall disseminate information and provide education to the general public, private sector and governmental agencies regarding the status, needs and potential future of the region’s water resources.</p>	<p>WTD helps to carry out the following informational and educational activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Treatment Plant tours.</b> This program introduced over three thousand students and hundreds of other interested parties annually to the importance of water conservation and the process of wastewater treatment.</li> <li>• <b>Treatment Plant Open Houses.</b> The two regional treatment plants host open houses each year that feature water conservation,</li> </ul>

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	<p>water quality, and wastewater treatment information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Duwamish River Educational Events.</b> Volunteer activities and public education events in 2006 featured a variety of information on water quality and water conservation.</li> </ul> <p>Educational materials include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lets Talk Trash brochures and posters.</b> The Department of Natural Resources and Parks printed and distributed this resource on not using the toilet as a trash can.</li> <li>• <b>Web based information.</b> The water conservation tips web site, <a href="http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/waterconservation/tips.htm">http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/waterconservation/tips.htm</a>, draws an average of 400 visits a month. A Web site on water supply was inaugurated in 2005; <a href="http://dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/water-supply/index.htm">http://dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/water-supply/index.htm</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Award winning groundwater education video.</b> This online groundwater animation is available via the Web at: <a href="http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/wq/groundwater-animation.htm">http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/wq/groundwater-animation.htm</a></li> </ul>
<p>PIP-6: King County shall actively solicit and incorporate public opinions throughout the implementation of its comprehensive plan.</p>	<p>The activities described in PIP-1 through PIP-5 illustrate how WTD keeps people informed and involved in the projects and programs associated with implementing the RWSP.</p> <p>WTD solicits public feedback and opinion in its public meetings, open houses, informational booths, and through the annual water quality surveys and annual surveys of near neighbors of the regional treatment plants. Opportunities for public comment are also provided via WTD project Web sites, emails, letters, or phone calls.</p>
<p>PIP-7: Beginning January 1, 2001, King County shall implement a public awareness and education program regarding the environmental impacts and costs to wastewater rate payers of I/I in the local and regional conveyance systems.</p>	<p>The <i>2004 RWSP Update</i> discussed the efforts in 2000 through 2003 to educate and involve local agency staff and elected officials about I/I.</p> <p>A public opinion telephone survey regarding I/I was conducted in 2004. The survey included 400 homeowners in the general service area plus 100 from three of the I/I pilot project areas. They were asked about their role as a property owner in implementing solutions to reduce I/I, whether they preferred having voluntary and/or mandatory property owner actions, their willingness to pay to reduce I/I, and what would be acceptable community options to reduce I/I.</p>
	<p>In 2007, the county and the local agencies participating in the initial I/I projects as part of the <i>Executive's Recommended I/I Program</i> will carry out</p>

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PIP-8: King County shall support regional water supply agencies and water purveyors in their public education campaign on the need and ways to conserve water. King County should promote pilot projects that support homeowner water conservation in coordination with water suppliers and purveyors, emphasizing strategies and technologies that reduce wastewater.	<p>an intensive public involvement effort associated with the field testing, pre-design, and design and construction work for the initial I/I reduction projects.</p> <p>WTD's I/I Web site continues to provide information on I/I is updated on a regular basis. In addition, WTD serves as a clearinghouse regarding information on technologies related to I/I reduction; this information is made available to MWPAAC members.</p> <p>In 2005, King County and the Cascade Water Alliance signed a Memorandum of Understanding to address water supply needs; initiation of a regional water supply planning process also began that year. The county participates in activities to increase water conservation with the Partnership for Water Conservation. The county's water conservation Web site provides educational information that is used by water supply agencies and purveyors and the public.</p> <p>In accordance with this policy, the King County Council approved a five-year water conservation program through 2005 that emphasized water conserving retrofit projects. While no additional funding was allocated in the 2006 budget, the program was extended by one year to complete several projects that began in 2005, but were completed in 2006 (see Chapter 12).</p>