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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

May 10, 2004

The Honorable Larry Phillips, Chair
King County Council

The Honorable Steve Hammond, Chair
King County Regional Water Quality Committee
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmembers Phillips and Hammond:

I am pleased to provide you with the 3-Year Update Report for the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP).

This report is required by Ordinance 13680 and details King County's implementation of the RWSP since 1999. It provides a comprehensive review of the RWSP, evaluating the planning assumptions, the phasing and size of facilities, and the effectiveness of policy implementation for treatment improvements, conveyance, inflow and infiltration (I/I) reduction, CSO abatement, water reuse, biosolids, water quality protection, environmental mitigation, and public involvement. This review, conducted over the last year and a half, has shown that the RWSP policies are being met. As a result, no changes to the RWSP policies are recommended at this time.

Highlights of the review's findings include:

- Progress in providing needed wastewater treatment capacity for the region through the siting of the Brightwater treatment plant at Route 9 in south Snohomish County,

- Modifications in the conveyance planning approach to address needs from a basin-wide perspective, integrating projects with asset management, inflow and infiltration control, and local agency plans,

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- Greater understanding of the extent of inflow and infiltration of clean water into the conveyance system and the effectiveness of control technologies,

- An effective resource recovery program for biosolids, methane gas and reclaimed water that is responsive to market demands.

This review also includes the 2004 RWSP Water Quality Report, which was also called for in Ordinance 13680. It is separately bound as Appendix D. The report addresses water pollution abatement, water quality monitoring results, water conservation and water reclamation, Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance, septic system conversions to the regional sewer system, biosolids management, wastewater public health problems and compliance with other agency regulations and agreements.

Highlights of successes include:

- High-quality treatment for 183 million gallons of wastewater each day; recycling approximately 128,000 wet tons of biosolids; and continued production of reclaimed water for use in landscape irrigation and industrial processes,

- Visitation of over 2,800 businesses through the local hazardous waste management program, to provide on-site technical assistance and stop improper discharges of over 27,500 pounds of hazardous materials into the waste stream,

- Inspection of 315 industries through the industrial waste program, to collect over 2,215 samples and ensure that discharges comply with regulations. In all, violation notices were issued to 34 companies for 142 discharge or permit violations, all of which were corrected.

The report explains that, overall, the water quality conditions in King County's fresh and marine waters are good as defined by Washington State Water Quality Standards and other indicators of water quality. It also points out specific water bodies where the impact of pollution is being felt and where water quality standards are not being met. This report describes the programs the County is implementing to understand and correct these problems, including the RWSP.

Thank you for your interest in reviewing these reports. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Wharton, Supervisor of Comprehensive Planning and Technical Resources in the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-684-1238.

I look forward to continuing our work together to protect and preserve water quality in King County.

Sincerely,

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Beth Mountsier, Legislative Lead Analyst
Regional Water Quality Committee Members
Pam Bissonnette, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Don Theiler, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), DNRP
Laura Wharton, Supervisor, Comprehensive Planning and Technical Resources, WTD, DNRP