

# Metro/King County Wastewater Treatment: Then and Now

Presented to Metropolitan Water  
Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

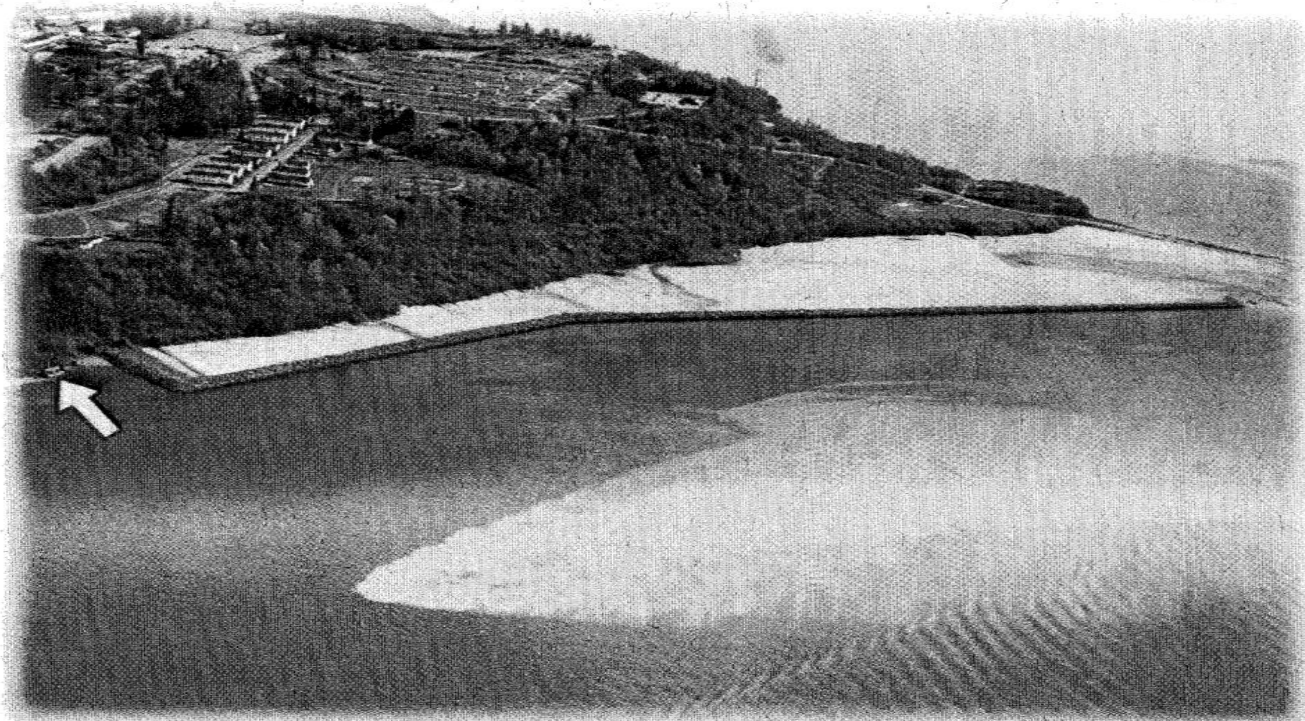
April 23, 2014



provision in the law under which the county could do the work or which would allow them all to band together in a common effort.

At the urging of the Municipal League, Seattle's Mayor Gordon Clinton and the King County Board of Commissioners appointed a 48-member citizens group—the Metropolitan Problems Advisory Committee. With Ellis as its chair, the committee went looking for the answer.

*Raw sewage rising from an outfall pipe clouds the water at West Point in 1963. The pollution ended after Metro built a treatment plant at the site to replace the outfall.*

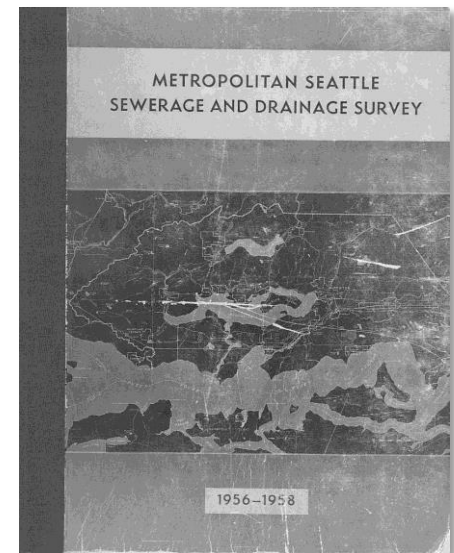


Seattle Times Photo



# Establishment of Metro

- \* 1956 – League of Women Voters and Municipal League form study committee
- \* 1957 – State Legislature approves enabling legislation allowing formation of Metropolitan Municipal Corporations
- \* 1958 – Voters reject activation of Metro powers for transportation, water pollution abatement, and comprehensive planning
- \* 1958 – Voters approve formation of Metro for water pollution abatement



# Early days of Metro

- \* 15 member Metro Council adopts comprehensive water pollution abatement plan – initial phase \$125M (\$1960) over 10 years
- \* 10 sewage plants discharging into Lake Washington to be closed, Elliot Bay and Duwamish raw sewage discharges to end
- \* Metro signs initial sewage disposal agreement with City of Seattle in 1961 and others follow
- \* Construction begins on 110 mile regional conveyance system with five treatment plants: West Point, Renton (South), Alki, Carkeek and Richmond Beach



West Point Treatment Plant construction, 1965



South Treatment Plant construction, 1965

# Merger Concept Gains Momentum

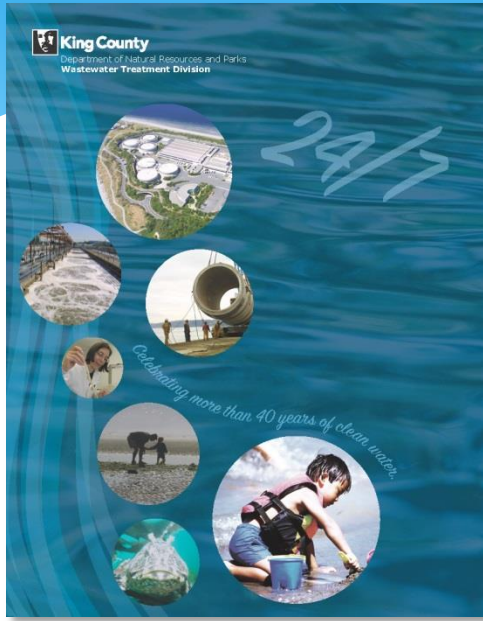
- \* 1977 – State Legislature enables County-Metro merger
- \* 1979 – Voters reject merger
- \* 1989 – Nationally lawsuits arise surrounding the principle of one person one vote
- \* 1989 – Similar lawsuit filed against Metro Council
- \* 1990 – King County and Cities meet regarding regional governance
- \* 1990 – Federal Court rules makeup of Metro Council is unconstitutional and orders revision of council selection method by April 1, 1992

# Metro King County Merger

- \* April 1991 – First merger vote fails lacking support in the suburban areas
- \* April 1992 – County and City delegates reach consensus on revised proposal, including establishing regional committees
- \* November 1992 – Voters approve merger
- \* 1994 – Metro King County merge occurs



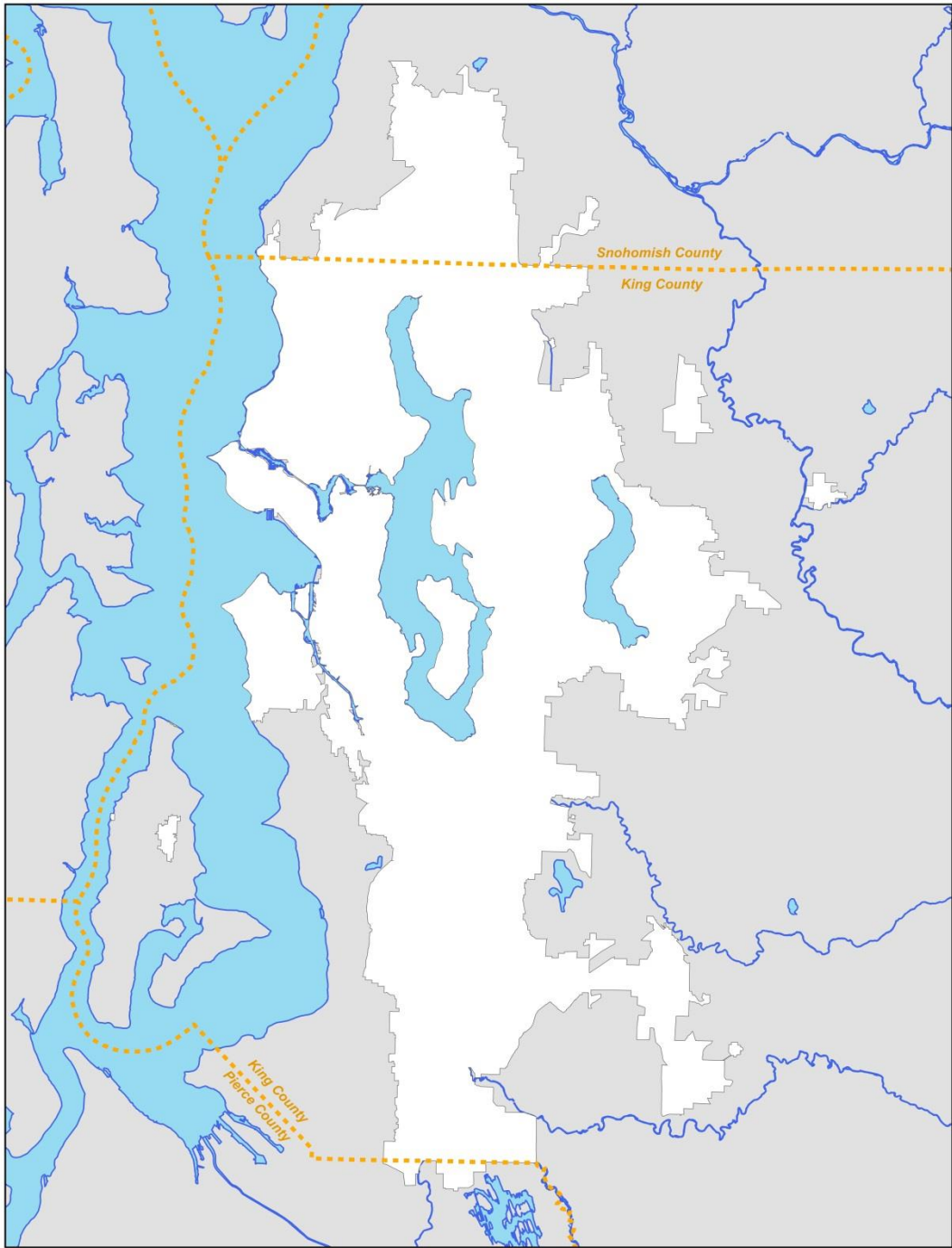
# Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)



- \* One of three regional committees of the King County Council
- \* Suburban Cities, City of Seattle, Sewer Districts and King County Council represented on RWQC
- \* Purpose: Develop, review and recommend ordinances and motions adopting, repealing or amending County-wide policies and plans relating to regional water quality
- \* Robinswood Agreement Executed in 1998
- \* Regional Wastewater Services Plan Adopted in 1999

# 2008 King County Charter Amendment

- \* Reduced the number of King County Councilmembers on RWQC from 6 to 3
- \* Established a vice-chair position to be filled by a non-King County Councilmember
- \* Authorized regional committees to initiate legislation
- \* Authorized regional committees to adopt their own work program without the need for Council approval



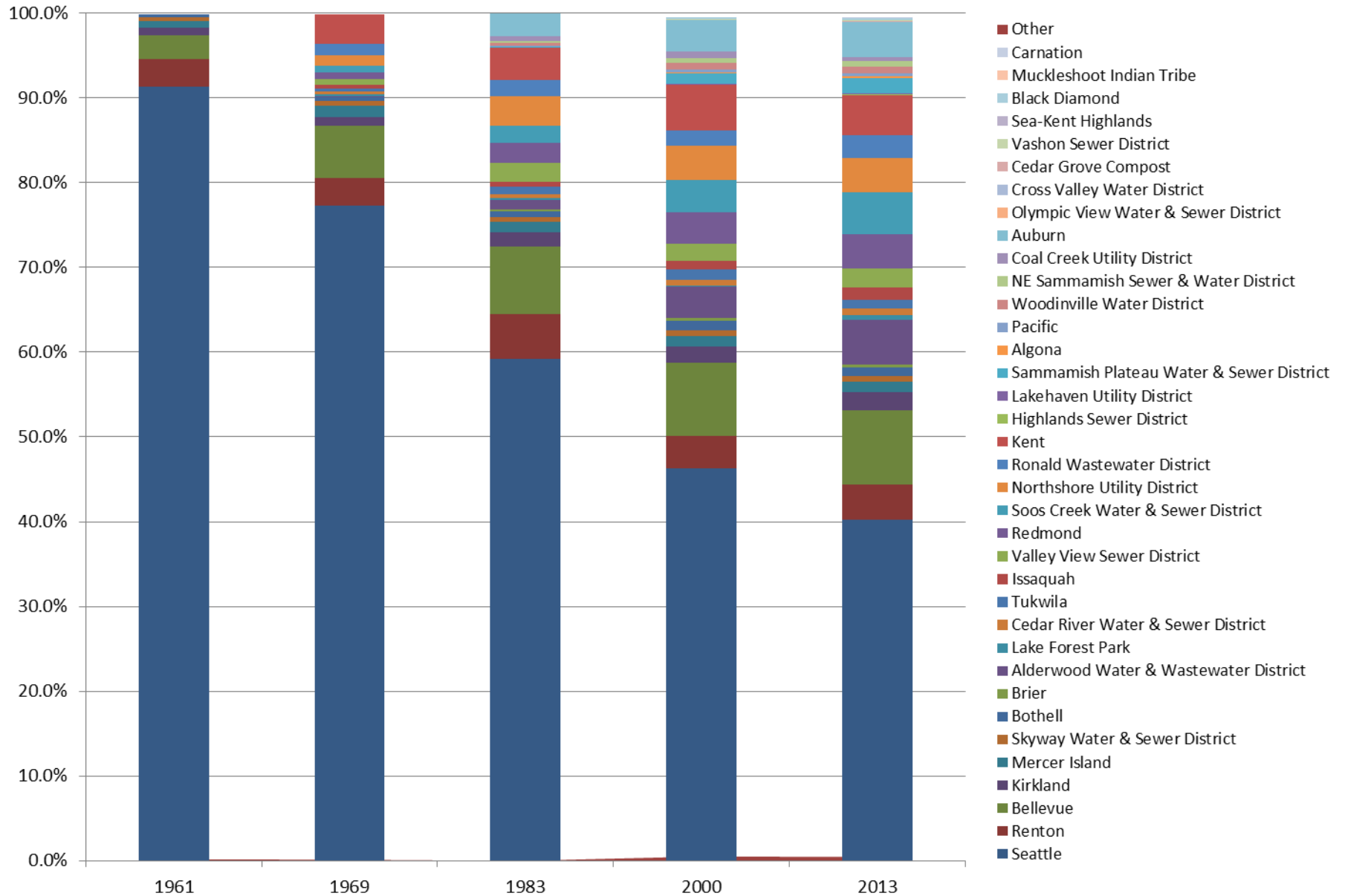
**2014-2030 Planned Conveyance**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| [CSI] Issaquah Creek Highlands Relief             | Garrison Creek Trunk   |
| <b>2014-2030 Planned Conveyance</b>               |  |
| [CSI] Issaquah Creek Highlands Relief             | Garrison Creek Trunk   |
| [CSI] Issaquah Storage                            | Heathfield/Sunset Pump Station Replacement and For Issaquah2 Trunk |
| [CSI] Sammamish Plateau Diversion                 | Issaquah Creek Highlands Storage                                   |
| [CSI] Sammamish Plateau Storage                   | Juanita Force Mains  |
| [CSI] Soos Alternative 3A(3) - PS B w/ Conveyance |  |
| [CSI] Soos Alternative 3A(3) - PS D w/ Conveyance | Kent Auburn Conveyance Improvements (Phase B)                      |
| [CSI] Soos Alternative 3A(3) - PS H w/ Conveyance | Lake Hills Trunk Replacement                                       |
| [CSI] Swamp Creek Parallel - Section 1B           | Lower North Creek Interceptor Parallel                             |
| [CSI] Thornton Creek Interceptor Parallels        | Medina Storage   |
| Algona Pacific Trunk Stage 1                      | North Creek Trunk  |
| Algona Pacific Trunk Stage 2                      | North Mercer and Enatai Interceptors                               |
| Auburn Interceptor - Section 3 Inline Storage     | Northwest Lake Sammamish Interceptor                               |
| Auburn West Interceptor Future Improvements       | Northwest Lake Sammamish Interceptor                               |
| Black Diamond Storage                             | Richmond Beach Storage   |
| Bryn Mawr Tank Storage                            | South Renton Interceptor Parallel                                  |
| Coal Creek Pump Station and Trunk Parallel        | ULID 1 Contract 4  |
| Eastgate Inline Storage                           | ULID 1/5 Relief Sewer  |
| Factoria Pump Station and Diversion               |  |

**CSO Projects**

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW  | Lander         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave West | Michigan       |
| Barton                   | Montlake       |
| Brandon                  | Murray         |
| Chelan                   | North Beach    |
| Connecticut              | Terminal 115   |
| Hanford                  | South Magnolia |
| King Street              | University     |
|                          | West Michigan  |

## Historical RCE Percentages By Participant





# Wastewater Treatment Division Today

- \* MWPAAC serves as an advisory committee to WTD, the King County Executive and Council
- \* WTD serves 17 cities and 17 sewer districts to provide wastewater treatment for an estimated 1.5 million people
- \* WTD facilities include 5 treatment plants, 350 miles of conveyance pipes, 19 regulator stations 42 pump stations and 38 CSO outfalls





South Treatment Plant, Renton



West Point Treatment Plant, Seattle





Brightwater Treatment Plant, Woodinville



Vashon Treatment Plant



Carnation Treatment Plant

# WTD's Future



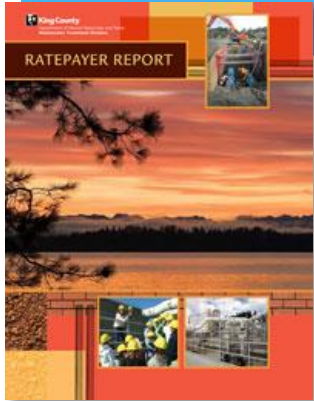
# WTD's Mission: Protect Public Health and Environment through Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery

## To Our Customers:

- \* Be a good neighbor
- \* Continue efficiency and excellence
- \* Be responsive to diverse customer needs
- \* Continuously improve products and services



# WTD's Mission: Protect Public Health and Environment through Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery



## Finances

- \* Meet or beat financial targets
- \* Maintain stable rates and charges
- \* Maximize cost effectiveness in all programs and projects
- \* Maintain high bond rating

## Business

- \* Recycle 100% of wastewater products
- \* Operate our system to avoid overflows and meet environmental standards
- \* Partner with other agencies, seek collaboration



Class A Reclaimed Water



Bellevue Pump Station



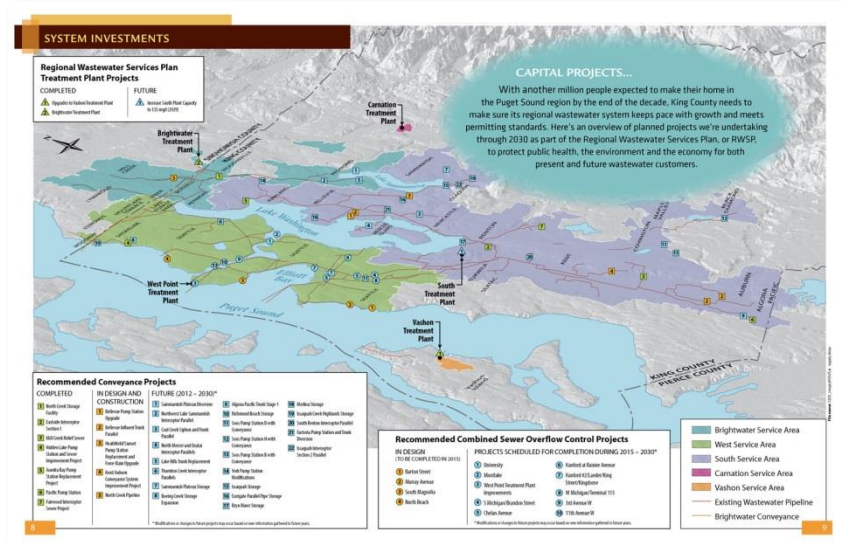
Co-Generation System, West Point Treatment Plant





# Working with Local Sewer Utilities to Serve the Ratepayers for the Next 50 Years

- \* Building Capacity to Serve Growth in the Region
- \* Maintaining the Region's Wastewater Treatment Assets and Investments
- \* Sewage Disposal Contract Extensions





# For the Upcoming Discussion with Sewage Disposal Agreements Task Force, the County commits to:

- \* Articulation of Core Interests
- \* Transparency
- \* Openness
- \* Idea Sharing
- \* Successful Outcome
- \* Building Better Relationships with Local Agencies

# Questions?

