

# King County Industrial Waste (KCIW) New Fee System

Protecting people, the environment, and the economy  
since 1969



**King County**

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks

**Wastewater Treatment Division**

# Briefing Purpose

Describe the need for developing a new fee structure for King County Industrial Waste (KCIW) Program and the next steps.

# The fee structure in the King County Code is out of date

The current fee structure:

- \* Does not match today's broad industrial base
- \* Does not recover all costs
- \* Requires complex tracking and is labor intensive
- \* Is highly fluctuating



# KCIW works with businesses to prevent pollution

- \* Issues approvals to send industrial wastewater to the sewer
- \* Inspects and monitors businesses
- \* Provides assistance and incentives
- \* Enforces regulations, federal and local limits
- \* Researches new trends and investigates problems



# KCIW customers pay sewer rates, capacity charge and these fees

Fee/Charge	Who Pays	What's it for	What's it based on?
Issuance fees	All KCIW customers	Approval to discharge	Cost to review application documents & issue approval
Monitoring and administration fees	Only customers with discharge permits	Monitor for compliance and administer permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volume of water or</li><li>• cost of monitoring</li></ul>
High-strength surcharge	Only customers with concentrated waste	Treatment, monitoring and administration	Cost to monitor and treat high-strength waste
Post-violation monitoring and fines	All KCIW customers (if applicable)	Required extra monitoring & penalty	Cost of extra monitoring. Fines up to \$10,000/day.

A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The larger, light blue circle on the left contains the text '600 businesses have approval to discharge to the sewer'. The smaller, green circle on the right contains the text '120 have a Permit'. The overlapping area between the two circles is shaded a darker blue-green. The text '80 pay a surcharge for concentrated waste' is located within the light blue circle, partially overlapping with the green circle.

**600 businesses  
have approval to  
discharge to the  
sewer**

**80 pay a  
surcharge  
for  
concentrated  
waste**

**120 have a  
Permit**

Depending on the complexity of the work, KCIW issues:

- Verbal Authorization
- Letters of Authorization
- Minor Discharge Authorization
- Major Discharge Authorization
- Discharge Permit

Another 1,600 KCIW customers use best management practices (dentists, wineries, breweries, distilleries)

# Fee structure does not match today's broad industrial base

- \* Monitoring and administration fees are currently based on water volumes
- \* Some businesses do not pay administration fees
- \* Some KCIW monitoring and administration costs are not recovered

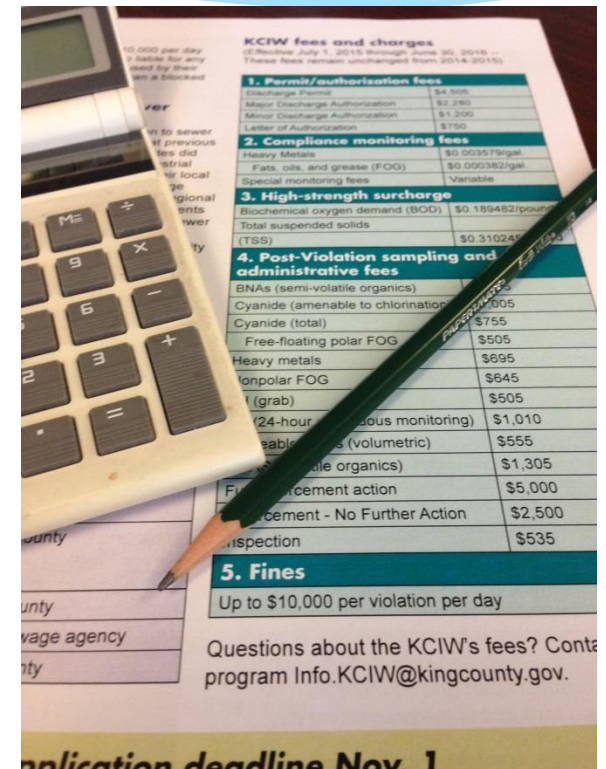




# Fee structure is labor-intensive

Each step requires detailed accounting

- \* Calculating the annual rate:
  - \*  $\text{Program costs} \div \text{expected gallons of water} = \text{rate}$
- \* Tracking data
  - \* staff time
  - \* Volumes of industrial wastewater
- \* Billing



**KCIW fees and charges**  
(Effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) —  
These fees remain unchanged from 2014-2015)

1. Permit/authorization fees	
Discharge Permit	\$4,505
Major Discharge Authorization	\$2,250
Minor Discharge Authorization	\$1,250
Letter of Authorization	\$750

2. Compliance monitoring fees	
Heavy Metals	\$0.0035/liter
Fats, oils, and grease (FOG)	\$0.00382/gal
Special monitoring fees	Variable

3. High-strength surcharge	
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)	\$0.189482/pound
Total suspended solids (TSS)	\$0.310248

4. Post-Violation sampling and administrative fees	
BNAs (semi-volatile organics)	\$505
Cyanide (amenable to chlorination)	\$755
Cyanide (total)	\$755
Free-floating polar FOG	\$505
Heavy metals	\$695
Nonpolar FOG (grab)	\$645
(24-hour continuous monitoring)	\$1,010
Releasable organics (volumetric)	\$555
Releasable organics	\$1,305
Follow-up enforcement action	\$5,000
Enforcement - No Further Action	\$2,500
Inspection	\$535

5. Fines	
Up to \$10,000 per violation per day	

Questions about the KCIW's fees? Contact program info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov.

Application deadline Nov. 1



# Fee system is highly fluctuating

**Program costs ÷ expected gallons of water = rate**

- \* KCIW program costs remain the same, regardless of the number of gallons received
- \* If fewer gallons of water come in, rate must go up to recover costs

Fluctuating rates are difficult for businesses



# A new fee system should offer the following

- \* Basic cost recovery, without burdensome accounting.
  - \* Based on the cost to run the program
  - \* In step with other agencies
- \* Equitable, transparent and flexible for a range of industries
- \* Easy to administer and adjust in the future
- \* Sustainable, predictable for new and renewing customers



# Proposal is being developed

- \* Establish a monitoring and administration fee schedule that lasts for 5 years at the time of issuance
- \* Place each business on the schedule based on:
  - \* Discharge complexity (volume & risk from industrial processes)
  - \* Monitoring complexity (frequency of self or county monitoring & lab costs)
- \* Fee schedule could include permits and some authorizations
- \* Local sewer agency continues collecting monitoring and administration fee and surcharge

# Next Steps

- \* Discuss staff recommendations with MWPAAC and get input
- \* Develop legislation to update the Code in late spring 2016 for transmittal by the King County Executive
- \* Pending Council approval, implement new fee structure as early as July, 2016



# Industrial Waste Program

Working cooperatively with businesses to protect people, the environment, and the economy since 1969.

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