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April 27, 2011

Transmitted to CPPUpdates@kingcounty.gov

Growth Management Planning Council
c/o Mr. Paul Reitenbach, King County DDES

Subject: Coal Creek Utility District Comments on draft Countywide Planning Policies

Dear Mr. Reitenbach:

Please accept for the public record from Coal Creek Utility District, a special purpose water-sewer district serving approximately 10,000 people in the Newcastle/Renton area, the following and the attached redline comments on the updated draft King County Countywide Planning Policies.

In sum, it is Coal Creek's position that water-sewer districts are very efficient and cost-effective providers of water and sewer utility services, and are a strong example of local government that works without taxes; rather, water-sewer districts are fee based and have been proven to be a very effective provider of these services.

Consistent with the provisions of Chapter 36.70A, the Growth Management Act, cities are only "in general" the appropriate providers of services within urban areas. Therefore, we feel the CPPs, and specifically, PFS-3, should be revised likewise to be consistent with state law.

Further, it must be noted that many newer cities must obtain voter approval before such cities can provide utility services (see RCW 35.92.070), in addition to Boundary Review Board approval (see Chapter 36.93 RCW). Therefore, we feel the CPPs should be qualified with the word "may" to allow cities to assume utility functions.

Please acknowledge receipt of these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Peadon
General Manager

Attachments - Draft Countywide Planning Policies with District redline comments

GMPC Members: Coal Creek Utility District , a member of the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, King County Section IV requests consideration by the GMPC for these recommended revisions to PFS-3, and comments on PFS-5 through PFS-10. GMPC Meeting, April 27, 2011

KC CPPs: Public Facilities and Services Chapter

Policies: February 23, 2011
Revised March 10 Text added: March 10, 2011

Overarching Goal: County residents in both Urban and Rural areas have access to the public services needed in order to advance public health and safety, protect the environment, and carry out the regional vision embodied in the Countywide Planning Policies.

Urban and Rural Levels of Service

The Growth Management Act (GMA) directs jurisdictions and special districts to provide public facilities and services to support development. The GMA distinguishes between urban and rural services and states that land within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) should be provided with a full range of services necessary to sustain vibrant and diverse communities while land within the Rural Area should receive services delivered at an intensity typically found in rural areas. Certain services, such as sanitary sewers, are allowed only in the UGA, except as otherwise authorized. The GMA also requires jurisdictions to determine which facilities are necessary to serve the desired growth pattern and how they will be financed, in order to ensure timely provision of adequate services and facilities.

PFS-1 (Alt.1-Original): Provide a full range of urban services in the Urban Growth Area to support the regional growth strategy and adopted growth targets. Limit the availability of services in the Rural Area called for in the regional growth strategy.. *(CO-3)*

Collaboration Among Jurisdictions

More than 100 special purpose districts, including water, sewer, flood control, stormwater, fire, school and others, provide essential services to the residents of King County. While cities are the primary provider of services in the UGA, in many parts of the county, special purpose districts, also provide essential services. Coordination and collaboration among all of these districts, the cities, King County, the tribes, and neighboring counties is key to providing efficient, high-quality and reliable services to support the regional growth strategy.

PFS-2 Coordinate among jurisdictions and service providers to provide reliable and cost-effective services to the public. *(NEW/PFS-04)*

PFS-3 Cities may be ~~are~~ the appropriate providers of services to the UGA, either directly or by contract. Extend urban services through the use of special districts especially~~only~~ where there are agreements with the city in whose Potential Annexation Area the extension is proposed. Within the UGA, as time and

conditions warrant, cities ~~will~~ may assume local urban services provided by special service districts if approved by the voters. *(FW-13/PFS-05)* *Note: Special Purpose Water and Sewer Districts may be the only entity allowed to provide water and sewer service if the City in question has not been established as a provider of such service by a vote of the people.*

Utilities

Utilities services include water supply, sewage treatment and disposal, solid waste, energy, and telecommunications. Providing these utilities in a cost-effective way is essential to maintaining health and safety of King County residents and to implementing the regional growth strategy.

A. Water Supply

Conservation and efficient use of resources are vital to the reliability and sustainability of the region's water supply and imperative to ensure that resources will be available for future generations.

PFS-4 Plan for long-term water needs to address the potential impacts of climate change and to support growth. (NEW)

PFS-5 Support efforts to ensure that all consumers have access to a safe, reliably maintained, and sustainable drinking water source that meets present and future needs. *(FW-31/PFS-06)* *Department of Health (DOH) regulations cover this.*

PFS-6 Coordinate water supply among local jurisdictions, tribal governments, and water purveyors to provide reliable and cost-effective sources of water for all users, including residents, businesses, fire districts, aquatic species. *(CO-5/PFS-07)* *Department of Health (DOH) regulations cover this.*

PFS-7 Plan and locate water systems in the Rural Area so they are appropriate for rural uses and densities and do not increase the development potential of the Rural Area. *(CO-16 PFS-03)*

PFS-8 Recognize and support agreements with water purveyors in adjacent counties to to promote effective conveyance of water supplies and in securing adequate supplies for emergencies. *(NEW/PFS-08)* *Department of Health (DOH) regulations cover this.*

PFS-9 Implement water conservation efforts to protect natural resources, reduce environmental impacts, and support a sustainable long-term water supply to serve the growing population. *(CO-6/PFS-09)*

PFS-10 Encourage water reuse and reclamation, especially for high-volume non-potable water users such as parks, schools, and golf courses. *(CO-7/PFS-10)* *Neither necessary nor cost effective for the next 50 years.*

B. Sewage Treatment and Disposal

Within the UGA, connection to sanitary sewers is necessary to support the regional growth strategy. . In the Rural Area and resource lands, however, sewer service is not allowed, with exceptions to protect public health and the environment. Alternatives to the sanitary sewer system and the typical septic system are becoming more cost effective and therefore, more available. Alternative technology may be appropriate when it can perform as well or better than sewers in the UGA or when necessary to substitute for septic systems in the Rural Area.

PFS-11 Require all development in the Urban Growth Area to be served by a public sewer system except:

a. for a single-family residence on an existing individual lot that has no feasible access to sewers; *(CO-12/PFS-12)*, or

b. for alternative technology that:

- provides equivalent performance to sewers;
- provides the capacity to achieve planned densities; and
- will not create a barrier to the extension of sewer service within the UGA.

PFS-13 **[Alt.2-Preferred]** Prohibit sewer expansion in Rural Areas and resource lands except where needed to address specific health and safety problems threatening existing structures in a manner that does not increase development potential in the Rural Area.

C. Solid Waste

King County and the entire Puget Sound region are recognized for efforts to collect recyclable waste. Reducing and reusing waste will require concerted and coordinated efforts well into the future.

PFS-14 Reduce the solid waste stream and encourage reuse and recycling. *(NEW)*

D. Energy

While King County has access to electrical energy derived from hydropower, it still faces challenges for securing long-term reliable energy and for becoming more energy efficient.

PFS-15 Reduce the rate of energy consumption through efficiency and conservation to lower energy costs and environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies. *(NEW/CO-6/PFS-15)*

PFS-16 Promote the use of renewable and alternative energy resources to help meet the county's long-term energy needs, reduce environmental impacts associated with

traditional energy supplies, and increase community sustainability. *(NEW/CO-6/PFS-14)*

E. Telecommunications

A telecommunications network that is provided throughout King County is essential to fostering a profitable and equitable society for all.

PFS-17 Plan for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure to serve growth and development in a manner consistent with the regional and countywide vision. *(NEW/PFS-16)*

Human and Community Services

Public services beyond physical infrastructure are also necessary to sustain the health and quality of life of all King County residents. In addition, these services play a role in distinguishing urban communities from rural communities and supporting the regional growth strategy.

PFS-18 Provide human and community services to meet the needs of current and future residents in King County communities through coordinated planning, funding, and delivery of services by the county, cities, and other agencies. *(CC-4/PFS-17)*

PFS-20 Locate human, community, and educational services and facilities that serve urban populations within the Urban Growth Area, where they are accessible to the populations that they serve. Site these services and facilities in locations that are well served by transit and pedestrian and bicycle networks. *(CC-4/PFS-19)*

PFS-21 Locate human, community, and educational services and facilities that serve rural populations in neighboring cities, rural towns, and rural neighborhood centers. *(NEW - PSRC Comment # 5)*

Siting Public Capital Facilities

While essential to growth and development, regional capital facilities can disproportionately affect the community in which they are located. It is important that all jurisdictions work collaboratively and consider environmental justice principles when siting these facilities to foster the development of healthy communities for all.

PFS-22 Site public capital facilities of regional or statewide importance within the county in a way that is equitable and that supports the Countywide Planning Policies. *(S-1/PFS-21)*