



January 2020

## Clean Water Priorities

In 2019 we talked to people in the region about their relationship with water. Thanks to everyone who participated in our engagement activities – whether you attended a workshop, met us at a fair, took our online questionnaire, or simply read this newsletter, we appreciate your attention and good ideas. A [summary of our public engagement activities](#) and what we heard is now available [in the library](#) on the [Clean Water Plan webpage](#).



*King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) high school and college interns participated in a Clean Water Plan Workshop in July 2019.*

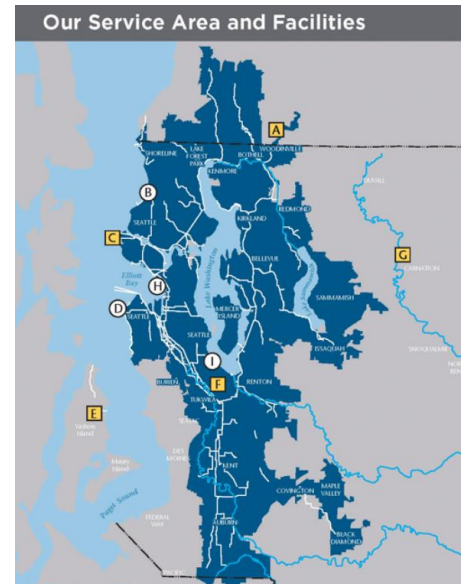
### Our region's priorities

People here care about the waterbodies that surround us. They told us they want clean water and healthy habitat for people and animals like orca and salmon. They want to prepare for and fight climate change. They asked us to coordinate with other water quality programs to get the best results – and to keep utility service rates affordable for everyone.

## King County's challenge

To meet these expectations, King County has tough decisions to make about [our wastewater system](#). This system has an important role protecting people's health and our rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound. Our sewer system is more than 50 years old, and we have a long list of repairs, maintenance and improvements that could cost billions of dollars in the coming decades. And completing this list may not get the outcomes our region wants for [clean water and healthy habitats](#). That's because other threats to water quality, like stormwater and climate change, will continue to affect our waterbodies and the people and animals that depend on them.

We are serious about our responsibility to spend ratepayers' money wisely and equitably. So, we are working on a Clean Water Plan to make the right investments at the right time for the best water quality.



## Issues and choices based on priorities

King County is listening to people's priorities to help determine the issues and choices we have to make in the Clean Water Plan. We are also considering the wastewater system's needs and the things the wastewater system can influence. The Clean Water Plan will examine these issues:

- Treatment Plants
- Conveyance pipes and pumps
- Maintaining the system and preparing for natural disasters
- [Recovering resources from wastewater](#)
- [Stormwater](#) and [Combined Sewer Overflows](#)
- Preventing pollutants from getting into the water through product stewardship
- Legacy pollution
- Finance

Some of the priorities we heard – like equity, climate change, and getting the best water quality – cross many of these issues, and will be part of the evaluation in many areas.

## Next steps

We are planning information sessions to present more details about the issues and choices in spring 2020. Look out for details about upcoming webinars.

For more information: check [our web page](#), join [our mailing list](#), or contact Erika Peterson at [Erika.peterson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Erika.peterson@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-5525.