



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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April 30, 2014

Scott Thomasson

Chair

Metropolitan Water Pollution

Abatement Advisory Committee

201 South Jackson Street

MS: KSC – NR – 0512

Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Thomasson:

I am writing to thank the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) for its recommendations and support in your letter dated March 28, 2014. After carefully considering MWPAAC's input, I transmitted my 2015 sewer rate and capacity charge proposal to the King County Council on April 24, 2014. I have proposed a 2015-2016 sewer rate of \$42.03 per month and a capacity charge of \$57.00 per month in 2015.

I understand the preference of some for a one-year rate proposal. For several years, the County has adopted a two-year rate proposal to provide greater certainty to residents and businesses. This approach also aligns with the County's recent shift to a biennial budget. In response to your comment regarding the expedited schedule for preparation of the 2015 rate, I have asked staff in the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks to work with MWPAAC and evaluate your needs and review the feasibility of a revised timeframe, to the extent practical, which allows additional time for MWPAAC's review of the rate proposal.

I appreciate your support and engagement on the analysis of WTD's current and future debt structure which will be critical in future financing and rate decisions. Your input on our proposed Recovery and Resiliency Program Review will be important as this review will provide important information regarding needed infrastructure and the most efficient, effective and safe options for protecting our infrastructure investments. Your input is also essential in developing any proposed changes to WTD's industrial waste fee structure. The proposed "Our Waters" program presents an opportunity for MWPAAC and WTD to work together to develop a funding mechanism for projects and activities that produce

tangible water quality benefits. I do understand the concerns expressed over funding such projects at this time given other programs and initiatives. However, it is important that we directly benefit our local communities through water quality improvement projects. Such projects continue the legacy that began when our utility was formed to address water pollution in Lake Washington.

I also want to acknowledge MWPAAC's support of the County's Long-term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan and the additional staff needed implement the plan in full compliance with our federal consent decree. As you know, the schedule under the CSO consent decree is aggressive and the remaining projects are some of the more complex projects needed to complete the plan. WTD is fully committed to completing the CSO projects consistent with the schedule milestones in the consent decree.

Finally, I wish to thank MWPAAC for its input on the 2015 sewer rate which was very helpful during the development of my sewer rate proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Elardo, P.E., Division Director in the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks at 206-477-4530.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

cc: MWPAAC Members
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance Strategy and Budget
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Pam Elardo, P.E., Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), DNRP
Tim Aratani, Finance Manager, WTD, DNRP