



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0500
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Christie Malchow
Mayor, City of Sammamish
801 228th Ave SE,
Sammamish, WA 98075

Dear Mayor Malchow:

I understand from King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert that there have been some questions regarding the timing of the King County Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) capital improvements to the regional sewer system that serves the City of Sammamish. This letter provides more information on the WTD's continued commitment to provide sewage treatment services to Sammamish Plateau Water (the "District"), including the residents of the City of Sammamish.

In 2018, WTD deferred the capital project known as the Sammamish Plateau Diversion Project (Diversion Project) and we are taking steps to address the effects from that deferral. It is important that we deliver our capital projects in a cost effective manner for the region's ratepayers, incorporate changed conditions into our capital planning, acknowledge the District's concerns regarding effects to their local sewer system, and identify and fund cost-effective solutions to address these effects.

Under the terms of its Basic Sewage Disposal Agreement with the District and 33 other local sewer utilities, WTD accepts and treats all wastewater flows from the District which are discharged into the County's regional sewer system. To meet this obligation, we determine the need for and timing of planned capital improvements. WTD assesses its capacity needs throughout the regional sewer system approximately every 10 years as part of its "Conveyance System Improvement Program Update." Although WTD previously listed the Diversion Project as a high priority, WTD's current flow analyses and planning projections show the regional sewer lines have sufficient capacity to serve the District through 2040 taking into account current and future growth in the District's service area.

During the development of WTD's 2019-2020 budget, it became clear that deferral of the Diversion Project was the more cost effective option for our ratepayers. Because the early planning level cost in for the Diversion Project exceeded \$65 million (in 2017 dollars) and there is sufficient capacity in the regional sewer lines for twenty or more years, WTD deferred delivery of the Diversion Project to beyond 2040. We will be responsive to conditions that may change in

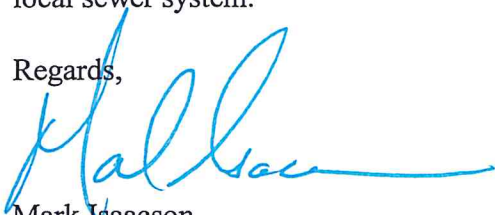
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the future. WTD will reassess the need and timing for the Diversion Project in the mid-2020s as part of our next regional wastewater conveyance planning update. Additionally, should a major upgrade of the East Lake Sammamish Parkway occur prior to 2040, the County would want to work with the City of Sammamish to include the Diversion Project as part of the roadway project to achieve cost savings and minimize community impacts.

Based on our work with District staff since April 2018, we understand there may be some effects to the local sewer system from the deferral of the Diversion Project and we are working with District staff on next steps to address these effects through near-term capital improvements. Over the course of the last twelve months, WTD agreed to fund a consultant study, including District staff time, to identify near-term capital improvements in the District's sewer system to ensure continued reliable sewer service for the area's residents. Once the consultant study is complete, the County will work with the District on the timing, cost responsibilities, and delivery of those near-term capital improvements. The consultant, County staff, and District staff met on March 4, 2019 to refine the scope for the study that should be underway in Q2 2019. We are also working with the District regarding whether the District may wish to sell a portion of its local wastewater infrastructure to WTD under the terms of the sewage disposal contract as a regional facility.

I hope this answers any questions that may have come up around the County's planned capital improvements to the regional sewer system and our work with the District. Should you have any additional questions, please contact me at 206-477-4601 or mark.isaacson@kingcounty.gov. Thank you for your interest in this matter. The County looks forward to continuing our efforts with the District on the consultant study and the near-term capital improvements in the District's local sewer system.

Regards,



Mark Isaacson
Division Director

cc: Councilmember Kathy Lambert, King County Council
City of Sammamish Councilmembers
Sammamish Plateau Water Board of Commissioners
Jay Krauss, General Manager, Sammamish Plateau Water
Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks