



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

January 20, 2021

Ryika Hooshangi

Board President, Sammamish Plateau Water

1510 228th Ave. SE

Sammamish, WA 98075

Dear Ms. Hooshangi:

Thank you for your letter dated January 5, 2021, regarding the sewer capacity needs in Sammamish Plateau Water's (District) local sewer lines and the timing of the County's Sammamish Plateau Northern Diversion Project (Diversion Project). King County is obligated under its sewage disposal contract with the District to provide adequate sewer capacity in the regional sewer lines to convey and treat all wastewater flows coming from the District's service area. The County has met and will continue to meet its contractual obligations to serve growth within the boundaries of its local sewer agencies such as the District.

The County's Regional Wastewater Services Plan (i.e., comprehensive sewer plan) and associated policies in King County code direct WTD to design regional wastewater conveyance pipes to a 20-year level of service which is a very high standard when compared to other utilities in this region and nationally. The regional sewer lines serving the District that are owned and operated by the County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) meet or are within an acceptable range using this standard. There are no limitations on the amount of flow the County's regional sewer system can accept from the District's service area at this time.

The timing of a project like the Diversion Project, which will shift a portion of the wastewater flows coming from the District north for treatment at Brightwater, is a significant investment and its timing is determined by an analysis of sewer capacity needs performed by WTD approximately every 10 years. This assessment is completed for the entire regional system for all 34 customer agencies. The last such update completed in 2017 shows the growth in the District's service area has not occurred as anticipated. This is, in part, because septic systems did not convert to sewer at the rate anticipated in an earlier 2007 update. This slower growth may also be the result of City of Sammamish's moratoria on growth based on

transportation concurrency, which we understand has been extended for an additional six months.

Based on the capacity constraints in the local sewer lines and the District's assertion that completion of the County's Diversion project could help with this, we can understand that the District disagreed with King County's deferral of the Diversion Project for two years (e.g., no funding in the 2019-2020 budget). We will resume work on the Diversion Project in 2021 and 2022 and I will propose full funding for the project in the 2023-2024 biennial budget process.

In order to find a path forward with the District, King County paid for a consultant study (completed in January 2021) and coordinated the scope of the study with the District to identify capital improvements that could be made in the local sewer system to bridge the gap until completion of the Diversion Project. The District also requested the County potentially purchase almost ten miles of its local sewer lines and three lift stations so they would become regional sewer facilities, meaning that King County would then own, operate, and maintain these facilities. WTD is evaluating this requested acquisition of assets and will soon begin negotiations with the District.

In summary, it is in our mutual best interest to ensure that there is adequate sewer capacity to serve growth in the District's service area as required by the Growth Management Act and our sewage disposal contract. King County has enough capacity currently to meet its obligations and will have even more capacity once the Diversion Project is complete. WTD will continue to participate in efforts to address capacity constraints in the local sewer system by resuming work on the Diversion Project, working with the District on which project(s) could add near-term capacity in its local sewer system and coordinating on project delivery, and also potentially purchasing a large portion of the District's local system.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Isaacson, WTD Division Director, at 206-477-4601 or mark.isaacson@kingcounty.gov.

I look forward to hearing of continued progress between WTD and the District and have asked that WTD keep my office and Councilmember Lambert informed on our joint efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Ryika Hooshangi

January 20, 2021

Page 3

cc: Sammamish Plateau Water Commissioners
King County Councilmembers
The Honorable Karen Moran, Mayor, City of Sammamish
The Honorable Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor, City of Issaquah
Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District
Christie True, Department Director, King County Department of Natural Resources
and Parks (DNRP)
Mark Isaacson, Wastewater Treatment Division Director, DNRP