



## **King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

### **Wastewater Treatment Division**

King Street Center, KSC-NR-5501

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

March 22, 2021

Ryika Hooshangi, Board President  
Sammamish Plateau Water  
1510 228th Avenue SE  
Sammamish, WA 98075

Dear Ms. Hooshangi:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend Sammamish Plateau Water's (District) Board meeting today and present an offer from King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) to assist with interim capacity improvements in the District's local system. We very much want to work with the District to best address near-term capacity needs, recognizing the County is currently meeting and will continue to meet long-term capacity needs.

King County has sufficient capacity in its regional system to accept all wastewater flows coming into the regional sewer system from the District's local sewer system. The County will continue to meet its contractual obligations to provide capacity. WTD resumed work on the County's Sammamish Plateau Diversion Project (Phase 1) to provide capacity for decades to come. The expected delivery date for this project was 2028 and, following a two-year deferral, completion is now anticipated in 2030. The County Executive has committed to the District that he will propose full funding for this project in the next biennial budget for consideration by the King County Council in fall 2022. This project will add sewer capacity in the regional infrastructure that serves the District for decades to come.

During a March 2018 meeting between WTD and District staff, WTD's Director offered to fund a study to identify interim improvements in the absence of any specific actions proposed by the District to resolve capacity needs in the local system. In 2019, WTD and the District reached agreement that WTD would pay for a consultant study, and District staff time to manage the study, to identify interim improvements to address the District's near-term capacity constraints. The consultant completed the study in January 2021. Beginning in late January, WTD and District staff have met multiple times to negotiate an agreement regarding an interim improvement to add capacity in the District's local sewer system. WTD understands the District's request as follows:

- WTD pays 100 percent of the District's costs for assets constructed years ago which the District now wants to transfer to the County without asset depreciation based on a reasonable useful life for the assets.

Ryika Hooshangi

March 22, 2021

Page 2

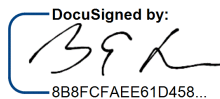
- WTD pays 100 percent of the costs for any improvements to the District's assets necessary to address operational safety concerns raised by the County as a condition of the asset transfer.
- WTD pays 100 percent of the costs to construct a project known as Interim Improvement 4 in the consultant study which would add capacity in the near-term to the District's local sewer system.

It is an unreasonable request for WTD to use regional ratepayer funds to pay for 100 percent of these costs while the District will not invest in any improvements to address capacity needs in the system it owns and operates. Instead, WTD proposes addressing the capacity needs in the Sammamish Plateau service area as follows:

- WTD would pay half (50 percent) of the total project costs of Interim Improvement 4 in the consultant study which would be the District's responsibility to complete.
- An agreement on the cost share and project responsibilities for Interim Improvement 4 is needed between WTD and the District with such agreement likely requiring King County Council approval.
- WTD will continue its work on the Sammamish Plateau Diversion Project with completion anticipated in 2030.
- WTD will not acquire any of the District's assets. Although they are eligible for consideration as a regional asset, they are of an age and condition that prevent them from being owned and operated by WTD.

Again, I appreciate the time to present WTD's offer to the Board today and look forward to the District's response. WTD remains hopeful that we can find a path forward with the District quickly that makes the best use of District and regional ratepayer funds to address the District's capacity needs collaboratively in the near-term.

Kindest regards,

DocuSigned by:  
  
8B8FCFAEE61D458...

Bruce Kessler

Deputy Division Director

cc: Sammamish Plateau Water Commissioners  
Christie True, Department Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), DNRP  
Sharman Herrin, Government Relations Administrator, WTD, DNRP