

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES**

This briefing summarizes recent actions taken by the three regional committees formed as a result of the merge of King County and Metro. The three regional committees are the Regional Policy Committee, the Regional Water Quality Committee, and the Regional Transit Committee. We will also include updates on the King County Flood Control Zone District and the King County wastewater rate increase in this section. This is intended as a summary briefing; staff can provide more details on any of the items below.

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)

The Regional Policy Committee met on November 14 and received briefings on the following:

- **Preparing for the Winter Storm Season:** KING TV Chief Meteorologist Jeff Renner and staff from King County's Office of Emergency Management presented information regarding weather forecasting and winter storms. Mr. Renner discussed the challenges associated with forecasting weather in the region due to the lack of upstream weather stations and radar limitations for the Oregon and Washington coastlines. The Office of Emergency Management presented advice and resources for preparing for and responding to winter weather situations.
- **Staff Report on the King Conservation District and Next Steps:** Staff provided background and an update on actions taken by the King County Council authorizing funding for conservation and agricultural programs through a system of rates and charges imposed by the King Conservation District. Please see the update provided in this packet for more information on this item.
- **Cyber Security for the Private and Public Sector:** Staff from King County's Office of Information Resource Management presented information regarding cyber security, what individuals and businesses can do in the private sector to protect themselves and what King County is doing to protect its information and systems from cyber threats.

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

The Regional Transit Committee did not meet in November. RTC will meet again for a special meeting on December 6 to receive a briefing on the Linking Transit and Development Preliminary Concept Report, transmitted by the County Executive at the end of October.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

The Regional Water Quality Committee met on November 7 and received briefings on the following:

- **Action on Financial Policies – Reserves and Short Term Debt:** The Financial Policies Work Group (FPWG), a workgroup established by the RWQC, provided policy

recommendations with regard to emergency reserves and short-term variable rate debt to include within the Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) annual financial plan and operating budget. With regard to reserves, the FPWG recommended that the WTD maintain a liquidity reserve equal to 10 % of operating expenses plus a \$5 million minimum balance in the construction fund. In addition, it recommended that WTD should also have an emergency capital reserve set at a minimum of \$15 million. WTD already meets these goals and is supporting memorializing these policies. Since 2001, WTD's financial policies have limited short-term debt to no more than 15% of total outstanding revenue bonds and general obligation bonds. WTD has a track record of successful use of short-term debt that has resulted in savings to the utility and ratepayers. Based on that successful track record, the FPWG is recommending that the limit be raised to 20% to provide greater flexibility. However, any debt issuance proposed over 15% would have to analyze a list of factors (need, total cost, risk estimate, etc.) before approval.

The RWQC received a briefing at its meeting in October and took formal action at this meeting to adopt the proposed recommendations. The adopted ordinances include direction to review these policies every 5-7 years when the Regional Wastewater Services Plan is updated.

- **Regional Wastewater Services Plan 2011 Annual Report:** The Committee received a briefing on the highlights of the Annual Report. The Annual Report summarizes the progress made during 2011 in implementing the RWSP's major programs and projects. The presentation updated the Committee on major treatment improvements, conveyance system improvements, CSO projects and efforts to reduce infiltration and inflow.
- **Overview of Wastewater Treatment Division Capital Improvement Projects:** This briefing was in response to the RWQC's request for briefings on capital improvement projects underway in 2012 or being planned for 2013. The presentation highlighted projects for pipe and pump station improvements, CSO projects and improvements at the West and South Treatment Plants.

The next meeting of the RWQC is Wednesday, December 5.