



**Clean water is what makes the Northwest special. Puget Sound and our lakes, rivers, and streams give us food, transportation, jobs, and fun.**

The clean water services provided by King County have protected water quality, public health, and our environment for decades.

We are working on a wastewater comprehensive plan that will guide the County's work for decades to come. This plan will be a chance to have a regional discussion about our wastewater system and protecting our local waterways and health in the future.

## **We are investing big in clean water**

Our region has many projects and programs that protect water quality. King County is responsible for cleaning the water people use and then sending it back to nature. Untreated wastewater can make people sick and harm Puget Sound. We have hundreds of miles of pipes, pumps, tanks, treatment plants, and other equipment to carry and treat wastewater. King County and other local governments are responsible for stormwater facilities that protect water quality from pollutants in the water that runs off streets, parking lots, and other paved surfaces. State agencies and local governments are responsible for other clean water programs.

Over the next few decades, the region will spend billions of dollars on water quality protection. King County plans to maintain and improve the wastewater treatment system and make stormwater management improvements. These investments are a major opportunity to contribute to the economic, social, and ecological health of our region.

The region has important decisions to make. With many pressing water quality priorities, King County needs to update its wastewater plan so that we make the right investments at the right time.

## **So we need a Clean Water Plan**

We want to have a regional discussion about King County's role in protecting our local waterways and health in the future. We are facing critical – and expensive – decisions. The discussion will inform King County's plan and future direction on issues like these:

- Maintaining our 50-year old system of wastewater pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities
- Making treatment facilities more resilient
- Serving a growing population

- Even further reducing the amount of untreated sewage and polluted stormwater that overflows into local water bodies during storms
- A changing climate resulting in more extreme weather events
- Potential new requirements for additional levels of wastewater treatment
- Recovering resources from wastewater – like biosolids, energy, and recycled water
- Ensuring benefits are distributed equitably
- How to finance water quality improvements



People pay for the wastewater system through their monthly utility bills. In addition to water quality improvements, people are being asked to help fund other important regional efforts – such as transit, roads, stormwater, salmon recovery, and affordable housing – through other rates, fees, and taxes. Understanding how the combination of these costs affects people as the region becomes increasingly expensive is important.

### We want to hear a range of ideas and opinions

The Clean Water Plan is a major opportunity to contribute to the economic, social, and ecological health of our region. The plan needs to reflect the range of opinions from people who live here - the people who will be paying for the plan through utility bills.

We are committed to a fair and inclusive planning process. To do this, we will aim to break down barriers to involvement and hear from all kinds of people — including long-time participants in water quality discussions and new, interested parties. We'll be working with people at each step of the process to make sure we are on the right track to deliver the best water quality, economic, social, and health outcomes.

### Find out more

We look forward to using your feedback to help shape the plan. We are committed to keeping you up-to-date as the planning process gets underway and will let you know ahead of each opportunity to have your voice be heard.

To sign up to receive future updates or for questions, please visit

[www.kingcounty.gov/cleanwaterplan](http://www.kingcounty.gov/cleanwaterplan).

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