FAQ on the Proposed Wastewater Treatment Division Operating Board

1. How is representation on the Operating Board be determined?

The Operating Board will include up to three (3) members representing King County and seven (7) Component Agency members The seven seats representing the component agencies will consist of three seats each for cities and for districts and one seat for the City of Seattle. The three seats each for cities and districts will represent small, medium, and large respectively. Component agency members shall be elected to the Board by majority vote of the other agencies in their category (i.e., small, medium, or large district or city).

2. How do those who are not participating on the Operating Board have a voice?

Each category of representation – small, medium, or large district or city – can organize a caucus of other cities or districts in their category for discussion of items in front of the Operating Board. Additionally, Board meetings will be open to the public with an opportunity for public comment.

3. What types of issues will the Operating Board address?

The Board will cover a wide array of operating issues as outlined in the draft contract such as capital planning and projects, industrial waste fees, strategic financing, infiltration and inflow, rate setting, and service area contraction and expansion. The Board, in coordination with the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), will establish an annual work plan.

4. What role does the Board have in decision-making?

Depending on the item, the Board's role will be to review, advise, recommend or decide as specified in contract. The Board will take formal votes on certain issues and convey these recommendations to the Executive and/or King County Council. If there is not consensus, the Board shall provide a recommendation package showing both positions and the rationale.

5. What happens to MWPAAC?

Once the Operating Board is in place, it is intended that MWPAAC will discontinue its regular meetings recognizing the role of the Operating Board and its partnership with the County for informed decision making.