

# Clean Water Plan

*Making the Right Investments at the Right Time*

MWPAAC Monthly Briefing

March 24, 2021



**Clean Water Plan**

Making the right investments at the right time



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Wastewater Treatment Division

## March Briefing Topics

- Planning Process check-in
- Upcoming Action Technical Workshops

## Core Planning Question

*What is the most appropriate path to ensure we direct the right public investments to the right actions at the right time for the best water quality outcomes?*

# Clean Water Plan Planning Process Overview



We Are Here



# Actions Technical Workshops

## Goals

- ▶ Dive into details, learn the basics of the ~35 Actions that the Clean Water Plan is exploring
- ▶ Learn about actions through explainer videos, summaries, and recordings

<b>Workshop 1</b> <b>Tuesday April 20, 9am-1pm</b>	<b>Workshop 2</b> <b>Thursday May 13, 12:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Workshop 3</b> <b>Tuesday May 25, 12:30-4:30pm</b>
<b>Wastewater Treatment</b>	<b>System Health and Operations</b>	<b>Wet Weather Management</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater sources/characteristics</li> <li>• Levels of treatment</li> <li>• Regulatory environment</li> <li>• Liquid process</li> <li>• Solids process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of system</li> <li>• Existing standards, levels of service</li> <li>• Resource recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Context</li> <li>• Wet weather runoff sources/characteristics</li> <li>• Types (stormwater, CSO, I/I)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing Treatment at Regional System</li> <li>• De-Centralization</li> <li>• Control and Removal of Pollutants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AM, Resiliency, Redundancy</li> <li>• Conveyance System Capacity</li> <li>• Onsite Wastewater Management</li> <li>• Resource Recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater Management</li> <li>• CSO Control</li> <li>• Collection System Optimization</li> <li>• Wrap-up</li> </ul>

**Email sent to MWPAAC with Action Technical Workshop Registration information. Please register and join us!**

# New Information Resource – Planning Process Topic Sheet



The wastewater system is vital to our community because it collects and cleans the water that people send down the drain, and protects public health and our rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound.

## Creating the Clean Water Plan:

An Exploratory Process

King County has tough decisions to make about the future of our regional wastewater system. We have a long and growing to-do list that could cost billions of dollars in the coming decades. In making these investments, we need to consider things like our aging system of pipes, pumps and tanks, population growth, regulations, equity, and climate change.

King County takes these decisions seriously, and is working on a Clean Water Plan to guide our investments. The process of making the plan will allow us to do a thoughtful and transparent evaluation, so we make the right investments at the right time.

### An Exploratory Process

The Clean Water Plan is working on interrelated, complex problems. We are looking at new and different approaches to a whole range of decisions together, including the ones down the road. To find the best solutions, we need to explore as we go.

### The Clean Water Plan will:

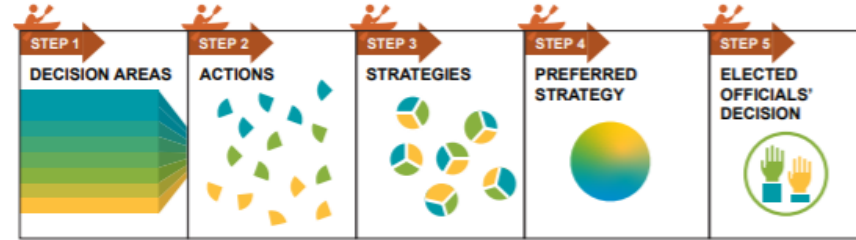
- Guide King County investments that protect our local waterways, the environment, and public health for decades to come
- Consider how to distribute the benefits and burdens of these investments equitably
- Determine how to use money from your sewer bills for the best water quality outcomes

### CLEAN WATER PLAN DECISION AREAS

- Wastewater treatment plants capacity and level of treatment
- Capacity in sewer pipes and pumps
- Aging sewer systems, natural disasters and climate change
- Recycling resources from wastewater
- Stormwater and combined sewer overflows
- Preventing pollution at the source
- Pollution from historical activities



Here's how the process works:



### STEP 1 → Navigate the Decision Areas

King County is navigating a number of different choices and opportunities as we develop an effective and equitable Clean Water Plan to address the seven Decision Areas (see page 1).

### STEP 2 → Develop Actions for Each Decision Area

To build the Clean Water Plan, King County is exploring a range of Actions for each of the Decision Areas. We are exploring some Actions that would require significant changes in how we do things, and others that are consistent with past practices. As we move through the planning process, we are evolving and fine-tuning the Actions based on what we learn, and on what we hear from the community and County leaders. After evaluation, some Actions will become part of a strategy and others will not.

### STEP 3 → Explore Strategies for the Issues

Understanding the individual Actions is a start. To create the Clean Water Plan, we need to look at how the Actions interact with each other over decades, and how they affect water quality. So the next step in the Clean Water Plan process is to put individual actions together into "Strategies."

King County is using technical analyses and community input to develop several Strategies. The Strategies show different, complete approaches to investing in the regional wastewater system and regional water quality. They allow us to see big-picture financial and water quality outcomes from a range of potential approaches. The range of Strategies allows the region to explore the choices and opportunities among different water quality, financial, and other outcomes.

### STEP 4 → Assemble a Preferred Strategy

King County invites the community and partner organizations to explore the choices, opportunities, challenges, and outcomes that come with each Strategy. By exploring different Strategies before proposing one preferred Strategy, King County gives everyone a chance to say what they think about each approach. King County then uses what we learn from the technical analysis and the community to develop a single preferred Strategy and financial plan for the King County Executive and Council to consider.

### STEP 5 → Decision-making

The King County Executive proposes a plan to the King County Council. The Council considers this plan in a series of public meetings, with time for public comment, and then decides on the final plan.

### Some definitions:

**DECISION AREAS** – Existing and emerging issues that the King County Wastewater Treatment Division needs to consider in order to make choices and to plan for the future. The Clean Water Plan focuses on seven Decision Areas.

**ACTIONS** – A specific program or set of projects that addresses one of the Decision Areas. Actions are not standalone solutions, but building blocks that will be shaped and combined in different ways throughout the planning process.

**STRATEGY** – A group of multiple Actions. Each Strategy reflects a complete investment approach the County could take for water quality and the regional wastewater system.

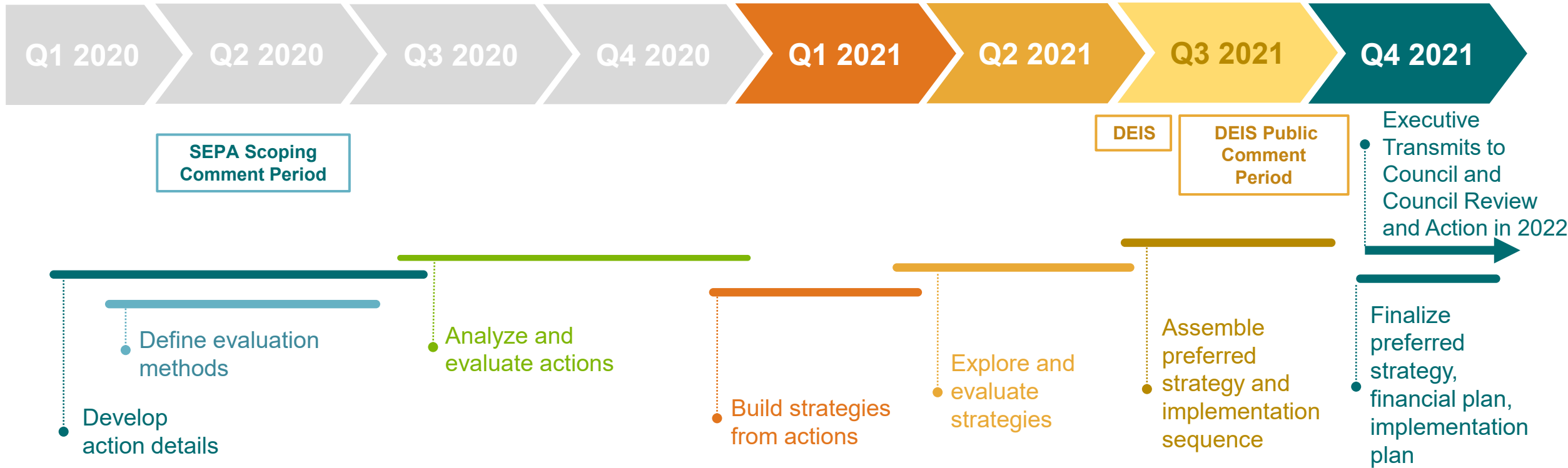
# External Advisory Group – MWPAAC Representative Report

- **Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities**
- **John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District**

# Questions?

**Contact:** Steve Tolzman, Program/Project Manager, 206.477.5459 or [steve.tolzman@kingcounty.gov](mailto:steve.tolzman@kingcounty.gov)

# Schedule Overview





# Questions?