



PFAS and Contaminants of Emerging Concern

WTD and countywide response to King County Council Motion 16434

MWPAAC Engineering & Planning Subcommittee
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King County

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Wastewater Treatment Division



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Today's discussion

- What are PFAS & CECs?
- Overview of Motion 16434 requested actions
- WTD action in response
- Overview of countywide steps



PFAS and Contaminants
of Emerging Concern
(CECs)



What are CECs?

- Unregulated or minimally regulated substances or materials that may pose risk
- Found in personal care, household, agricultural products, and more
- Widespread in environment, including wastewater
- Includes PFAS, 6PPD-Q, microplastics, pharmaceuticals



CLOTHING



FURNITURE



REPELLANTS



LUBRICANTS



PAINT



**NON-STICK
COOKWARE**



**CARPETING &
RUGS**



DENTAL FLOSS



COSMETICS



PIZZA BOXES

Not all CECs are the same...

Variation in:

- Risks to human health and ecosystems
- Toxicity, prevalence, and community exposure in King County
- Pathways for chemicals entering environment (air, water, ingestion)
- Direct and indirect county influence on controlling sources
- Impacts and costs: county operations



Source control – best first step

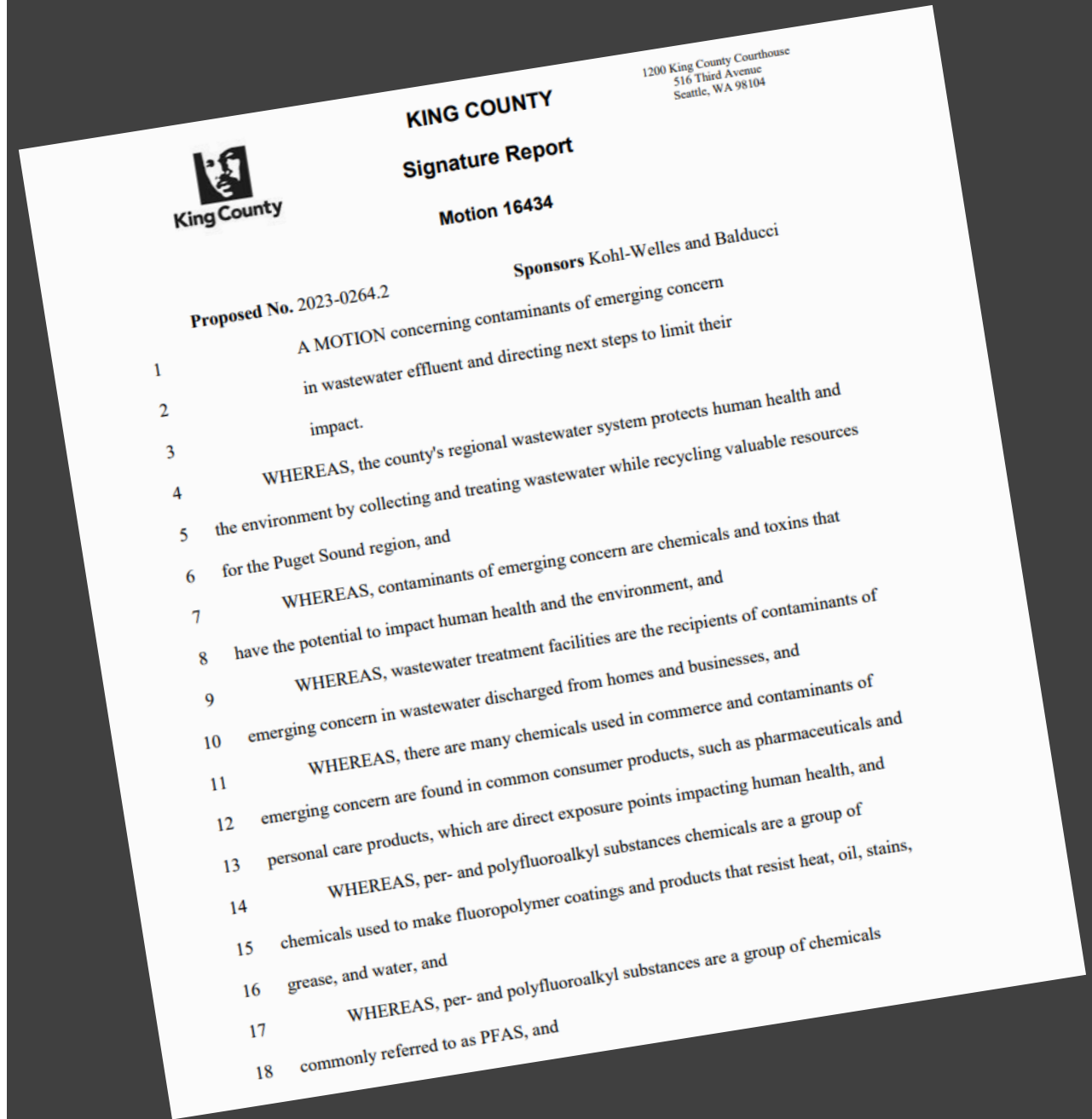
- CECs come from upstream sources
- Most exposure risks to CECs are greater at their sources
- Source control is identified priority on every level—from federal to local
- Policy action and public education are key



Motion 16434

King County seeks to identify, prioritize, reduce, and control sources, exposures, and risk from PFAS and CECs to people and the environment in King County

- Nine requested actions to achieve goals





Action One

Seek operational, capital, or programmatic changes that may address PFAS

WTD Actions:
Consider CECs in all planning efforts

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Seattle, showing a river, residential areas, and industrial zones. The city is surrounded by green hills and mountains in the distance under a clear sky.

Action Two

Determine most significant sources, pathways, and exposures in King County

WTD Actions:

- **On-going monthly sampling**
- **Future sewershed and industrial surveying**
- **Completed study of Recycled Water vs. Sammamish River**



Actions
Three-
Five

Support source control measures

Support state/federal PFAS action plans

Engage in regulations and legislation

WTD Actions:

Commenting on and supporting numerous state and federal efforts

Action Six

Seek funding and producer responsibility for CEC mitigation

WTD Actions:

Assisted King County in joining national suit against 3M

Supported Safer Products for Washington

A background image showing a pair of hands holding several small, pinkish-red seeds. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the fingers spread out. The background is a soft-focus, warm-toned bokeh of red and orange lights, suggesting an indoor setting with decorative lighting. The overall mood is one of care and attention to detail.

Action Seven

**Coordinate and share strategy
with other jurisdictions**

WTD Actions:

Brief MWPAAC

**Participate in Department of
Ecology biosolids sampling**



Action Eight

Research treatment technologies

**WTD Actions:
Literature Reviews
External Partnerships**



Action Nine

**Educate residents and businesses
about reducing CECs**

WTD Actions:
Website
Specific infographics
Countywide Communication Plan

CECs Connect with Many Departments and Programs



Countywide Actions: PFAS



State Funding

Secured \$500,000 to the UW to study & develop mobile screening methods for consumer products.

Supported \$375,000 to Ecology to (a) ID priority consumer products for potential regulatory action and (b) strengthen disclosure requirements.



Communications

Updating key messages, web page and public education campaign.

Recent Blog Post: Public Health Insider. [Ask a Tox Doc: Are “Forever Chemicals” in Takeout Food Containers?](#)



Procurement

Updated County’s Sustainable Purchasing Policy in 2023.

Countywide Actions: PFAS, cont.



Fire Fighting Foam

Fire fighting foam used in airport fire response is regulated by FAA, which recently approved PFAS-free foam.

King County International Airport is in process of transitioning to the new foam in coordination other airports in region.



Lab Analysis Capacity

Lack of accredited labs has been a limiting factor for analyzing samples.

King County Environmental Laboratory has secured equipment, expertise, and is seeking accreditation to test for PFAS.



Testing

King County is testing for PFAS in marine and freshwater fish, waste streams, and stormwater.

Countywide Actions: Toxic Tire Dust or “6PPD-q”

- Secured grant funding and tested soil mix to filter roadway runoff.
- Testing stormwater facility for effectiveness in treating both 6PPD-q and PFAS.
- Updating County Stormwater Manual based on research.
- Mapping “hot spots” for roadway runoff.
- Developing countywide strategic plan.
- Partnering with Ecology's 6PPD-q Action Committee.



CEC Framework in Development

Approach and Principles:

- Proactive in identifying CECs
- Priorities informed by risk assessment
- Address sources as far upstream as possible
- Integrated approach across county programs
- Leverage county strengths
- Work in partnership with local governments, tribes, non-governmental organizations, universities





Questions?

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