Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan Update

MWPAAC General Meeting

May 27, 2026

Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan

- Developed following 2026 Sewer Rate process and approved by Council Motion 16900 (2025).
- Multi-year plan to continue to improve engagement, transparency, and accountability.
- Regular updates given to Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and MWPAAC.

Meaningful and Timely Engagement in Development of Sewer Rate

- Q3/Q4 2025 - WTD briefed MWPAAC on the capital project prioritization process and key capital projects impacting the rate.
- Q4 2025 and Q1/Q2 2026 – Starting with a “Look Ahead” briefing in October 2025, WTD briefed MWPAAC and RWQC on sewer rate strategy and assumptions, preliminary sewer rate and capacity charge, and on WTD’s proposed rate.
- Q1 2026 - WTD provided briefings on preliminary rate scenarios to RWQC and MWPAAC Rates and Finance Subcommittee. Two scenarios were included in the Sewer Rate Technical Memorandum submitted to Council.
- Q1 2026 - An independent consultant briefed MWPAAC on long-term forecasting model and further briefings will be provided with the opportunity to suggest improvements.
- Upcoming - MWPAAC’s Executive Board has selected two representatives to observe the Definition and/or Delivery Board meetings in the Portfolio Management process.

Early Visibility and Transparency on Large Project Planning

- Ongoing - MWPAAC representatives at WTD Portfolio management meetings will help inform MWPAAC members regarding WTD's process for project prioritization and decisions.

- Upcoming - The topic of alternatives analysis for selected projects will be revisited with the MWPAAC Executive Board in Q2 2026.

Improve Multi-Year Rate Predictability

- Q3/Q4 2025 - WTD began discussions with MWPAAC's Executive Board and King County's budget office in 2025 on options for rate predictability.
- Q4 2025 - MWPAAC received an initial briefing and provided feedback on potential options at its December 4, 2025, Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting.
- Upcoming - Further discussion of options for rate predictability is planned for MWPAAC's Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting on June 4, 2026.

Evaluate Regulatory Requirements and Develop Options to Address Financial Sustainability.

- WTD's Planning team is coordinating with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and County Executive's Office to evaluate potential regulatory changes.
- WTD is exploring options for an environmentally protective and financially sustainable path in preparation for initiating discussions with regulators.

Independent, Third-Party Oversight

- Q1 2026 -WTD provided an opportunity for MWPAAC's Executive Board to review the scope of work to procure an independent third-party consultant and an Executive Board representative participated in the proposal and interview process.

- Ongoing - King County Auditor's Office has agreed to serve as the Project Representative.

- Q2 2026 and Ongoing - The advertisement for the independent consultant contract was open from 2/10/26 to 3/11/26. PMA Consultants has been selected, and the contract is in negotiations with notice to proceed anticipated for July 2026.

Utility Summit and Local Agency Outreach

- Q4 2026 - The Regional Utility Rate Summit was held in SeaTac on November 14, 2025, with approximately 150 attendees.

- Q2 2026 and Ongoing - Sound Cities Association (SCA) and County staff participated in a discussion with MWPAAC at the April 28 General Meeting to solicit input on next steps. WTD and SCA staff met in May to consider this initial input and how it would shape a second summit.

- Q1/Q2 2026 - WTD hosted a virtual meeting with local agency public information staff in January and April 2026 and shared a communications tool kit for the proposed 2027 sewer rate. WTD will develop something like a bill stuffer for local sewer agencies to send to customers explaining the King County rate increase for 2027 and the importance of the regional system to protect public health and the environment.

Thank you

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