### King County Industrial Waste Program Newsletter -Spring 2021

INDUSTRIAL WASTE PROGRAM Partnering with Industries to Prevent Pollution

In this edition: 2020 Annual Report, fulfilling your permit requirements during the pandemic, new rules for wineries, a new application, a new database coming, plus, see the 2020 clean water award winners and read about avoiding penalties so you can earn an award.



### Industrial Waste staff are essential, please help protect them – ensure you and your staff are wearing masks

Even as the vaccine rolls out to more people, any of us can carry the COVID-19 virus without showing symptoms. We may not realize we're spreading it when we talk, cough or sneeze. Face coverings are required statewide in all indoor public spaces because they are effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19, especially when combined with 6 feet of physical distance.

Please ask your staff to wear face coverings when KCIW investigators are visiting your facilities. KCIW staff will be wearing face coverings, too.



### **Read King County's 2020 Industrial Pretreatment Annual Report**

The <u>annual report</u> summarizes King County Industrial Waste's (KCIW) achievements in the areas of operations, special projects and activities, and public outreach. The report meets pretreatment program requirements in the <u>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System</u> (NPDES) permits issued to King County's Wastewater Treatment Division's wastewater treatment plants.

### 2020 Clean Water Awards – The Envelope Please....



# Gold, Silver, and Commitment to Compliance awards

Each year, KCIW recognizes significant industrial users of the sewer system that have maintained an excellent record of compliance with rules and regulations for the previous calendar year. This year, 58 local facilities earned environmental awards for dedication to business practices that protected regional water quality in 2020. This included 37 gold, 18 silver, and 3 Commitment to Compliance awards. The awards recognize the facility's efforts to protect communities, the environment, and the economy in our region.

Find out who won Gold, and Silver awards in 2020.

#### Companies that violate clean water rules receive penalties

King County is legally required to report on companies who do not comply with their permit. <u>Read the</u> <u>enforcement ad</u> published in the Seattle Times in April.

**How to Avoid Penalties:** Late submissions are a frequent and preventable reason for violations and fines. Plan ahead. File your applications and reports on time.

#### Did you know...?

- Your permit shows your specific deadlines.
- You can <u>contact King County</u> and ask for an extension to avoid being late.
- You can send your reports electronically to KCIW by emailing info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov.



# Fulfilling your permit requirements during the COVID-19 Pandemic

KCIW would like to remind you of your responsibilities and requirements during this uncertain time. In short, facilities continue to be responsible for all waste discharges leaving their facility or project sites.



As always, stopping, reducing, increasing or changing production requires notification to KCIW. Please contact your investigator, as required, if you plan to have any change in operations, treatment process, or discharge at your facility. This still applies during Governor Inslee's statewide order to Stay Home, Stay Healthy. We have compiled a list of frequently asked questions from our customers. This guidance applies to facilities with KCIW permits and reporting requirements. <u>Click here to read the FAQ</u>.



### Some wineries now need formal authorization to discharge to the King County sewer system

Wastewater that is too acidic or too alkaline can seriously corrode a sewer system. Solids in wastewater that are capable of settling can restrict or block flow in sewer lines. A company

or facility that discharges solids that cause a sewage backup is liable for any damages.

In the past, only a few wineries had authorization to discharge their waste to the King County Sanitary Sewer System. KCIW program has now developed a comprehensive strategy to regulate all of our winery customers. Wineries that meet a production-based threshold level will be required to get formal authorization to discharge winery wastewater to King County's sanitary sewer system. Small wineries that fall below the threshold and are not located within the Vashon or Carnation service areas, will not need a formal authorization to discharge winery wastewater but are still expected to follow <u>best management practices (BMPs)</u> and meet local limits for pH and settleable solids.

Learn more on the KCIW Wineries website.

### New and improved permit application now available

In 2020, KCIW developed <u>a new permit application</u> form for industrial users requesting authorization to discharge industrial wastewater to the sanitary sewer. The new application form is a general form for all industries requesting authorization to discharge industrial wastewater to the sanitary sewer other than construction projects. Detailed instructions are embedded into the application form and are included for the Exhibit section of the application.

Please note: all new applications must use this new form and email it to <u>info.kciw@kingcounty.gov</u>. We can no longer accept applications submitted via FTP site. This will allow us to create a record of receipt of your facility's application and for KCIW to be able to retain a copy of the application for our records long-term.



### KCIW's database upgrade project status

KCIW is building a new database to store and collect information. Our goal is that by early winter, industrial users will be able to submit applications, surveys, and selfmonitoring reports electronically via an on-line portal. When the online system is ready, we will provide education and support to help you get set up in the system and learn how to use it.





#### Self-monitoring reports – specifying units

When filling out a self-monitoring report, please make sure you are following <u>these instructions</u>. We have had recent issues with units of measure on submitted reports. It's extremely important that you specify the unit of measure you used when noting your values. Please share the instructions with all staff who fill out the reports.



### Make sure you are receiving communications about your authorization – add KCIW to your trusted senders list

If you have a permit or other authorization with KCIW, we will primarily communicate with you by email. Please make sure that you check your SPAM folder and add the "kingcounty.gov" domain to your "trusted senders" list.

Our newsletters and other general announcements will continue to come from this email address: <u>KingCounty@subscriptions.kingcounty.gov</u> but information related to your business and authorization will continue to be sent to you by a kingcounty.gov email address – either KCIW staff or <u>info.kciw@kingcounty.gov</u>. Please ensure you receive these important communications.