



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Wastewater Treatment Division

Finance and Administration

King Street Center, KSC-NR-5502

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

December 2024,

TO: Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

FM: Courtney Black, Finance & Administration Manager, WTD

RE: Proposed Septage Fee for 2025

King County Code 28.84.050 Part L authorizes the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Director to determine and adjust a “per gallon fee” for discharge of materials from cesspools, septic tanks, chemical toilets, and privies into the King County Metropolitan Sewage System.

The amount of septage treated at South Plant declined by about 9 million gallons in 2023 from the 30 million gallons treated in 2022. Septage treated in 2024 is trending to be in line with the 2023 total of 21 million gallons. A private septage treatment facility opened in Sumner in 2023, and anecdotal evidence suggests septage that has historically been treated by WTD has been diverted to the new facility. While it is unclear whether and how much pricing or other factors are contributing to the loss of septage receiving and related revenue, it is recommended that the septage rate remain at the current level in 2025. This results in the existing septage rate of \$0.1429 per gallon.


A one cent per gallon surcharge will continue in 2025 to provide funds for Public Health-Seattle and King County to respond to failing on-site sewage systems (OSS), provide technical support to property owners with OSS, identify and repair prioritized OSS failures, continue “what not to flush” education and outreach, and improve industry reporting.

The recommended septage fee of \$0.1529 per gallon for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2025, includes the surcharge of \$0.01 per gallon.

Two other agencies in the region that accept septage include the Cities of Everett and Tacoma. The existing 2024 Everett rate is \$0.2948 cents per gallon. In 2024, Tacoma charged \$0.1526 per gallon to inside city customers, and \$0.1679 per gallon to outside city customers. Neither Everett nor Tacoma has published its 2025 septage rate.

Your signature below approves the recommended rate per gallon as described herein effective January 1, 2025.

Approved:
Signed by:



Kamron Carol, Director
Wastewater Treatment Division

12/16/2024

Date

cc: Rebecca Singer, Operations Manager, WTD, DNRP
Michael Wohlfert, Assistant Plant Manager, South Treatment Plant (STP), WTD,
DNRP
Rachael Dyda, Process Control Supervisor, STP, WTD, DNRP
Chris Tinnin, Septage Coordinator, STP, WTD, DNRP
Andrés Bas Moore, Rates & Financial Planning Supervisor, WTD, DNRP