

May xx, 2014

King County Councilmember Jane Hague
Chair, Committee-of-the-Whole
Metropolitan King County Council
526 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Solid Waste Transfer Station Plan Review and Recommendations

Dear Councilmember Hague,

We appreciate all of the work that has been conducted by the Solid Waste Division, King County Auditor's Office and King County Council to ensure that the solid waste transfer system is right sized to provide appropriate services at affordable rates. We support the approach being considered by the County Council of proceeding with construction of a new Factoria transfer station, siting a new South King County transfer station, and not building a new Northeast transfer station. We also support identification of potential future transfer system capital improvements for review, including a Northeast transfer station, and considerations for such review.

With the new Shoreline, Bow Lake, Factoria and South King County facilities, there will be four new transfer and recycling stations in King County that will meet the transfer station needs for solid waste and provide new and significantly expanded recycling and waste reduction capabilities for decades. These facilities will be geographically dispersed throughout the County to equitably meet the needs of residents and businesses.

We believe the solid waste transfer system will be right-sized with four new urban transfer station and recycling facilities and existing rural facilities and drop boxes, given the system capacity that will be available and significant decline in tonnage that has occurred since 2007 and is projected through 2040 with the revised solid waste tonnage forecast. The Houghton, Renton and Algona transfer stations should close as planned as these facilities will not be necessary to meet system needs.

We support the County's proposal to examine demand management to effectively manage the system and any periods of peak use. In collaboration with City partners, the County should develop a plan to implement operational changes and enhanced use of technology for an efficient system that utilizes the solid waste and recycling and waste reduction capacities available with four new state-of-the-art facilities.

It is imperative that the County ensure that rates remain affordable, given the significant decline in tonnage, significant investment in solid waste infrastructure, and the reduced number of participants in the solid waste system after 2028 that will pay for this system. As the King County Council continues its review of the Transfer Station Plan Final Report and Recommendations, we encourage decision-making

that further advances an efficient and effective solid waste system financed by rates that are affordable and competitive.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the County in the solid waste system and working with the County to manage this system to meet our needs for years ahead.

Sincerely,

Cc: King County Councilmembers
Pat McLaughlin, Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP
Diane Carlson, Director of Regional Initiatives, King County Executive Office
Ben Thompson, Deputy Auditor, King County Auditor's Office
Bob Thomas, Senior Principal Management Auditor, King County Auditor's Office
Michael Huddleston, Municipal Relations Director, King County Council