



King County

Wastewater Treatment Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

February 10, 2015

Lynne Danielson, General Manager
Olympic View Water and Sewer District
8128 228th St SW
Edmonds, WA 98104-3855

Dear Ms. Danielson,

I am writing to follow up on initial comments that the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) provided on Olympic View Water and Sewer District's (Olympic View) planning process to update its 2007 Comprehensive Sewer Plan. WTD appreciates its partnership with Olympic View. However, WTD understands that Olympic View may be contemplating infrastructure that could divert flows from WTD. As discussed below, even if the Ronald Wastewater District (Ronald) no longer serves the Point Wells area, flows from that area are contractually committed to WTD through 2036.

The Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Metro) entered into a sewage disposal agreement with Ronald on June 23, 1960, which was superseded by a new agreement executed on November 6, 1969 (Agreement) to provide wastewater treatment services for Ronald's service area. Metro and King County merged in 1994 and under the Agreement, King County continues to provide wholesale services to Ronald, including the area known as Point Wells.

The Agreement, as amended, commits Ronald to deliver all sewage collected in its service area to WTD for treatment through July 1, 2036. This legal requirement is binding on any successor to Ronald. The Agreement speaks to the cessation of Ronald by dissolution or other means. Specifically, section 10 of the Agreement states in part:

“Neither of the parties hereto shall have the right to assign this Agreement or any of its rights and obligations hereunder nor to terminate its obligations hereunder by dissolution or otherwise without first securing the written consent of the other party and this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the respective successors and assigns of the parties hereto.”

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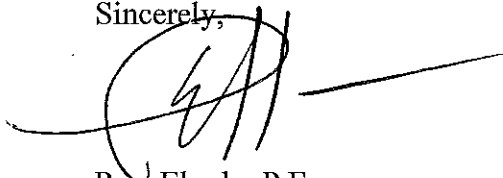
Thus, any infrastructure development that could be used to divert flows from WTD potentially interferes with WTD's contractual rights and also may harm ratepayers.

For years, WTD has invested significant ratepayer revenues in sewer infrastructure throughout WTD's regional service area, including the areas served by Ronald. WTD is committed to ensuring that these sewer investments continue to protect public health and the environment for the 1.5 million residents living in the region who paid for those improvements. Thus, Olympic View's infrastructure investments cannot be designed to divert flows from WTD. As indicated earlier, all flows from the Ronald service area must continue to be delivered to WTD regardless of which entity ultimately provides retail sewer service.

WTD appreciates its partnerships with the Ronald and Olympic View Districts, and WTD will continue to serve all of the ratepayers in the Ronald service area, including Point Wells.

WTD looks forward to receiving a copy of the Olympic View comprehensive plan update for comment. If you have any questions regarding this letter or WTD's provision of wastewater treatment services as Olympic View prepares its comprehensive plan update, please contact me at 206.477.4530 or pam.elardo@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pam Elardo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pam Elardo, P.E.
Division Director

cc: Debbie Tarry, City Manager, City of Shoreline
Michael Derrick, General Manager, Ronald Wastewater District
Mark Henley, Municipal Unit Supervisor, Washington Department of Ecology
Alison Evans, Permit, Manager, Department of Ecology