

Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Please see the attached letter regarding the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit. Thank you.



King County

Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Councilmember, District 4

Metropolitan King County Council

August 9, 2021

Eleanor Ott, P.E.
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

Dear Eleanor Ott,

I am writing today regarding the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) draft Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP) for municipal wastewater treatment facilities that discharge into Puget Sound. I have heard concerns about the implications of the current permit as drafted and I urge you to delay issuing the PSNGP as drafted and to work with King County's Wastewater Treatment Division to find a path forward that more fully considers King County's long-term and structural plans to ensure clean water.

I represent King County Council District Four, home to the West Point Treatment Plant, and the health of our waterways is deeply important to me and to the constituents I represent. I recognize Ecology's and King County's shared responsibility to maintain compliance with water quality standards and to address dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment in sensitive areas of the Sound. I fully support the goal of minimizing the impact of wastewater and ensuring that the Puget Sound is protected and preserved.

At the same time, the implications of the PSNGP as currently drafted are far-reaching for likely a large number of my constituents. King County is an expensive area in which to reside, and the financial realities that I have been presented with to implement the PSNGP as drafted would have a significant impact on residents in my district, especially in the wake of COVID-19. Of course, certain costs are inherent in protecting and improving our regional waters, and for that reason I would hope that King County's approach prioritizes the most impactful investments first, maximizing environmental protection for our constituents and keeping the region livable. I hope that you will work with King County to utilize this approach.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-1004.

Best,