



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NORTHWEST DRINKING WATER REGIONAL OPERATIONS

20425 72nd Avenue South, Suite 310 • Kent Washington 98032-2388

March 22, 2022

SEAN VANCE
VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
14515 PIONEER WAY E
PUYALLUP WA 98372

Subject: Kapowsin Water District ID 37750
Country/Eldorado Water System ID 15522
Southwood Water System ID 82844
Pierce County
Kapowsin Service Evaluation: Preliminary Engineering and Consolidation
Feasibility Study Report Final
Submittal # 22-0201

Dear Sean Vance:

Background: The Kapowsin Water District (KWD) is currently in receivership in Superior Court, with Pierce County as the receiver. In coordination with the Department of Health and Pierce County, thank you for preparing this feasibility study under a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant [contract # GVL25666]. We appreciate the Valley Water District's willingness to operate the water system under contract with Pierce County. This feasibility study builds upon a previous alternative analysis done by Pierce County where other source water options were considered.

The "Kapowsin Service Evaluation: Preliminary Engineering and Consolidation Feasibility Study Report Final" was received in this office on March 9, 2022.

The report studies the concept of a new source for the KWD consisting of an intertie between Washington Water Service's Southwood water system and Valley Water District's Country/Eldorado (CE) system, along with three alternative routes for transmission of water from CE to KWD. Preliminary design and cost estimates are provided for the Southwood intertie and the alternative transmission main alignments, as well as for the improvements needed to bring much of the KWD infrastructure up to the Valley Water District (District) operating standards. The identified cost estimate of up to \$10M is significant given the 40 current KWD customers and no Pierce County plans for growth in the area for the 20-year planning horizon.



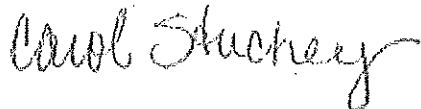
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The Department of Health (DOH) and Pierce County greatly appreciate the District's willingness to consider future ownership of the KWD if new source and system improvements could be completed to current District standards. To date, DOH and Pierce County have been unable to secure the \$4 to \$10M to fund this project – a solution that would provide long-term technical, managerial, and financial stability by transferring ownership of the water system to the Valley Water District.

This study can also be viewed as an excellent resource for other potential water system owners who may have to adopt operating standards less than the District's in order to afford the improvements and sustainably operate the system. DOH is committed to working with any future owner to help ensure safe and reliable drinking water for the Kapowsin community.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at (360)485-7607 or carol.stuckey@doh.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Carol Stuckey, PE
Regional Engineer
N.W. Drinking Water Operations

cc: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Cassandra Moore, MES - Pierce County Planning and Public Works/Sewer Division

Ecc: Dave Roberts, PE - Parametrix
Derek Pell, PE – DOH Regional Office Manager
Dennis Hewitt – DOH Contract Manager
Jennifer Kropack – DOH Regional Planner