



9850 64th Street West
University Place, Washington 98467-1078
piercecountywa.gov/ppw

June 23, 2022

Sent Regular and Certified Mail

Kapowsin Water District
PO Box 115
Kapowsin, WA 98344-0115

Subject: Kapowsin Water District Receivership

Dear Kapowsin Water District:

Pierce County has continued our efforts to maintain and improve the existing system of the Kapowsin Water District (KWD) since the beginning of the court-ordered receivership in November 2017. As we have shared with you previously, the County's considerable efforts to find a viable solution for a reliable new water source have met complex challenges and significant financial constraints.

Most recently, Valley Water District (VWD) completed a Consolidation Feasibility Study to investigate the feasibility and cost of constructing an intertie between the KWD and VWD's water systems. Construction of an intertie would allow KWD to transition to a more reliable drinking water source.

The final feasibility study, as reviewed by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), found that while an intertie is technically feasible, the project will likely cost between \$4 million and \$10 million and is outside of the planned growth area for Pierce County. The intertie study and the Department of Health's response letter, as well as other existing documents or past court reports and correspondence, can be found on the Pierce County website at PierceCountyWa.gov/KapowsinWater.

With the information before us, we have reached the decision that the existing water source is the most feasible option for the community at this time and, as such, the County will need to move forward with returning system management to the community. The Revised Code of Washington refers to this process as "disposition of the system."

The next Pierce County Superior Court review hearing for this receivership is scheduled for August 26, 2022. At the hearing, the County and DOH will present a disposition plan, which would end the receivership and transfer the water system back to the KWD owners. The disposition plan will include a timeline toward ending the receivership and our recommendation that KWD reconvene the three-member board and support the reestablishment of governance, funding, and operation/management of its system.

We would like to meet with you, as the current board members, as soon as possible to discuss the transition process and walk through the next steps to ensure a successful return of the water system to the KWD owners.

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Please contact Cassandra Moore, Planning and Programming Manager for the Sewer Division, to schedule this meeting. She can be reached by phone at (253) 798-3086 or by email at Cassandra.Moore@PierceCountyWa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen Tetatzin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jen" and last name "Tetatzin" clearly distinguishable.

Jen Tetatzin, PE, PMP

Cc: Derek Pell, Washington State Department of Health
Steve Chanfrau, PE, Pierce County Planning and Public Works, Sewer Division
Hugh Taylor, Pierce County Council, Principal Policy Analyst