



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Public Works Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Pam Bissonnette, Interim Public Works Director
Date: February 14, 2013
Subject: NE KING COUNTY REGIONAL RECYCLING DECANT FACILITY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Suspends the Regional Recycling Decant Project,
2. Allows the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the proposed new decant facility property to lapse, and
3. Directs staff to request the Department of Ecology to allow repurposing and extension of the grant to address the problem of New Zealand Mud Snail contamination or decline the grant.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Kirkland has an existing decant facility at the Maintenance Center to process waste solids and liquids that are produced from cleaning our storm systems and street sweeping. Added waste loads from the newly annexed area and requirements for improvements in processing these wastes from the Department of Ecology (DOE) through Kirkland's stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES permit) require the current decant facility to be expanded and upgraded in the future. In anticipation, Kirkland applied for and obtained a grant for \$2.25 million from DOE (with a requirement for \$750,000 in matching funds) for the purpose of siting and constructing a new facility that would recycle these waste streams. Inasmuch as similar issues for processing stormwater decant wastes is experienced by neighboring communities, the grant anticipated that the new facility would be sized for the NE region of King County and developed in partnership with neighboring agencies.

Kirkland, along with a number of other neighboring agencies, has been working collaboratively since March, 2011 to examine the needs and options available. At the June 5, 2012 study session, the City Council received a presentation by Public Works staff on an alternative approach to disposal involving recycling these waste streams. The prospect of the facility being able to recycle water for use in truck washing and in the Eductor trucks and the ability to

reuse the solids for street maintenance projects, has the added benefits of beneficially reusing waste products and reducing Kirkland's costs for sand, gravel and wash water.

On December 20, 2012 the City Manager signed a non-binding letter of intent for the acquisition of a commercial property in the Totem Lake area that would serve as the site for the decant facility. On January 15, 2013 City Council approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA), which provides a 60-day period to inspect the property, secure Interlocal Agreements from the partners, and accept the DOE grant. If at any point prior to the 60-day due diligence expiration the acquisition of the property by the City is not feasible, the City may terminate the PSA without financial impact.

Since January 15, staff has been negotiating an Interlocal Agreement with the cities of Bellevue and Redmond and the Washington State Department of Transportation. Other partners that showed initial interest, such as the Northshore Utility District and King County, have dropped out as partners due to lack of need and cost respectively.

Unfortunately, last week we were informed that New Zealand Mud Snails (NZMS), an invasive species, have been discovered in our region. NZMA were first found in the US in the Snake River in Idaho in 1987, and have spread widely since. Locally they were found in Thornton Creek in 2011 and in Kelsey Creek in Bellevue just last summer. NZMS reproduce asexually, meaning that it takes only one snail to start an infestation that spreads quickly. It is likely NZMS spread through equipment or through other vectors such as pets or wildlife. In New Zealand has several parasites that keep NZMS in check. It is not clear what the control mechanism ultimately will be in the US. The main current mechanism is to stop the spread by decontaminating equipment and materials that move between watersheds.

NZMS crowd out and out-compete with native creatures typically eaten by salmon. If eaten, the snails can pass through the digestive system of the fish and the fish get no nutrition. This could have serious impacts on fish populations and undo many years of investment in our stream systems for salmon recovery.

The design of the recycling decant facility will likely not kill the NZMS. We do not have time prior to action on the PSA to determine whether the facility could be redesigned cost effectively to do so. We do not want the recycling decant products (water, solids) to become a pathway for spreading NZMS, nor will the State allow this facility to become a pathway for proliferation of NZMS. The current purpose of the regional recycling decant facility, i.e. reuse of the products, cannot be achieved. Therefore, we are recommending that the current PSA be allowed to lapse at no cost to the City.

Nevertheless we still have the problem of a decant facility that needs expansion to handle Kirkland's additional tonnages, with the added problem of the NZMS. We are in discussions with DOE to determine whether the grant can be repurposed and extended to allow Kirkland and its regional partners to design a facility that will either treat for the NZMS or eliminate the recycling component and dispose of the waste products as we do currently (i.e. liquids to the

Metro sewer solids to the landfill). We understand that the treatment processes and disposal from these systems will not result in the proliferation of the NZMS.

We are also testing our own systems to determine whether and to what degree they are contaminated already. We are reviewing our own operations procedure, including the actions of contractors, to determine how we can control to the extent possible the contamination of new areas through equipment decontamination.

Despite this barrier to the project, Public Works staff should be recognized for the tremendous effort, hard work and ingenuity put into this project. They recognized this opportunity to further Council goals for environmental improvement and sustainability and regional cooperation. We also appreciate the partnerships with Bellevue, Redmond and WSDOT in moving it forward, as well as DOE who has assisted and provided the grant to make the project possible. Once more is known about the City's options and opportunities, we will prepare an updated recommendation for Council consideration.