



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Public Works Department

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800

www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: John MacGillivray, Solid Waste Programs Supervisor
Julie Underwood, Director of Public Works

Date: June 8, 2021

Subject: NORTHEAST RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION MITIGATION REQUEST LETTER

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review and authorize Mayor Sweet to sign the attached letter to King County, in its current form or as amended by Council, concerning the City's request for host-city mitigation in the event the County selects one of the two potential sites in Kirkland for the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS).

BACKGROUND:

King County has selected three potential sites as finalists for the new NERTS in the northeast County service area to go through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process. The potential site in the City of Redmond was removed from consideration by the County because of an impending multi-use development on the property that made the property less desirable and prohibitively expensive as a site for a transfer station. The two finalist sites in Kirkland are the Houghton Park-and-Ride and the existing Houghton Transfer Station property. The third potential site is in the City of Woodinville.

In the two letters sent previously to the County concerning the NERTS siting process (attached), the City requested that the city in which the new transfer station is sited should receive significant mitigation from King County to offset any negative impacts the transfer station may have upon residents, businesses, and public infrastructure surrounding the transfer facility. The letters also stated the City's position that all four of the preliminary finalist sites, including a site in the City of Redmond, should continue through the EIS/SEPA process or a new Redmond site should be added. The County declined to keep the aforementioned Redmond site on the list of finalist sites nor was the County interested in adding a different site in the City of Redmond to the list of the three finalist sites.

At its May 18 meeting, the City Council directed staff to begin the process of identifying the level of mitigation the City would expect to receive in the event the Houghton Transfer Station site is selected by the County as the site for the new NERTS following the conclusion of the EIS/SEPA process. The initial mitigation measures listed in the letter were generated through outreach to subject matter experts in Parks and Public Works and in response to concerns and comments heard from neighborhood residents concerning traffic, safety, noise, odors, and pest control. The letter requests mitigation measures on the adjacent landfill portion of the property, measures to be incorporated into

the design of the station, and improvements to be made to public works infrastructure surrounding the station. In addition, similar expectations are included in the letter for the Houghton Park and Ride location.

It is important to note that this letter is not meant to imply that the City has officially endorsed placing the NERTS at either of the sites in Kirkland. City and resident representatives on the Siting Advisory Group intend to actively participate in the upcoming EIS/SEPA scoping and review process, a process that may or may not result in the NERTS being sited in Kirkland. The identification of initial mitigation measures is a proactive effort on the part of the City. The letter provides formal notification to the County that if the County does select a site for NERTS in Kirkland, the City expects the new transfer station to be designed and built to minimize or eliminate negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhood. The County must also ensure that if the City hosts an impactful facility that serves the entire region, the City and its residents receive a significant public benefit through the provision of public amenities and improvements to public infrastructure surrounding the station paid for by the County.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff intends to reach out to members of the South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails community and other interested stakeholders to receive their additional mitigation ideas. Any additional proposals may be presented in future correspondence with King County. The public EIS scoping process is expected to begin this summer, when the public will be invited to comment on the proposed siting alternatives, impacts, and potential mitigation measures to study as a part of the EIS. City staff and stakeholders in the service area, including representatives from the South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails neighborhood, will continue to participate on the NERTS Siting Advisory Group and provide input to the County. More detail on the project can be found on the County's [Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Project website](#).

Attachment A: Draft Mitigation Request Letter (June 15, 2021)

Attachment B: Letter from Kirkland to King County (February 2, 2021)

Attachment C: Letter from Kirkland to King County (April 5, 2021)

Attachment D: Letter from the City of Redmond to King County (April 2, 2021)

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Dow Constantine
King County Executive
King County Chinook Building
401 5th Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA, 98104

Mr. Pat McLaughlin
Director, King County Solid Waste Division
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5701
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: NORTHEAST RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION MITIGATION

Dear Executive Constantine and Mr. McLaughlin:

In the City of Kirkland's previous correspondence (attached) with King County concerning the siting of the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS), the City requested that the host city of the new NERTS receive significant mitigation to reduce or eliminate the myriad negative impacts the station may have upon surrounding areas. In the past, the County has offered mitigation to host cities of new transfer stations in the cities of Shoreline, Tukwila, Bellevue, and Algonia. Kirkland doesn't stand alone in this position as the City of Redmond, even now without a potential site in its City, has also expressed its support for NERTS host-city mitigation in a letter to the County on April 2, 2021.

In recent correspondence with the County on February 2nd, 2021, the City requested that the site in the City of Redmond at Willows Road and NE 124th St remain on the final list of four sites to be reviewed during the EIS process. In a subsequent follow-up letter on April 5, 2021, the City asked the County, in the interest of regional fairness, equity, and inclusivity, to substitute another site in the City of Redmond from the preliminary list of 15 sites. For example, the AeroJet/Rocketdyne and Physio-Control sites received high ratings by the County and Core Cities. Neither of these requests were granted by the County. Given that the EIS process has yet to begin in earnest and there are viable sites in the City of Redmond, the City would like to take this opportunity to once again strongly reiterate our request that the County add an additional site in the City of Redmond to the list of three sites currently slated to go under EIS review.

This letter should not be construed as an endorsement of the County siting NERTS at either the Houghton Park and Ride or the Houghton Transfer Station site. However, this letter does offer the City's advocacy for a fair and transparent public EIS/SEPA process to identify the preferred site for NERTS out of the three finalist sites and, if after the conclusion of the environmental review process either of the sites in Kirkland is chosen by the County as the NERTS site, serves

to proactively reiterate the City's request for host-city mitigation and specifically outlines the **minimum** mitigation measures the City would expect the County to provide if NERTS is sited in Kirkland.

Houghton Transfer Station and Landfill Site

The Houghton Transfer Station/Landfill property is surrounded by and located near residences, businesses, schools, day cares, and recreational facilities and is not, nor has it ever been, an ideal location for a transfer station. If upon the conclusion of the SEPA/EIS process the County selects the County-owned Houghton Transfer Station property as the site for NERTS, the City of Kirkland requests that the County reallocate its entire unspent property acquisition budget of approximately \$28 million to provide the following mitigation measures at the new facility itself, on the closed landfill, and on appurtenant City of Kirkland public works infrastructure near the station.

The mitigation measures listed below were generated from City subject matter experts in Public Works and Parks and are intended to address many of the concerns the City has received from residents before and during the siting process concerning safety, traffic, noise, odors, pest control, and other negative impacts hosting the Houghton Transfer Station has had upon the surrounding neighborhood. These are the baseline, minimum mitigation measures the City has identified at this time and City staff intends to reach out to residents in the surrounding neighborhood to receive any other mitigation ideas and feedback on this list which will be shared with the County in future correspondence.

Requested **minimum** mitigation measure for a NERTS sited on the Houghton Transfer Station property:

- **Taylor Fields:** The four little league ballfields should remain in place during and after construction and should be upgraded with the addition of/improvements to restrooms, field turf, scoreboards, dugouts, backstops, fencing, seating, parking, and lighting.
- **Parks and Recreation:** With the input of the community, explore opportunities to develop the remaining portion of the closed landfill into parks and recreation areas including such possible amenities as multi-use sports fields, playgrounds, off-leash dog areas, community garden space, sheltered picnic areas, walking and biking paths, sports courts, exercise/parkour equipment, all linked to the Bridle Trails State Park to the south of the station.
- **NE 60th St and 116th Ave NE Intersection Improvements:** The four-way stop intersection should be reconstructed and re-channelized to meet ADA standards and accommodate safe co-use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and light and heavy vehicles. The westbound NE 60th St. to northbound 116th Ave NE right turn lane should be reconstructed to ensure safe turning

movements for large waste trucks and trailers. Overhead utility lines in the vicinity of the intersection should be undergrounded and new street lighting installed.

- **NE 60th St Frontage Improvements:** Frontage improvements on NE 60th St should include the construction of a safe and ADA accessible pedestrian and bike connection on the north side of NE 60th St between 116th Ave NE and 122nd Ave NE. A safe and efficient station entrance/exit should be constructed with eastbound and westbound turn lanes designed to prevent queuing on NE 60th St. during peak station usage times. Needed upgrades to the water distribution, sewer, and surface water management systems should be identified and completed.
- **120th Ave NE Frontage Improvements:** Frontage improvements should be constructed on the west side of 120th Ave NE between NE 60th St and NE 64th St and should include improvements such as sidewalks, curb/gutter, storm water infrastructure, and parking for users of Taylor Fields, and other appropriate public works infrastructure required by City of Kirkland to meet development standards.
- **Public Works Utility Improvements:** All required improvements and upgrades to City surface water, sewer, and water distribution systems for a new transfer station development should be constructed to meet or exceed City development standards. A new sewer main should be constructed on NE 60th St. to accommodate wastewater generated from the station. At no cost to residents, the County should connect residences on septic to the new sewer main and abandon failing residential septic systems.
- **Transfer Station Design Features:** The design of the new station should incorporate state-of-the-art noise, dust, pest, odor, and litter controls; meet surface water management standards; meet and achieve the highest green building standards achievable for a transfer station facility; and take a minimalist approach to limiting the footprint of the station without sacrificing accessibility and services such as recycling.
- **Community Amenities:** The station should offer public amenities similar to those provided at the North Seattle Transfer Station such as meeting spaces, space for visitor educational opportunities, exercise areas/parkours stations, sports courts, playground areas, public seating, and landscaping.

Houghton Park and Ride Site

If the Houghton Park and Ride site is selected by the County as the NERTS site, the City requests that the balance of the \$28 million property acquisition budget remaining after the

purchase of the property from the Washington State Department of Transportation be directed toward host-city mitigation. At a minimum, the City requests mitigation to include the previously discussed improvements to Taylor Fields, the same state-of-the-art Transfer Station Features previously noted; improvements to transportation at and around the property; and public recreational amenities at the station similar to the public amenities provided at the North Seattle Transfer Station in Fremont (parkour stations, sports courts, public seating, playgrounds areas, landscaping, etc.).

The County can be assured that the City of Kirkland and its residents will continue to be actively involved on the NERTS Siting Advisory Group and will participate in the upcoming EIS scoping process this summer. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at psweet@kirklandwa.gov or by phone at (425) 587-3534.

Sincerely,

Penny Sweet
Mayor, City of Kirkland

Attachments: NERTS Letter to KC_2-22-21
Transfer Station Letter to King County_4-5-21
City of Redmond Comment Letter_4-2-21

Cc: Claudia Balducci, King County Council Chair (District 6)
Rod Dembowski, King County Councilmember (District 1)



February 22, 2021

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
King County Chinook Building
401 5th Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA, 98104

Pat McLaughlin
Director, King County Solid Waste Division
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5701
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: NORTHEAST RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION SITES

Dear Executive Constantine and Mr. McLaughlin,

Please accept this letter as the City of Kirkland's formal request that all four of the sites under consideration for the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS) proceed into the environmental review (EIS/SEPA) phase of the siting process.

As host city to King County's Houghton Transfer Station since 1967, the City of Kirkland has long advocated for the closure of the existing station due to its age, lack of services and amenities, operational deficiencies, and, most notably, its location in the heart of the South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails residential area. The City of Kirkland supports and will continue to support a fair, equitable, and inclusive siting process to identify a new location for a modern and long-awaited NERTS in the northeast County service area. The City has actively and amicably participated in the collaborative and exhaustive siting process with the County and the cities of Redmond and Woodinville over the past year and a half.

Through its participation in the NERTS Siting Advisory Group (SAG) and the Core Cities Group, City of Kirkland staff assisted the County in identifying the final four sites currently under consideration to proceed into the EIS/SEPA phase of the process. The four sites include two potential sites in Kirkland (Houghton Park and Ride and the existing Houghton Transfer Station property), one site in Redmond (NE 124th St and Willows Road), and one in Woodinville (Winsome Trading at 16111 Woodinville-Redmond Road). Despite the fact that the Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Export System Plan (2006), as referenced in Action 1-t of the adopted Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (2019), recommends that a new Northeast Lake Washington transfer station should be "... built on a new site; location to be determined", the City of Kirkland has not objected to including either of the Kirkland sites on the list.

No matter where the new NERTS is ultimately sited, the City of Kirkland would like to reiterate its position that the new facility is an asset rather than a detriment to the city and

neighborhood in which it is located. Host city mitigation should include, but not be limited to, state of the art odor control, facility improvements to surrounding transportation infrastructure, public park and playground areas, public meeting spaces, and other such attractive public amenities. The host city to the new NERTS must be provided with significant mitigation to help the facility coexist well with adjacent and disparate land uses.

While the City of Kirkland recognizes that the four sites on the short list possess a variety of positive and negative characteristics making each site relatively more or less suitable to host a transfer station, we believe all four sites are nonetheless feasible. In the interest of continuing what has been an abundantly fair, equitable, and inclusive process, all four of the sites under consideration by the County should move forward into the EIS/SEPA review phase of the siting process. Furthermore, we request that if the County opts not to move either of the sites in Redmond and Woodinville forward into the environmental review process, that the County substitute another alternative site in Redmond or Woodinville taken from the list of fifteen sites that were previously under consideration. The preliminary list of 15 sites includes six other potential sites in Redmond and two in Woodinville. This reasonable request would ensure each city in the service area has at least one site under EIS/SEPA review.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at psweet@kirklandwa.gov or by phone at (425) 587-3534

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Penny Sweet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Penny" and last name "Sweet" clearly distinguishable.

Penny Sweet
Mayor, City of Kirkland

Cc: Claudia Balducci, King County Council Chair (District 6)
Rod Dembowski, King County Councilmember (District 1)



April 5, 2021

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
King County Chinook Building
401 5th Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA, 98104

Pat McLaughlin
Director, King County Solid Waste Division
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5701
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: NORTHEAST RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION EIS/SEPA SITE SELECTION

Dear Executive Constantine and Mr. McLaughlin,

In response to King County's recent announcement that the Houghton Park and Ride, the Houghton Transfer Station, and the Winsome Trading site in Woodinville have been selected for environmental review, please accept this letter as a reiteration of the City of Kirkland's request that at least one site from the cities of Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville should proceed into the environmental review (EIS/SEPA) phase of the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station siting process.

In our letter dated February 22, 2021 (attached), the City of Kirkland made the reasonable request that all four sites under consideration by the County should move forward into the EIS/SEPA review phase of the transfer station siting process. It was further stated in the letter that in the event either or both sites in Redmond and Woodinville were removed from the final list of sites selected to proceed into the EIS/SEPA review process, the County should substitute another alternative site or sites from the list of fifteen sites previously under consideration. Since the Willows Road and NE 124th St site in Redmond is no longer under consideration, the City is strongly encouraging that the County, in the interest of fairness, equity, and inclusivity, to identify and substitute an alternative site in the City of Redmond for evaluation during the EIS/SEPA process.

In December 2020, a team of staff representatives from the core cities of Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville collaboratively and objectively applied the County's own functional criteria to the list of fifteen preliminary sites. This collaborative exercise resulted in the identification of other viable sites in Redmond which were not selected by the County for inclusion on the short list of four sites. For example, the Aerojet/Rocketdyne site in Redmond was ranked fourth out the 15 sites by the team and ranked third by the County. Similarly, the Physio-Control site in Redmond was ranked seventh out of the 15 sites by the team and the County. Both alternative sites possess the size, shape, affordability, and other characteristics that make them equally as

April 5, 2021

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viable as the sites in Kirkland and Woodinville. Furthermore, both of these sites are located outside of Redmond's Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA).

It is also appropriate to restate the City of Kirkland's position that no matter where the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station is ultimately sited, that the station be state of the art and the host city receive significant mitigation to offset the impacts the transfer station would have on homes and/or businesses and City transportation infrastructure. Such mitigation should include, but not be limited to, enhanced odor controls, facility improvements to surrounding transportation infrastructure, public park and playground areas, public meeting spaces, and other such attractive public amenities.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at psweet@kirklandwa.gov or by phone at (425) 587-3534.

Sincerely,
CITY OF KIRKLAND



Penny Sweet
Mayor

Attachments: NERTS Letter to KC_2-22-21

cc: Claudia Balducci, King County Council Chair (District 6)
Rod Dembowski, King County Councilmember (District 1)



**Connected Community
Enhanced Livability
Environmental Sustainability**

April 2, 2021

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
King County Chinook Building
401 Fifth Ave., Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Pat McLaughlin
Division Director, King County Solid Waste Division
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
201 S. Jackson St., Suite 5701
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Host City Mitigation

Dear Executive Constantine and Mr. McLaughlin,

As the siting process continues for the new Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS), and the project moves toward the design phase, the City of Redmond requests that King County prioritize innovative design and provide full mitigation for the host City and community for the new NERTS. The facility design must consider, enhance, and embrace the character and amenities surrounding the new NERTS site.

The City of Redmond recognizes that there is no perfect site for the new NERTS. Each potential site has its own unique design challenges and opportunities, but we believe a thoughtful, innovative design can minimize and mitigate community impacts for the host city and surrounding community. A new facility must be an asset to the host city and the community in which it is sited with noise, traffic, odor, and pollution from lighting fully mitigated.

Seattle's North Transfer Station in the Wallingford neighborhood and King County's Shoreline Transfer Station are excellent examples of minimizing and mitigating impacts through innovative design that considers a smaller footprint and community assets including parks, playground areas, public meeting spaces, and modern architecture. King County set a new standard with their Shoreline facility mitigating impacts to the residential area where it was sited; this innovative design also allowed the use of a smaller site than has traditionally been considered for a modern transfer station. These design concepts must be embraced and enhanced for the new NERTS.

City Hall

15670 NE 85th Street
PO Box 97010
Redmond, WA
98073-9710

Executive Constantine and Pat McLaughlin
April 2, 2021
Page 2 of 2

Traffic mitigation and pedestrian safety improvements must be a priority along with an emphasis on creating community connections to neighboring parks, playgrounds, and schools. An emphasis on providing educational experiences for NERTS users at the new facility must also be a priority to help the region meet and maintain zero waste of resources objectives.

Thank you for including the Core Cities as partners in the siting and design process for the new Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Birney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "B".

Angela Birney
Mayor, City of Redmond

cc: Claudia Balducci, King County Council Chair
Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember