

Question & Answer Matrix
October 28th – Utility Board Meeting

Log #	Received From	Question	Staff Response
1	Brian Thomas	This question pertains to the capital improvement plans for the water and general sewer utilities. Can you provide a brief written description of council actions over the past year or so pertaining to the adoption of the Water System Plan, the General Sewer Plan and the "Once-In-A-Generation" investment goal that was adopted sometime in 2025. I am trying to understand the extent to which the Council has already embraced/approved the plans and goal. The staff proposed rates reflect the most recent capital improvement plans, correct? Have those plans been vetted yet by Council?	The City Council adopted the City Work Plan and Council priorities at the March 1, 2025 Council Planning Session, including the current Council priority to "make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities and parks." Each biennium, the City Council reviews and approves the 6-year Capital Improvement Program which focuses on capital reinvestment and specific projects within that 6-year planning effort. For this biennium, the Council has approved the City's CIP at \$105.5million. Staff presented an update on the current projects at Tuesday's City Council meeting. The packet and presentations can be found here: AB 6790 – 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program Update Ab 6790 Presentation Additionally, reinvestment needs are outlined as part of the City's Water System Plan, General Sewer Plan and Comprehensive Basin plan (all adopted by Council) which looks at a 20-year planning horizon. Currently, staff are working on updates to the Water System Plan and General Sewer Plan which will be presented to the Utility Board and City Council in 2026.
2	Brian Thomas	Regarding the increased pass-through costs from King County for sewer treatment, can you provide a brief written summary of the timing of the previous vs. Most recent forecast of rates to be applied prospectively beginning in 2026? I am trying to gauge the extent to which the county has been transparent and/or active in communicating with Mercer Island about sewer rates that are passed through to Mercer Island ratepayers. Does MI utility staff feel that King County has been forthcoming or was the most recent KC rate forecast an unexpected surprise? How was the revised forecast specifically communicated to the MI utility staff?	King County has projected significant rate increases in the past couple of years. Last year's rate increase was modified upon feedback from other local jurisdictions. While the rates were not known for this year, the County used the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) to discuss rate increases. The City, along with other jurisdictions, participate in this committee. https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/about-king-county/about-dnrp/committees/mwpaac/rate-and-finance

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3	Brian Thomas	I believe there was a request by Meredith Lehr for additional information from the staff, pertaining to comparable utility rates from other nearby jurisdictions. Can we please make sure that information is available for her review at the meeting on 10/28? ensure that the information is available for her review at the meeting on October 28	Historical rate increases for all three utilities and the CPI-W Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue used for EMS rates were sent out with the agenda packet for the October 28 meeting to be used as reference.