



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6804
November 4, 2025
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6804: Signing on to AWC's letter to Governor Ferguson on Proposed Municipal Wastewater Nutrient Regulations	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize Mayor Nice to sign the AWC Letter to Governor Ferguson in support of AWC's budget request for a collaborative process to gather all affected parties on the proposed wastewater nutrient regulations to work together towards an outcome that is protective of Puget Sound and financially sustainable for ratepayers and residents.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Salim Nice, Mayor Jessi Bon, City Manager Robbie Cunningham Adams, Senior Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. AWC Nutrients and Municipal Wastewater Letter 2. AWC Nutrients and Municipal Wastewater Memo
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to authorize Mayor Nice to sign the AWC Nutrients and Municipal Wastewater letter to Governor Ferguson (Exhibit 1), requesting a budget amendment for a collaborative process to gather all affected parties on the proposed wastewater nutrient regulations to work together towards an outcome that is protective of Puget Sound and financially sustainable for ratepayers and residents.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Ecology is proposing new regulations for wastewater plants related to nutrient discharges that will require wastewater plant upgrades that are projected to cost over \$25 billion. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) estimates that these regulations could lead to significant increases for utility bills for

Washingtonians. AWC provided a memo detailing the environmental issue at hand, the proposed Department of Ecology regulations, and the significant required infrastructure improvements in wastewater systems to mitigate it (Exhibit 2).

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

AWC requested that mayors of cities who either operate their own wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the Puget Sound, or that are served by large county systems that discharge into the Puget Sound sign on to a letter (Exhibit 1) to Governor Bob Ferguson asking him to engage on this issue by supporting in his proposed budget a collaborative process led by the Ruckelshaus Center, which has a proven track record of facilitating durable, consensus-based solutions to complex environmental challenges. This process would gather all affected parties to work together towards an outcome that is protective of Puget Sound and financially sustainable for ratepayers and residents.

City Council approval is required to authorize Mayor Nice to sign this letter on behalf of the Mercer Island City Council. AWC requested signatures on this letter by November 5.

NEXT STEPS

Upon City Council approval of this motion, Mayor Nice will sign the AWC letter.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize Mayor Nice to sign the AWC Letter to Governor Ferguson in support of AWC's budget request for a collaborative process to gather all affected parties on the proposed wastewater nutrient regulations to work together towards an outcome that is protective of Puget Sound and financially sustainable for ratepayers and residents.