



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6922
May 5, 2026
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6922: SCA 2027 Sewer Rates Response Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Direct the City Council liaison to the Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee, Councilmember Weiker, to support the SCA Sewer Rates Response Letter (Exhibit 1) and take action on behalf of the City Council on any proposed amendments.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Robbie Cunningham Adams, Senior Management Analyst Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Wendy Weiker
EXHIBITS:	1. Draft SCA 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate Response Letter
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	3. Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek City Council support for the Sewer Rate Response Letter (Exhibit 1) drafted by the Sound Cities Association to the King County Council, that is being reviewed by the Public Issues Committee.

- The [Sound Cities Association](#) (SCA) was founded in the 1970’s to help the current 37 member cities in King County act locally and partner regionally to create vital, livable communities through advocacy, education, leadership, mutual support and networking.
- The Public Issues Committee (PIC) is a committee of SCA comprised of a representative of each city in SCA for the purpose of making recommendations on policies and committee appointments to the Board.
- Councilmember Wendy Weiker serves as the representative to the SCA PIC on behalf of the Mercer Island City Council, and Councilmember Julie Hsieh serves as the alternate.
- SCA) is engaging with the King County Council on the proposed 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge.
- SCA is seeking approval and feedback by the Public Issues Committee (PIC) on a proposed SCA Sewer Rates Response Letter to the King County Council supporting recommendations by the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) and Regional Water Quality Committee

(RWQC) as the King County Council considers proposed 2027 sewer rates and capacity charges (Exhibit 1). The letter will be considered by the PIC at the May 13, 2026 meeting.

- The proposed sewer rate ordinance as transmitted by the County Executive to the County Council, including comprehensive background materials, can be viewed [at the link here](#).

BACKGROUND

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) was founded in the 1970's to help the current 37 member cities in King County act locally and partner regionally to create vital, livable communities through advocacy, education, leadership, mutual support and networking. It's members include nearly every City in King County except for Seattle and Bothell. SCA's primary focus is on advocating for shared policy goals of member cities at the County level.

The SCA Public Issues Committee (PIC) was established by SCA in 1995 as a standing board committee. Per SCA Bylaws, the PIC "shall review and evaluate policy positions and recommend to the Board what, if any, action should be taken on such policy positions". The PIC includes a representative of each city in SCA. Each SCA member has a seat and equal vote at the PIC. It is the body responsible for making recommendations on policies and committee appointments to the Board. The PIC is SCA's vehicle for bringing policies to member cities, and for member cities to bring policies to SCA. The PIC not only evaluates and recommends policy positions, but it also recommends regional committee and board appointments to the SCA Board of Directors.

[Sound Cities Association](#) (SCA) is engaging with the King County Council on the proposed 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge. The County is proposing a 2027 monthly sewer rate of \$70.65, a 12.75% increase over the current monthly sewer rate of \$62.66. Currently, monthly sewer rates are projected to double by 2033 and triple over the course of the forecasting period. These increases only account for the regional portion of the sewer rate, as cities and sewer districts levy their own rate increases to fund their local systems, further adding to the ratepayer burden.

City staff have been collaborating with SCA and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) and Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) to support policy solutions that maintain regional sewer infrastructure, protect the environment, and address affordability for rate payers.

You can view the proposed sewer rate ordinance as transmitted by the County Executive to the County Council, including comprehensive background materials, [at the link here](#).

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

SCA is seeking approval and feedback by the Public Issues Committee (PIC) on a proposed SCA Sewer Rates Response Letter to the King County Council supporting recommendations by the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) and Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) as the King County Council considers [proposed 2027 sewer rates and capacity charges](#) (Exhibit 1).

Staff and Councilmember Weiker, the Council appointed voting representative on the PIC, recommend a motion to direct Councilmember Weiker to support the SCA response letter as drafted. While staff and Councilmember Weiker have no recommended text changes to propose, staff recommend a motion to allow Councilmember Weiker to vote on the City's behalf on any proposed amendments, as the full Council will not have an opportunity to review all of the proposed amendments ahead of the May 13, 2026 PIC meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The SCA Board of Directors will review the recommendation provided by the PIC and is expected to take final action on the letter at their May 20, 2026 board meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Direct the City Council liaison to the Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee, Councilmember Weiker, to support the SCA Sewer Rates Response Letter (Exhibit 1) and take action on behalf of the City Council on any proposed amendments.