

2021 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
BLG	011	A	002

Budget Action Title: Pass CB 119916 - SPU Wastewater Treatment Rate Passthrough Ordinance

Ongoing: Yes Has Budget Proviso: No

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Budget Committee

Council Members:

Staff Analyst: Brian Goodnight

Council Bill or Resolution: CB 119916

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Budget Action Description:

This budget action recommends passage of CB 119916, Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) wastewater treatment rate passthrough ordinance. This CB would adjust Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) wastewater rates for 2021 to account for an increase in the King County wastewater treatment charge.

In October 2018, Council passed Ordinance 125685 establishing wastewater rates for 2019 through 2021. These rates incorporated the King County wastewater treatment rate that was in effect for 2019 and 2020. King County typically increases its treatment rate every other year, however, necessitating an adjustment of the City's wastewater rate for 2021.

The adjustment proposed in this bill would increase the treatment portion of wastewater rates by approximately 4.6 percent, bringing the total wastewater rate increase for 2021 to 7.3 percent. This increase is consistent with the expectations of SPU and the Council at the time that rates were adopted for 2019 through 2021.

SPU estimates that passage of this bill would increase 2021 wastewater revenue by approximately \$7.9 million, which would be used to pay King County treatment charges, and General Fund revenues by approximately \$943,000. If the Council does not pass this bill, SPU would still be liable for the increased King County treatment rate charges, but the City would not be fully recovering the cost from ratepayers.