

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
KING COUNTY  
AND  
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 925  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT DIVISION**

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1 **DEFINITIONS**

2 **Base Hourly Classification** - The series of pay steps within a Classification.

3 **Business Teams** - The work groups assigned by management to plan, monitor, evaluate, and carry  
4 out work assignments and operational standards within their area of responsibility.

5 **Classification** - A position, whose duties, responsibilities, and authority are allocated to a single  
6 descriptive title.

7 **Classification Family** - Those classifications within job progression through which employees can  
8 move by meeting the requirements of the Job Progression Program.

9 Examples:

10 Wastewater Treatment Operator In Training }  
11 Wastewater Treatment Operator } Classification Family  
12 Wastewater Treatment Senior Operator }

13 Industrial Maintenance Worker }  
14 Industrial Maintenance Mechanic } Classification Family  
15 Industrial Master Mechanic }

16 **Emergency** - an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for  
17 immediate action.

18 **Full-time Employee** - An employee in a regular position which has an established work schedule of  
19 not less than forty (40) hours per week

**Deleted:** an employee normally scheduled to work forty (40) hours per week or one who works an alternative work schedule recognized as equivalent status to a forty (40) hour week.

20 **Job Progression** - a system of employee advancement through a classification family based upon the  
21 employee's contribution to the business that does not require job openings to enable the employee to  
22 advance.

23 **Opening** - a vacancy the Employer has determined should be filled.

24 **Pager** - one that pages; esp., beeper

25 **Part-time Employee** - an employee in a regular position in which the employee is employed for at  
26 least 1040 hours but less than a full-time basis in a calendar year.

**Deleted:** an employee normally scheduled less than forty (40) hours per week.

27 **Regular Employee** - an employee who has successfully completed the probationary period in a  
28 budgeted FTE position.

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1 **Salaried Employee** - defined by the state Minimum Wage Act (MWA) and the Fair Labor Standards  
2 Act (FLSA) and is exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA and MWA and is expected to  
3 work the hours necessary to satisfactorily perform his/her job.

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4 **Temporary Employee** - an employee who is not a regular employee (not working in a regular  
5 position) as defined in this agreement and excludes administrative interns. Temporary positions  
6 include both term-limited temporary positions as defined in this agreement and short-term (normally  
7 less than six months) temporary positions in which a temporary employee works less than 1040 hours  
8 in a calendar year, except as provided elsewhere in this agreement.

Deleted: an employee hired for a period of less than six (6) months to fill a special project position of limited duration or to provide short-term replacement staffing for regular employees absent from their positions for reasons such as leave of absence.

9 **Term-Limited Temporary Employee** – a temporary employee who is employed in a term-limited  
10 temporary position. Term-limited temporary employees are not members of the career service.  
11 Term-limited temporary employees may not be employed in term-limited temporary positions longer  
12 than three years beyond the date of hire, except that for grant-funded projects, capital improvement  
13 projects and information systems technology projects the maximum period may be extended up to  
14 five years upon approval of the Human Resources Division director. The HRD director shall  
15 maintain a current list of all term-limited employees by department.

Deleted: for a period of six (6) months or longer.

16 **Term-limited temporary position** – a temporary position with work related to a specific grant,  
17 capital improvement project, information systems technology project, or other non-routine,  
18 substantial body of work, for a period greater than six months. In determining whether a body of  
19 work is appropriate for a term-limited temporary position, the appointing authority will consider the  
20 following:

21 a. Grant-funded projects: These positions will involve projects or activities that are  
22 funded by special grants for a specific time or activity. These grants are not regularly available to  
23 or their receipt predictable by the County.

24 b. Information systems technology projects: These positions will be needed to plan  
25 and implement new information systems projects for the County. Term-limited temporary  
26 positions may not be used for on-going maintenance of systems that have been implemented.

27 c. Capital improvement projects: These positions will involve the management of  
28 major capital improvement projects. Term-limited temporary positions may not be used for on-  
going management of buildings or facilities once they have been built.

d. Miscellaneous projects: Other significant and substantial bodies of work may be  
appropriate for term-limited temporary positions. These bodies of work must be either non-  
routine projects for the department, or related to the initiation or cessation of a County function,  
project, or department.

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e. Seasonal positions: These are positions with work for more than six consecutive

1 months, half-time or more, with total hours of at least 1040 hours in a calendar year in a work  
2 unit in which a forty-hour work week is standard, that due to the nature of the work have  
3 predictable periods of inactivity exceeding one month.

4 f. Temporary placement in regular positions: These are positions used to back fill  
5 regular positions for six months or more due to a career service employee's absence such as  
6 extended leave or assignment on any of the foregoing time-limited projects.

7 All appointments to term-limited temporary positions will be made by the appointing  
8 authority in consultation with the Human Resources Director prior to the appointment of term-limited  
9 temporary employees.

10 **Transfer** - movement between business teams.

11 **Vacancy** - an unfilled position resulting from retirement, termination, promotion, demotion, or the  
12 creation of a new position.

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1 **PREAMBLE**

2 This Agreement is the result of an interest-based bargaining process that reflects the  
3 relationship between King County (the Employer) and the Service Employees International Union,  
4 Local 925 (the Union). This relationship is a partnership based on mutual interests, respect, and trust.

5 This document establishes a framework within which the Employer and the Union can  
6 achieve our joint mission to efficiently and effectively operate and maintain the public’s wastewater  
7 treatment system while providing a high quality work environment.

8 The Employer and the Union recognize that the workplace is in a period of growth and  
9 change.

10 The Employer and the Union also agree that change in the workplace is an evolutionary  
11 process, which requires the commitment of both parties over time. The elements of workplace  
12 change, such as the Productivity Initiative, the Productivity Incentive Program, job progression, and  
13 performance evaluation, must be integrated and viewed as a system.

14 In support of policies and practices that reflect our commitment to shared values, the  
15 Employer and the Union:

- 16 • Listen and respond to public/customer concerns
- 17 • Trust each other
- 18 • Respect all people
- 19 • Promote a diverse workforce
- 20 • Take responsible risks
- 21 • Communicate openly
- 22 • Actively participate in decisions that affect us
- 23 • Behave the way we say we do
- 24 • Give and get reliable, quality business information
- 25 • Improve our technical excellence and teamwork
- 26 • Foster a labor/management partnership based on mutual interests
- 27 • Have fun, enjoy humor, “Lighten Up”

28 This Agreement was written through an interest-based process that allowed the Employer and

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1 the Union to communicate openly to produce a contract while building positive, ongoing  
2 relationships. This Agreement was developed to accomplish the following goals:

- 3 • Develop a compensation and benefit package that is the best in the wastewater treatment  
4 industry, and which will attract and retain outstanding employees.
- 5 • Create an Agreement that generates gains in efficiency and effectiveness, is economically  
6 feasible, and is justifiable to the Council, the ratepayer, and the public.
- 7 • Write an Agreement that is clear and easily understood.
- 8 • Develop an Agreement consistent with a supportive, productive, challenging, high-quality  
9 work environment in which all employees are treated with dignity and respect and are  
10 valued for their individual and team contributions.
- 11 • Collaborate to produce an excellent Agreement while building an ongoing  
12 labor/management relationship based on open communications, mutual trust, and respect.
- 13 • Include a process in the Agreement by which mutually beneficial changes can take place.

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1 **ARTICLE 1: LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

2 **1.1 SEIU/WTD Labor Management Committee**

3 In this Agreement, the Employer and the Union set forth an approach for making ongoing  
4 changes and continuous improvements in the workplace through an ongoing labor/management  
5 process. Issues are to be discussed in an interest-based, collaborative manner and the  
6 Labor/Management Committee (LMC) will access the services of a mutually acceptable source of  
7 mediation services if consensus cannot be reached in a timely manner.

8 The Employer and the Union have established an ongoing process to identify each party’s  
9 issues, which may result in revisions to the current labor agreement and can address other matters,  
10 mutually agreed upon between the parties.

11 To accommodate this process, the role of the LMC is to deal jointly with areas of mutual  
12 interest, to move us towards our shared vision of a productive work place, and to oversee the tasks  
13 and/or committees called for in this Agreement.

14 The LMC will be comprised of five (5) members of the bargaining unit who are  
15 representatives of the Union and five (5) representatives of the Employer, plus one (1) representative  
16 each from the Human Resources Division and the Union. The LMC will work together in the spirit  
17 of and with principles consistent with the interest-based bargaining process.

18 **RESPONSIBILITIES of the LMC**

- 19 • Identify issues of mutual interest.
- 20 • Maintain and improve labor/management relations.
- 21 • Identify and solve problems.
- 22 • Provide a forum to exchange information.
- 23 • Develop an annual work program and schedule.
- 24 • Inform employees of LMC activities and actions.
- 25 • Provide an annual report.
- 26 • Perform other duties as mutually agreed to.

27 The committee will meet monthly. ~~Changes or additions to the Agreement, policy, and/or~~  
28 procedures will be published in draft form twenty-five (25) days prior to implementation date.

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1 Comments will be considered and incorporated if appropriate. Changes or additions to the  
2 Agreement, policy, and/or procedures will be made by Memorandums of Agreement or  
3 Memorandums of Understanding. The Employer and the Union agree to the inclusion of handbooks  
4 for programs referenced in the Agreement developed collaboratively between the Employer and the  
5 Union as Appendices to the Agreement.

6 **1.2 Labor/Management Committee**

7 The Union will participate in the Wastewater Treatment Division Labor/Management  
8 Committee, comprised of representatives from all labor organizations within WTD and  
9 representatives of the employer.

10 **1.3 Training**

11 The LMC will sponsor joint training on changes made to this Agreement as a result of  
12 negotiations. Such training shall be delivered to managers, supervisors and stewards and will be  
13 considered work time.

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1 **ARTICLE 2: RECOGNITION AND BARGAINING UNIT**

2           The Employer recognizes Service Employees International Union, Local 925, as the sole and  
3 exclusive bargaining agent with respect to wages, hours, and other conditions of employment for all  
4 employees in the wastewater treatment facilities in classifications listed in the attached wage  
5 schedule marked Appendix A. Excluded are all supervisory and confidential employees.

6           The Employer agrees to extend recognition of the Union as the bargaining representative for  
7 any new or added Wastewater Treatment Facility operated by King County and to extend the terms of  
8 this Agreement to represented employees working in those facilities.

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1 **ARTICLE 3: UNION SECURITY**

2 **3.1 Membership Dues And Fees**

3 All regular and temporary employees covered by this Agreement shall, as a condition of  
4 employment, on or after the thirtieth day but not later than the sixtieth day following their date of  
5 employment, either (1) pay to the Union the regular initiation fee and regular monthly dues uniformly  
6 required of members, or (2) pay an amount established by the Union as Agency Fees not to exceed  
7 regular dues and fees uniformly required of members.

8 Failure by an employee to satisfy the above paragraph of this section shall constitute cause for  
9 dismissal provided the Union makes a written request for discharge, verifying that the employee  
10 received written notification of the delinquency and notification that non-payment within thirty (30)  
11 days will result in discharge by the Employer.

12 **3.2 Religious Exemption**

13 Nothing contained in this Article shall require an employee to join the Union who can  
14 substantiate, in accordance with existing law, bona fide religious tenets or beliefs that prohibit the  
15 payment of dues to union organizations. Such employees shall pay an amount equivalent to regular  
16 union dues to a non-religious charitable organization mutually agreed upon by the employee and the  
17 Union to which such employee would otherwise pay the dues. The employee shall furnish written

18 proof that such payment has been made. If the employee and the Union do not reach agreement on  
19 such matters, the public employment relations commission shall designate the charitable  
20 organization.

21 **3.3 Dues Deduction Procedure**

22 Regular monthly dues and initiation fees shall be deducted by the Employer from the  
23 employee's paycheck when authorized in writing by the employee. The deductions will be  
24 transferred to the Union monthly. The Union shall refund any amounts paid to it in error. The Union  
25 will indemnify, defend, and hold the Employer harmless against any claims made and any suit  
26 instituted against the Employer on account of the application of any provision of this Article. The  
27 Employer shall notify the Union of changes in employment status on a monthly basis.

28 **3.4 COPE Payroll Deduction**

**Deleted:** In accordance with RCW 41.56.122, employees covered by this agreement who qualify for an exemption from the requirement for Union membership based on a bona fide religious belief or on the bonafide teachings or tenets of a church or religion of which the employee is a member shall pay an amount of money equivalent to regular Union dues and initiation fee to a nonreligious charity or to another charitable organization mutually agreed upon by the public employee affected and the Union.

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1 The Employer shall, upon receipt of a written authorization form that conforms to legal  
2 requirements, deduct from the pay of such bargaining unit employee the amount of contribution the  
3 employee voluntarily chooses for deduction for political purposes and shall transmit the same to the  
4 Union.

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1 **ARTICLE 4: NON-DISCRIMINATION**

2 The Employer and the Union are committed to an equal employment opportunity policy that  
3 prohibits discrimination on the basis of the following:

- 4 • Race
- 5 • Gender
- 6 • Sexual orientation
- 7 • Disability (except as exempted by a bona fide occupational qualification)
- 8 • Color
- 9 • Age
- 10 • Religious affiliation
- 11 • Service in the Armed Forces of the United States
- 12 • National origin
- 13 • Marital status
- 14 • Political affiliation
- 15 • Creed
- 16 • Union activity

17 The Employer and the Union also commit to support equal employment opportunity to ensure  
18 a diverse work force.

19 All employees share the responsibility of maintaining a work environment that is supportive  
20 of equal employment opportunity. Employees, and members of the public alike, will be treated fairly  
21 and with dignity and respect.

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1 **ARTICLE 5: STRIKES OR LOCKOUTS**

2 **5.1 No Strikes Or Lockouts**

3 During the term of this Agreement, neither the Union nor the employees covered by this  
4 Agreement shall cause, engage in, sanction, or in any way encourage employees covered by this  
5 bargaining unit to slowdown or strike. The Employer shall not institute any lockout of its employees  
6 during the life of this Agreement.

7 **5.2 Safety Concerns Related To Picketing At A WTD Facility**

8 In the event of picketing at a WTD Facility, Management and the Union will develop an  
9 approach for dealing with the safety concerns of the bargaining unit while ensuring plant operations.

10 When possible, these discussions will take place in advance.

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1 **ARTICLE 6: MANAGEMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

2           The Employer shall have exclusive authority and responsibility to administer all matters that  
3 are not covered by this Agreement.

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1 **ARTICLE 7: PRODUCTIVITY INITIATIVE**

2 The management of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
3 Wastewater Treatment Division, the Union, and other labor organizations representing Wastewater  
4 Treatment Division employees agree to engage in a competitiveness and productivity initiative for  
5 the benefit of the employees of the division, and the ratepayers of King County, our “customers.”  
6 Recognizing the inevitability of change, the parties to this agreement intend to work together to  
7 manage that change to their mutual benefit. We believe the partnership we are employing will  
8 continue to provide our customers with the best and most efficient, state of the art wastewater  
9 treatment utility in the country, while securing excellent family wage jobs and rewarding careers for  
10 the employees of the division.

11 In order to accomplish this change successfully, we agree to the following:

12 1. There will be no involuntary layoffs during the period the Productivity Pilot Program is in  
13 effect between Wastewater Treatment Division of DNRP and King County government. Any  
14 reductions in force necessary to help meet productivity goals will be accomplished through attrition.

15 2. This Agreement acknowledges the partnership among the management of King County  
16 DNRP, Wastewater Treatment Division, the Union, and other labor organizations representing  
17 Wastewater Treatment Division employees to support and manage the change process as the  
18 Productivity Pilot Program is implemented, and on a continual basis thereafter.

19 3. Management is committed to providing adequate resources for appropriate and necessary  
20 training, career development, and incentives consistent with the business needs, within the financial  
21 constraints of the business plan.

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1 **ARTICLE 8: PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

2 **8.1 Goals And Parameters**

3 The goals of the Productivity Incentive Program are as follows:

- 4 A. Provide financial incentives to employees to achieve higher than projected savings
- 5 to the sewer ratepayers.
- 6 B. Encourage teamwork.
- 7 C. Encourage employee involvement in the business.

8 The parameters of the Productivity Incentive Program shall be consistent with County Code  
9 and the commitments and performance guarantees as set forth in the Wastewater Productivity Pilot  
10 Program, adopted by Motion 11156 (April 27, 2001).

11 **8.2 Productivity Incentive Fund For Wastewater**

12 Henceforth, the productivity incentive fund, as defined herein, shall be established each  
13 calendar year after the baseline annual operating target savings identified in the aforementioned  
14 Productivity Pilot Program are met and verified through an independent review. Fifty percent (50%)  
15 of those additional operating savings shall be retained by King County Wastewater Treatment  
16 Division and fifty percent (50%) shall be assigned to the Productivity Incentive Fund. A minimum of  
17 twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds assigned to the productivity incentive fund shall be paid out  
18 in cash to all employees participating in the productivity initiative with the remaining seventy-five  
19 percent (75%) distributed in accordance with Article 8.5.

20 **8.3 Productivity Incentive Plan For Wastewater Capital Fund**

21 The Productivity Pilot Program will develop a plan to identify additional savings associated  
22 with portions of the Wastewater Capital Program. The method of assigning savings to the  
23 Productivity Incentive Fund shall be specified in the plan. The County may not enter into any  
24 agreement, memorandum of understanding or any other document with any other party which would  
25 preclude the Union from participating in the Productivity Incentive Program for the Wastewater  
26 Capital Program.

27 ~~Certain capital program work of the wastewater program has traditionally been performed by~~  
28 independent contractors procured by the county rather than county employees. If the wastewater

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1 program begins to use county employees for all or any portion of such capital program work in  
2 connection with implementation of the productivity initiative, subsequent use of independent  
3 contractors shall not be limited as a result of this temporary pilot project.

4 **8.4 Prior Ongoing Permanent Savings**

5 In order to memorialize the gainsharing distribution for ongoing permanent savings to the  
6 wastewater program achieved under a prior collective bargaining agreement, a permanent adjustment  
7 for past productivity gains will continue to be added to the base hourly pay rate for all employees in  
8 the bargaining unit as of the date this contract becomes effective by ordinance following the  
9 ratification by King County Council and is signed into law by the King County Executive. This  
10 amount shall be adjusted for COLA as described in Appendix A.

Deleted: each employee's base hourly pay rate

Deleted: Effective November 1, 2003, the adjustment shall be raised from \$1.43 per hour to \$1.46 per hour.

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11 **8.5 Productivity Incentive Oversight Committee**

12 A Productivity Incentive Program Oversight Committee shall be responsible for oversight of  
13 funds allocated to the fund. The committee shall be comprised of thirteen (13) members, four (4)  
14 representatives shall be selected by SEIU, Local 925.

15 Ex-officio membership may include, but shall not be limited to the Office of the Executive  
16 and the Finance & Business Operations Division of the Department of Executive Services.

17 The Productivity Incentive Program Oversight Committee shall have the authority and  
18 responsibility to determine the distribution and use of the fund, subject to approval by the Division  
19 Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division. In addition to the minimum annual payouts to  
20 employees, as referenced in Article 8.2, the distribution of the funds may include, but not be limited  
21 to:

- 22 • Increased annual payouts to employees.
- 23 • Investment in employees through training and other employee development programs.
- 24 • Award and recognition program
- 25 • Reserve fund
- 26 • Other activities consistent with achieving the goals of the Productivity Pilot Program.

27 ~~The Productivity Incentive Program Oversight Committee shall prepare an annual report on~~  
28 the management of the fund. The fund shall be audited on an annual basis.

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1 **ARTICLE 9: TYPES OF EMPLOYEES AND PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

2 **9.1 General**

3 Employees covered by this Agreement shall be classified as regular, term-limited temporary  
4 or temporary and may be either full-time or part-time. The Employer shall staff positions as full-time  
5 where possible, recognizing that legitimate work requirements or employee needs may require the  
6 use of part-time or temporary employees. The rights and benefits for temporary employees shall be  
7 consistent with all applicable provisions of the King county Code and the King County Charter,  
8 except that where this Agreement provides greater rights and benefits, the provisions of this  
9 Agreement shall apply.

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10 **9.2 Types Of Employees**

11 A full-time employee is one normally scheduled to work forty (40) hours per week or one  
12 who works an alternative work schedule recognized as equivalent status to a forty (40) hour week.

13 A part-time employee is one normally scheduled less than forty (40) hours per week.

14 A temporary employee is one hired for a period of less than six (6) months to fill a special  
15 project position of limited duration or to provide short-term replacement staffing for regular  
16 employees absent from their positions for reasons such as leave of absence. A temporary employee  
17 may be terminated without recourse to the Conflict Resolution and Grievance Procedure.

18 A Term-Limited Temporary Employee is a temporary employee who is employed in a term-  
19 limited temporary position for a period of six (6) months or longer. Term-limited temporary  
20 employees are not members of the career service. Term-limited temporary employees may not be  
21 employed in term-limited temporary positions longer than three (3) years beyond the date of hire,  
22 except that for grant-funded projects, capital improvement projects and information systems  
23 technology projects the maximum period may be extended up to five (5) years upon approval of the  
24 Director of the County’s Human Resources Division of the Department of Executive Services. The  
25 Director shall maintain a current list of all term-limited temporary employees by department.

26 **9.3 Probationary Period**

27 ~~The first six (6) months of regular employment shall be a probationary period for all~~  
28 employees. During this period an employee may be terminated without recourse to the Conflict

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1 Resolution and Grievance Procedure.

2 **9.4 Trial Service Period**

3 All employees who have completed a probationary period and are promoted or transferred to  
4 a different classification within the bargaining unit shall serve a six (6) month trial service period  
5 during which they may be reverted back to their prior job classification and appropriate pay step for  
6 cause, subject to appeal through the Conflict Resolution and Grievance Procedure. Employees  
7 participating in job progression shall serve no trial service period if they are progressing in the same  
8 classification family.

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1 **ARTICLE 10: PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

2 **10.1 Job Postings**

3 The purpose of posting job announcements is to ensure that interested employees know of  
4 vacancies that occur within the bargaining unit and that they have a reasonable chance to compete for  
5 those positions.

6 **10.2 Acting Assignments**

7 Regular positions may be filled on an acting or temporary basis for no more than six (6)  
8 months without a process that includes solicitation of interest among bargaining unit employees and  
9 selection based upon job-related criteria. In no case will a regular position be filled on an acting  
10 basis for more than one year without the mutual agreement of the Union and WTD. **10.3**

11 **Transfers**

12 Bargaining unit employees who have been members of the bargaining unit for at least five  
13 years, and who have had no documented performance deficiencies within the preceding six months,  
14 shall have the right to transfer to openings in their job classification family based on classification  
15 family seniority before openings are filled through a competitive process; provided, however,  
16 management retains discretion to permit transfers of employees who do not meet the above criteria.

17 The transfer restriction based on less than five years in the bargaining unit shall not apply to  
18 employees hired prior to the Union's ratification of this Agreement.

19 Employees may express interest for transfer at any time by notifying WTD HR. A list of  
20 employees interested in transfer opportunities will be maintained by WTD HR. A seven day transfer  
21 solicitation period shall occur prior to conducting the competitive posting. (Note: It is the  
22 employee's responsibility to provide WTD HR with contact information to use in case a transfer  
23 occurs while an employee is away from work.) The position will be advertised to members of the  
24 bargaining unit if there are no transfer candidates.

25 **10.4 Competitive Positions**

26 Regular and special project positions lasting longer than six (6) months will use a competitive  
27 selection process. All employees, including temporary employees, are eligible to apply for these  
28 positions. Employees who have attained career service status or are in a regular appointment, but

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Deleted: However, the affected Business Team(s) and Section Manager may jointly approve an extension of less than six (6) additional months. The LMC shall be notified of all appointments and extensions. If management determines that a non-competitive appointment needs to become a continuing assignment, the position will be reposted to allow internal competition for the position. Management needs to determine this change far enough in advance to carry out the necessary administrative details in a timely manner.

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1 serving a probationary period, have preference over candidates with temporary status. Probationary  
2 employees who are selected for another competitive position, will serve a six (6) month probationary  
3 period in their new position. If they do not successfully complete the probationary period in their  
4 new position, management will make a good faith effort to assist the employee in finding another  
5 position, but will not guarantee that the employee will be placed.

6           A. The Employer will post announcements of openings at all work-sites for a  
7 minimum of fourteen (14) calendar days. Selection criteria developed with participation by the  
8 affected business team will be established in advance of the recruitment. The announcement shall  
9 include the selection criteria to be used in that selection process as well as an indication of whether  
10 that recruitment process will include a list of candidates to fill vacancies that occur during the  
11 following six (6) months.

12           B. The end date for special project positions will be clearly stated in the posting.

13           C. If there is a qualified internal candidate to fill the opening, based upon the  
14 selection criteria for that specific position (as opposed to the more general qualifications listed in the  
15 classification specification for the position), the position will be filled internally.

16           D. Except for special project positions, if an opening occurs within six (6) months of  
17 the establishment of a list of qualified candidates, the Employer may select the most qualified  
18 candidate(s) from the list.

19           **10.4.1 Internal Candidates**

20           Internal Candidates refers to all employees covered by this Agreement. Employees who have  
21 attained career service status or are in a regular appointment, but serving a probationary period, have  
22 preference over candidates with TLT or temporary status.

23           **10.4.2 External Candidates**

24           If no qualified internal candidate is selected by the appointing authority, the position may be  
25 posted for applications from candidates not covered by this Agreement, following the County's  
26 established hiring practices.

27           **10.5 Selection Process**

28

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**Deleted:** Jointly developed selection criteria, as approved by the affected Business Team(s), will be established in advance of recruitment. The announcement shall include selection criteria to be used in the selection process.

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**Deleted:** The selection panel will first consider applications from members of the bargaining unit, who are in the same classification or classification family who wish to be considered as transfer candidates. The position will be advertised to members of the bargaining unit, if there are no transfer candidates.¶ Transfer candidates will be selected on the basis of classification family seniority in the following classifications/classification families: Industrial Maintenance Mechanic Family, Industrial Instrument Technician, Industrial Maintenance Electrician, Industrial Instrument/Electrical Technician Lead, Inventory Purchasing Specialist I, II and III, Wastewater Support Specialist, Industrial Lubrication System Specialist, Industrial Machinist, Industrial Machinist/Mechanic Lead, and Industrial Engine Mechanic.

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**Deleted:** A joint task force of the Employer and the Union shall establish minimum qualifications and selection criteria for each job classification including appropriate and consistent weighting of criteria. Criteria shall include technical skills, interpersonal skills, and other relevant factors.

1 An interview panel, including representation from the Local 925 members on the business  
2 team, will consider all qualified candidates and make referrals of qualified candidates in writing to  
3 the hiring authority. Recommendations shall be based upon job-related criteria. If all candidates'  
4 qualifications are comparable, then WDT-wide seniority takes precedence.

**Deleted:** A panel of business team members, not including candidates for promotion,

**Deleted:** employees

**Deleted:** promotion recommendations to management

**Deleted:** referenced above.

### 6 10.6 Step Placement

**Deleted:** Minimum qualifications and selection criteria shall be reevaluated and updated each year by a committee of the Employer and Union representatives. The Employer shall use the minimum qualifications and selection criteria to evaluate job applicants eligible for the promotion list. The most qualified candidate(s) shall be selected to fill the vacancy(ies).

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7 Those promoted shall move to the lowest step on the wage scale of the new classification,  
8 which provides at least a one-step (approximately 5%) increase in pay over the employee's previous  
9 rate of pay.

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New employees and employees moving between classifications will be initially placed at a step commensurate with the step's criteria. The criteria will reflect the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience required at each step. The gate criteria will also apply if the classification is in job progression. Step and gate criteria for positions in the Job Progression Program will be developed by the Employer and business teams, with oversight by the Job Progression Oversight Committee (JPOC) and approval by the Labor Management Committee (LMC). Step criteria for positions outside of the Job Progression Program will be developed by the Employer and business teams, with approval by the LMC.

11 Employees moving from a higher to lower salary range shall be placed at a step  
12 commensurate with the step's criteria, not to exceed the top step of the employee's new  
13 classification.

14 Exceptions will be made in cases where the employee is moving to a classification within a  
15 higher or equivalent classification family, or to a higher or equivalent classification. In this event,  
16 the employee shall be "Y" rated (frozen), if they are placed at a step that is lower than their previous  
17 base rate of pay. The "Y" rate shall continue for a period of two (2) years, or until the employee  
18 progresses to a step that meets or exceeds their "Y" rate, whichever is sooner. If, at the conclusion of  
19 the two (2) years, the employee is still "Y" rated, the employee's base rate shall be adjusted  
20 downward to the salary step commensurate with their experience based upon the step criteria.

21 Cost of Living Adjustments shall not be applied to the "Y" rate. At such time that the step  
22 occupied by the "Y" rated employee meets or exceeds the employee's "Y" rate, the "Y" rating will  
23 end.

24 Employees will progress through steps at one (1) year intervals. Employees who are in a job  
25 progression classification and are in a shaded area before a gate, do not have a time limitation and  
26 may advance when they meet the requirements of the gate. Employees serving a probationary period  
27 must complete their probationary period before advancing through a gate.

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28 For purposes of this section, determinations as to whether a placement falls within a higher,

1 lower or equivalent stand-alone classification or classification family will be based upon the top step  
2 of the new salary range in comparison with the top step of the old salary range.

3 **10.6.1 Job Progression**

4 New employees and employees moving between classifications within the job progression  
5 program will be initially placed at a step commensurate with the step's criteria. The criteria will  
6 reflect the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience required at each step. The gate criteria will  
7 also apply if the classification is in job progression. Step and gate criteria for positions in the Job  
8 Progression Program will be developed by the Employer and business teams, with oversight by the  
9 Job Progression Oversight Committee (JPOC) and approval by the Labor Management Committee  
10 (LMC). Step criteria for positions outside of the Job Progression Program will be developed by the  
11 Employer and the step placement will conform to the County's personnel guidelines and applicable  
12 policies.

13 Employees hired no more than two years prior to the date of the vote on this contract by the  
14 full King County Council may request review of the step at which the employee was placed upon  
15 hire. The request for review must be made within 45 days of the Council vote. Any changes to an  
16 employees step placement as a result of this review shall be prospective only (i.e., no retroactivity).

17 **10.7 Operator-In-Training Positions**

18 During the term of this contract, two Operator-In-Training (OIT) positions located at the  
19 South Plant shall be exempt from transfer or competition from other employees in the Operator series  
20 (OIT, Operator, Senior Operator, Senior Operator In Charge) at the time of the OIT opening. First  
21 priority for these OIT positions shall be given to bargaining unit members (those in classifications  
22 other than Operator series classifications). After one OIT position has been filled at South Plant in  
23 accordance with this provision, the next position opening in the Operator family at South Plant shall  
24 be filled in accordance with the normal transfer/hiring procedures outlined in Article 10 (open to all  
25 bargaining unit members, including any in the Operator series). Finally, after this position in the  
26 Operator family has been filled, the next OIT position at South Plant shall again be exempt from  
27 transfer or competition from employees in the Operator series at that time (open to, and priority given  
28 to, all bargaining unit employees outside the Operator series). Thereafter, all openings in the

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1 [Operator family shall be filled in accordance with the normal transfer/hiring procedures outlined in](#)  
2 [this Article \(Article 10\).](#)

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3  
4 **10.8 Senior Operator-in-Charge**

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5 Senior Operator-in-Charge positions will be filled through a competitive recruitment process  
6 of all qualified Senior Operators. These positions [may be designated as permanent or non-](#)  
7 [permanent, and such designation shall be made clear on the posting to fill the position. \(No current](#)  
8 [SOIC positions/assignments will have their duration changed.\) Non-permanent Senior Operator-in-](#)  
9 [Charge positions will be advertised every three years and allow for rotation of qualified employees to](#)  
10 [provide development opportunities. Senior Operator-in-Charge positions](#) are not subject to the  
11 Seniority Bid Process.

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12 **10.9 Seniority Bid Process - Operators**

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13 **Definition:**

14 A seniority bid process for job assignments in the Operator Series shall occur every three (3)  
15 years within each Section. This process allows for movement between all Business Teams in the  
16 Operator Series based on Section business needs and Classification Family Seniority.

17 **Implementation:**

- 18 • The Seniority Bid Procedure shall be completed by March 31, [2008](#) and will take place  
19 every three (3) years thereafter.
- 20 • Employees who filled a vacancy through a competitive process in the twenty-four (24)  
21 months prior to the bid process date of March 31 [can request to be exempt from the process](#)  
22 and remain in their current assignment. (This does not include employees who were hired,  
23 transferred or promoted from outside the Operator Classification Family within this twenty-  
24 four (24)-month time frame.)
- 25 • Senior Operator-In-Charge positions are exempt from this process.
- 26 • Vashon Island positions are exempt from this process.

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27 **Selection Committee:**

28 The committee shall be comprised of the Section Manager, two (2) Management

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1 representatives, a representative of Local 925 and two (2) Shop Stewards. The objective is to have  
2 equal Union and Management representation in the decision making process. Decisions will be  
3 based on:

4 • Business needs identified by the Section Manager (by January 1 of the applicable year).  
5 Business needs shall include but not be limited to the number and purpose of business teams, the  
6 number of Operators assigned to each business team, the mix of skill level (as determined by  
7 certifications held and standing in job progression) needed for each business team. In addition,  
8 assignment to the rotating shift crews will include consideration of the employee's record of  
9 attendance.

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10 • Employee classification family seniority. Seniority preference shall not be bypassed for  
11 other than identifiable business needs.

12 • Disciplinary record of the employee for the preceding six months.  
13 • In the event the Selection Committee fails to reach consensus, the final decision shall be  
14 made by the Section Manager and is subject to the Grievance Procedure.

Deleted: the period between the date of Union's ratification of this Agreement and January 15, 2005.

15 **Bid Selection:**

- 16 • All employees in the Operator Classification Family shall fill out a Bid Preference Form  
17 and submit it to the Selection Committee Facilitator and be given a receipt confirming a  
18 form was submitted.
- 19 • Bid Preference Forms which are partially filled out or not turned in by the deadline, shall be  
20 considered incomplete by the Selection Committee.
- 21 • Bid preferences will be considered by the Selection Committee in order of classification  
22 family seniority as defined in Article 11 of this Agreement.

Deleted: • Disciplinary action(s) taken in the period between the date of Union's ratification of this Agreement and January 15, 2005, may affect an employee's selection order.

23  
24 **Selection Committee Process:**

25 The Selection Committee shall use the following process when determining job assignments:

- 26 • Review the classification family seniority roster generated by the employer and verified by  
27 the Union.
- 28 • Consider an employee's preferences as indicated on the Bid Preference Form completed by

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1 each employee (by the bid process date of January 15, 2005).

2 • Determine whether any incomplete forms have been submitted. Incomplete forms may  
3 result in the committee selecting the job assignment for that employee. Selections by the  
4 committee in these cases are not subject to the Grievance/Arbitration procedure.

5 • Confirm employee meets identified business needs.

6 If multiple employees meet these criteria, they are placed in order of classification family  
7 seniority (Management has discretion to keep a disciplined employee in their current job  
8 assignment).

9 • At the conclusion of the process, the Section Manager will notify employees of the job  
10 assignments.

Deleted: • Place any employee(s) with disciplinary action(s) taken between the date of the Union's ratification of this Agreement and January 15, 2005 at the end of the selection order.

### 11 Seniority Bid Process Time Line:

12 • **By November 1**

13 Section Manager selects the Facilitator for the Selection Committee.

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14 • **By November 10, the Facilitator will:**

15 Notify Operations employees of the upcoming process and distribute bid preference  
16 forms to the employees.

17 Schedule the Management business team meeting.

18 Notify the Union Business Representative of the need to select committee members.

19 Notify the Section Manager of the need to select committee members.

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20 • **Before January 1**

21 Selection Committee is identified and the Seniority Bid Process meeting is scheduled.

22 The Union is requested to verify a classification family seniority roster for each  
23 section.

24 Section Manager identifies business needs.

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25 • **Before January 15**

26 Classification Family Seniority roster verification due from the Union.

27 Bid Preference forms due from the employees.

28 Facilitator will have current operations roster for the meeting.

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1 • **Before January 24**

2 Seniority Bid Selection meeting will occur and job assignments for employees in the  
3 Operator family classification will be determined.

4 • **Before January 31**

5 Section Manager will notify employees of job assignments.

6 • **By March 31**

7 Changes in job assignments will be completed.

8 **10.10 Layoffs**

9 In the event of a need for a reduction in force, the Employer will meet with the Union as far in  
10 advance as possible to identify the reasons requiring the reduction and the number and classifications  
11 and/or classification families of employees affected.

12 The Employer commits to provide training to affected regular employees that allows those  
13 employees to compete for other available jobs. The Employer and the Union agree that these  
14 affected employees shall be given preference for job openings within the bargaining unit for which  
15 they meet the minimum qualifications. If layoffs are required, the least senior employee(s) within the  
16 affected classification(s) shall be laid off on the basis of classification-family seniority, provided that  
17 those employees remaining on the job are qualified to perform the work assigned.

18 Employees subject to layoff from one classification family shall be allowed to exercise their  
19 retained classification family seniority rights in that other classification family. In such cases, the  
20 employee will be assigned to the classification which s/he last occupied within the classification  
21 family. The employee will be placed at the step of the new salary range which is closest to the salary  
22 that the employee received before the bump. The rate of pay may not exceed the top step of the new  
23 salary range. For those classifications with Gate requirements, the employee will be placed at the  
24 highest step for which they meet the Gate requirements. Employees who were Grandfathered as a  
25 result of Job Progression are presumed to have met all of the Gate requirements of the classification  
26 to which they bumped.

27 Employees laid off shall be eligible for recall for two (2) years from date of layoff.

28 **10.11 Recall**

1 Employees shall be recalled in the order of seniority (the most senior being recalled first)  
2 provided that those recalled are qualified to perform the work assigned.

3 To be eligible for recall, a laid-off employee must keep the Employer informed of his/her  
4 current address and phone number. The Employer shall notify laid-off workers of recall by certified  
5 letter. When offered re-employment from layoff, the employee must indicate acceptance and report  
6 for work within thirty (30) days unless unusual circumstances prohibit return within that time period.

7 Employees failing to respond and return in a timely manner shall be considered as tendering  
8 their resignation from the Employer's employment.

9 **10.12 Temporary Hardship Assignments**

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10 A. When an employee believes a hardship exists, s/he may contact his/her supervisor in  
11 writing, explaining the hardship, with his/her request, including estimated duration.

12 B. After receipt of the request, within fourteen (14) calendar days, the employee, supervisor,  
13 the designated Union representative, and the section manager will meet to discuss the request. The  
14 EAP coordinator will be used as a resource if necessary. All requests and discussions will remain  
15 confidential. After this meeting, the employee will be notified, in writing, within seven (7) calendar  
16 days of the decision. The section manager, supervisor and the designated Union representative will  
17 make the final decision.

18 C. Hardship assignments will be structured to assist the employee to move back into full  
19 work schedule availability, with an agreement between the employee, the immediate supervisor and  
20 the designation Union representative on a plan to return to their regular assignment.

21 D. This Section does not pertain to circumstances relating to ADA (Americans with  
22 Disabilities Act), medical accommodations, FML (Family Medical Leave) or time off for  
23 circumstances covered under the State of Washington Family Care Act.

24 **Intent Statement**

25 The intent of this Section is to define a hardship, its duration, and the process by which a  
26 request for a temporary hardship assignment may be approved.

27 Local 925 and King County recognize that employees occasionally have personal  
28 circumstances that make it difficult for them to perform their current assignment. This Section is

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1 designed to provide time for the employees to resolve their hardship and return to their regular work  
2 schedules and job assignments.

3 **Interpretation**

4 A hardship is a situation of less than one (1) year duration that inhibits or makes it very  
5 difficult for an employee to fulfill current job responsibilities. Requests for a hardship assignment  
6 are to be considered temporary and the employee shall be available for all work schedules and job  
7 assignments when the hardship ends.

8 There are no specific criteria for granting hardship assignments. Approval is based on the  
9 specific circumstances of each request as determined by the supervisor, section manager, and the  
10 designated Union representative. The following factors are recommended for consideration:

- 11 • A limited amount of flexibility is available to assist in hardship cases and thus there are a  
12 limited number of transfers that could be granted at any one time.
- 13 • The expectation is that at the end of the agreed upon time frame, the employee shall return  
14 to their original assignment (unless more recent bid process resulted in movement to a new  
15 assignment).

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1 **ARTICLE 11: SENIORITY**

2 All regular employees shall accrue seniority from the date of hire. All probationary  
3 employees completing the probationary period shall be credited with seniority retroactive to date of  
4 hire.

5 Seniority shall not accrue during leaves of absence without pay in excess of thirty (30)  
6 calendar days, including family leave, except for leave due to active military duty or Union business  
7 (see also Article 22.3).

8 If an employee moves from a ~~temporary employment status in a bargaining unit position, to~~  
9 ~~regular employment status in a bargaining unit position~~ with no break in service, ~~the length of~~  
10 employment in ~~temporary employment status~~ will be included when establishing the seniority date(s).

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11 Employees promoted from one classification to another shall retain seniority earned in the  
12 classification from which he/she was promoted.

13 **County-wide Seniority.** County-wide seniority is defined as the most recent period of  
14 continuous service as a regular employee with King County in any combination of  
15 positions/classifications.

16 The service date of regular employees who accept temporary assignments and subsequently  
17 return to their regular assignment shall not be adjusted, provided that there is no break in service with  
18 the County.

19 Previously accrued County-wide seniority shall be restored if the employee returns to County  
20 service within two (2) years of the severed employment date, provided the employee left in good  
21 standing.

22 **WTD-Wide Seniority.** WTD-wide seniority is defined as the most recent length of  
23 continuous service as a regular employee with the WTD in any combination of positions.

24 **Classification Family Seniority.** Classification family seniority is defined as the most recent  
25 length of continuous service as a regular employee within the Wastewater Treatment Division in a  
26 given job classification family. (This definition also applies to single-level classifications.)

27 **Vashon Sewer District Seniority Credit.** Former employees of the Vashon Sewer District,  
28 who were employed at the time of transfer of the Vashon Treatment facility to King County, shall be

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1 credited with all forms of seniority as defined by this Agreement, retroactive to their date of hire by  
2 the Vashon Sewer District.

3 **Wastewater Support Specialist Seniority Credit.** Employees assigned to the job  
4 classification of Wastewater Support Specialist, as of the effective date of this Agreement, who were  
5 formerly in the Maintenance Support Assistant or in an Administrative Services Specialist job  
6 classification, shall be credited with classification family and classification seniority to their date of  
7 hire in the Wastewater Treatment Division within those classifications.

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1 **ARTICLE 12: CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

2 **12.1 General**

3 The Employer and the Union commit to address and resolve issues in a fair and responsible  
4 manner at the lowest level and to use mediation and conflict resolution methods when possible. Our  
5 relationship depends on mutual respect and trust built upon our ability to recognize and resolve  
6 disagreements rather than avoiding them.

7 **12.2 Types of Issues**

8 Issues may be referred by employees, the Employer, or the Union for Article 12.6 Conflict  
9 Resolution and Grievance Procedures A through D except as provided herein and subject to Article  
10 12.5. The only requirement is that the issue must be genuine and that the parties involved must  
11 participate directly. Issues concerning Removal from Service for the employee’s own medical  
12 reasons, Return to Service or Leave of Absence concerning the employee’s own medical reasons will  
13 be handled under Article 14 of this Agreement, Medical Arbitration.

14 **12.3 Time Limits**

15 The purpose of time limits within the Conflict Resolution and Grievance Procedure (12.6) is  
16 to set general guidelines and to ensure that neither party to a dispute becomes frustrated by undue  
17 delay. Time limits are flexible and may be waived; however, the party awaiting a response at any  
18 step (short of the last step) may advance the issue to the next step once the time limits have expired.

19 **12.4 Resource Assistants**

20 Human Resource personnel, Union representatives, and/or stewards may participate in any  
21 phase of the issue resolution procedure upon request of those involved in the dispute.

22 **12.5 Complaints of Discrimination**

23 Complaints of discrimination shall be subject to the Conflict Resolution and Grievance  
24 Procedure (12.6), but shall not be subject to arbitration.

25 **12.6 Procedure**

26 **Step A. Conflict Resolution Procedure (optional step)**

27 An issue may be addressed orally between the supervisor and the employee(s) involved  
28 within fourteen (14) calendar days of the event or circumstance(s) giving rise to the issue(s). The

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1 parties will make every effort to resolve the issue(s) within thirty (30) calendar days, however the  
2 Union may advance the issue(s) to Step B at any time within thirty (30) calendar days following the  
3 initial discussion with the supervisor.

4 Disputes resolved at this level shall be final and binding but shall not form precedent for any  
5 other disputes arising under this Agreement.

6 **Step B. Supervisor – Formal Grievance**

7 If the issue is not resolved in Step A, the Union may present a written grievance to the  
8 supervisor. In the event Step A is bypassed, the Union will present a written grievance to the  
9 supervisor within fourteen (14) calendar days of the event or circumstance(s) giving rise to the  
10 issue(s). In either event, the Steward shall forward a copy of the grievance to the WTD Human  
11 Resources Representative and the Union office.

12 The supervisor will have fourteen (14) calendar days to provide a written response, with a  
13 copy to the WTD Human Resources Representative and the Union office.

14 Disputes resolved at this level shall be final and binding but shall not form precedent for any  
15 other disputes arising under this Agreement.

16 If not satisfactorily resolved, the Union may refer the grievance in writing to the next level  
17 within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the supervisor’s response, or if no response was  
18 received.

19 **Step C. Section Manager**

20 The Section Manager will have fourteen (14) calendar days from receipt of the grievance to  
21 issue a written response. If the response of the Section Manager is unacceptable, the grievance may  
22 be referred to [Step D](#) within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Union’s receipt of the Section  
23 Manager’s response.

24 If mutually agreed upon by Employer and Union, the grievance may be directly referred to  
25 arbitration if it concerns the proper application or interpretation of the Agreement. The Union shall  
26 have fourteen (14) calendar days to request such arbitration.

27 Disputes resolved at this level shall be final and binding but shall not form precedent for any  
28 other disputes arising under this Agreement.

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1 **Step D. Pre-Mediation Meeting**

2 If a grievance is referred to Step D, the parties shall schedule a meeting to include the  
3 grievant, a Local 925 representative, the WTD Section Manager (or designee), the King County HRD  
4 assigned labor negotiator, and representative from WTD HR for the purpose of informally discussing  
5 and attempting to resolve the grievance. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the Pre-Mediation  
6 meeting shall occur within 30 days of the request for Pre-Mediation. The grievant may at any time  
7 advance the grievance to the next step (Step E. Mediation).

8 **Step E. Mediation**

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9 Mediation shall be the last step for disputes not eligible for arbitration as well as the step prior  
10 to arbitration for all other disputes. The Employer and Union will have thirty (30) calendar days  
11 from the mediation request date to schedule a mediation date.

12 A mediator shall be mutually agreed upon by the Employer and the Union. The mediated  
13 settlement shall be binding on the parties and, unless specifically agreed otherwise, not form a  
14 precedent with WTD for any other dispute arising under this Agreement. If resolution is not reached  
15 in mediation, grievances may be referred to arbitration if it concerns the proper application or  
16 interpretation of the Agreement.

17 **Step F. Arbitration**

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18 The Union will have fourteen (14) calendar days from the conclusion of mediation to request  
19 arbitration or, if there was no mediation, the Union may submit the request within fourteen (14)  
20 calendar days of receipt of the Step C response. The Employer and Union will have sixty (60)  
21 calendar days from the arbitration request date to schedule an arbitration date.

22 An arbitrator shall be selected by mutual agreement of the Employer and the Union. In the  
23 event mutual agreement is not reached, an arbitrator shall be selected from a list provided by a  
24 mutually acceptable source. In the event the parties are unable to mutually agree on a source for the  
25 list of arbitrators, the parties shall request a list from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

26 The arbitrator's power shall be limited to interpreting the Agreement between the Employer  
27 and the Union as it applies to the dispute before the arbitrator.

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28 The Employer and the Union shall each bear the cost of its own presentation including

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1 attorney's fees, regardless of the outcome. The parties shall bear equally the fees and cost of the  
2 arbitrator.

3 **12.7 Initiation of Grievance at Higher Step**

4 By mutual agreement, a grievance may be initiated at a higher Grievance Step if the  
5 Management Representative at the lower level would not have the authority to grant the relief sought.

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1 **ARTICLE 13: CORRECTIVE ACTION AND DISCIPLINE**

2 **13.1 Teach, Lead and Coach (TLC) – Corrective Action Procedures**

3 Teach Lead and Coach (TLC) is meant to address violations of rules of minor significance or  
4 unsatisfactory work performance that can normally be corrected through counseling or training. TLC  
5 is non-disciplinary, but if the employee’s performance or behavior does not improve, TLC  
6 documentation can be used toward discipline.

7 In order to accomplish the goals set forth in the preamble, shop stewards, supervisors and  
8 managers developed a Teach, Lead and Coach (TLC) Handbook which shall be an appendix to this  
9 Agreement. The LMC shall review this Handbook at least once during the life of this Agreement.

10 While the desired corrective action approach is Teach, Lead and Coach (TLC), the procedure  
11 does not preclude moving directly to discipline depending on the severity of the situation.

12 **13.2 Just Cause**

13 No employee who has completed probation shall be disciplined except for just cause.

14 **13.3 Progressive Discipline**

15 Discipline is meant to address violations of rules of major significance, continuing minor  
16 violations or continuing unsatisfactory work performance. The Employer and the Union agree with  
17 the principle of progressive discipline, which may include oral reprimands, written reprimands,  
18 suspension, demotion, salary reduction, discharge, or alternative forms of discipline mutually agreed  
19 upon.

20 **13.4 Appropriate Level of Disciplinary Action**

21 The type and level of disciplinary action will be determined by the nature and severity of the  
22 behavior and/or performance deficiency that led to the disciplinary action, as well as the employee’s  
23 past disciplinary record.

24 In accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), salaried (overtime-exempt)  
25 personnel are not subject to unpaid disciplinary suspensions except in increments of full workweeks,  
26 unless the infraction leading to the suspension is for a violation of a safety rule of major significance.

27 **13.5 Equal Application of Rules**

28 The employer will make every effort to enforce rules in a fair and consistent manner.

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1 **13.6 Oral and Written Reprimands**

2 Memos to document oral reprimands, and written reprimands, shall include the following  
3 information:

- 4 • The reason(s) for the reprimand
- 5 • The facts supporting the reprimand
- 6 • The form of reprimand being imposed
- 7 • The effective date(s) of the reprimand
- 8 • A clear statement as to follow-up needed (if any)
- 9 • Language advising the employee of the availability of Employee Assistance Programs  
10 (EAP) may be included in the notice

11 **13.7 Pre-Disciplinary Procedures – Cases Affecting Pay Status**

12 In all cases involving the potential for suspension without pay, discharge, demotion or salary  
13 reduction for disciplinary reasons, the Employer will provide the affected employee with written  
14 notice and an opportunity to respond in writing and/or in person.

15 The pre-disciplinary notice will include the following information:

- 16 • The reason for the proposed discipline
- 17 • The facts supporting the proposed discipline
- 18 • The form of discipline being considered
- 19 • The date, time and location of the pre-disciplinary hearing, or deadline for submission of  
20 any additional evidence or information that should be considered by the Employer in  
21 making a final disciplinary decision
- 22 • Language advising the employee of the availability of Employee Assistance Programs  
23 (EAP) may be included in the notice

24 **13.8 Disciplinary Decisions Affecting Pay Status**

25 Employees shall be provided with written notification of final disciplinary decisions within  
26 fourteen (14) calendar days following the pre-disciplinary hearing and/or deadline for submission of  
27 written responses/additional evidence.

28 The disciplinary letter shall include the following information:

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- 1 • The reason(s) for the discipline
- 2 • The facts supporting the discipline
- 3 • The form of discipline being imposed
- 4 • A clear statement as to follow-up needed (if any)
- 5 • The effective date(s) of the discipline
- 6 • Statement as to the employee's right to appeal the discipline
- 7 • Language advising the employee of the availability of Employee Assistance Programs
- 8 (EAP) may be included in the notice

9 **13.9 Administrative Leave**

10 The Employer has the right to place an employee on paid administrative leave, subject to the  
11 following conditions:

12 **A. Purpose of Administrative Leave.** The purpose of administrative leave is to  
13 remove an employee from the workplace during the pendency of an investigation and/or until  
14 discipline is imposed. Administrative leave is paid leave, and non-disciplinary in nature.

15 **B. Reasons for Administrative Leave.** Administrative leave will be used when the  
16 employer believes a compelling reason necessitates the employee's removal from the workplace  
17 (e.g., endanger the employee or others, disrupt the work environment, or interfere with an  
18 investigation, etc.).

19 **C. Onset of Investigation.** The Employer will make every effort to conduct and  
20 complete the investigation as quickly as possible after placing the employee on paid administrative  
21 leave.

22 **D. Notice to Union.** The Employer will notify a Union representative upon placing  
23 an employee on administrative leave. The employee may request Union representation at any time in  
24 the investigative process.

25 **13.10 Confirmation of Receipt**

26 Employees shall provide a written acknowledgement of receipt of correspondence relating to  
27 corrective action and disciplinary matters. ~~The employee's signature shall not be construed as an~~  
28 admission of guilt.

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1           **13.11 Conflict Resolution and Grievance Procedures**

2           All discipline of non-probationary employees shall be subject to the Conflict Resolution and  
3 Grievance Procedures in Article 12 of this Agreement.

4           **13.12 Notice of Investigation**

5           When the Employer determines it is necessary to investigate an employee(s) for potential  
6 misconduct, the employee(s) shall normally be informed of the need for such investigation within  
7 three (3) business days of the decision to proceed. The employee will be generally advised of the  
8 nature of the issue(s) and the estimated duration of the investigation. The Employer shall provide  
9 similar notice to the Union.

10           Notification may be deferred in unusual circumstances where it is possible that the  
11 investigation would be compromised as a result of providing the earlier notice.

12           **13.13 Right to Union Representation**

13           The parties recognize that employees have the right to have a Union representative present in  
14 any meeting where the employee has a reasonable belief that the discussion may lead to discipline.

15           The parties further agree that employees who are being interviewed as potential witnesses but  
16 are not the subject of investigation, will be permitted to have a Union representative present for the  
17 meeting, if more than one management representative is present.

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1 **ARTICLE 14: MEDICAL ARBITRATION**

2 A grievance from an employee who is removed from service or refused permission to return  
3 to service from sick leave or a leave of absence due to a physical or mental disability preventing the  
4 employee from performing all of the duties of his/her position shall be processed only through the  
5 following medical arbitration procedure. Nothing in this Article shall relieve the Employer from  
6 meeting its duties under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), state or federal law, and County  
7 ordinance.

8 **Step 1.** The employee shall present to the supervisor a medical release from his/her primary  
9 treating physician that authorizes the employee to perform, without restriction, all physical and  
10 mental duties of his/her position. In the absence of such a medical release, the parties agree that no  
11 grievance exists.

12 The Employer will evaluate the medical release from the employee’s physician. If the  
13 Employer does not accept the medical release, the Employer will, at its expense, refer the employee  
14 to an independent consulting physician of the Employer’s choice for a medical examination. The  
15 medical examination shall be conducted and evaluated based upon the essential requirements of the  
16 job in effect at the time of disability. If the independent consulting physician authorizes return of the  
17 employee to work, the employee will be allowed to return to duty upon release without loss of any  
18 form of seniority. The employee shall receive back pay from the date the employee presented an  
19 acceptable medical release from his/her physician to the Employer, provided the employee was  
20 available. In the event the independent consulting physician does not authorize the employee’s  
21 return to work and the employee still wishes to return to work, the grievance shall progress to Step 2  
22 of this Article. Such referral to Step 2 must be in writing and shall be forwarded to WTD HR.

23 **Step 2.** When the employee’s physician and the independent consulting physician disagree  
24 on whether the employee may return to work, the two (2) physicians shall discuss the issue. In the  
25 event these physicians cannot resolve the issue, the two (2) physicians shall select a third physician  
26 who is a specialist in the appropriate field of medicine. The third physician shall serve as a medical  
27 arbitrator and shall examine the employee to determine whether the employee can perform all of  
28 his/her duties without restriction.

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1           Should the medical arbitrator determine that the employee can perform all of his/her duties  
2 without restriction, the employee shall be returned to work. The medical arbitrator shall determine  
3 the date upon which the employee, in the arbitrator's opinion, was able to fully perform the duties of  
4 his/her position. The employee shall receive back pay, benefits, and seniority from the date  
5 determined by the arbitrator.

6           Should the medical arbitrator rule in favor of the Employer, the employee's appropriate  
7 placement shall be determined in accordance with the Employer's regular accommodation  
8 procedures.

9           The power and authority of the medical arbitrator shall be strictly limited to determining  
10 whether the employee can perform all of his/her duties without restriction. The medical arbitrator  
11 shall not have the authority to add to or subtract from or modify the Employer's job descriptions.  
12 The decision of the medical arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties. The fees and expenses  
13 of the medical arbitrator shall be borne equally by the Employer and the Union.

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1 **ARTICLE 15: UNION REPRESENTATION AND ACTIVITIES**

2 **15.1 Union Representative**

3 Union representatives may visit the work location of employees covered by this Agreement at  
4 any reasonable time. They shall report to the appropriate manager/designee upon arrival at the work  
5 site being visited.

6 **15.2 Shop Steward**

7 The Employer agrees to recognize employees appointed and identified by the Union as shop  
8 stewards. When contract administration business is conducted during working hours, the employee is  
9 responsible for clearing the time taken away from work with his/her supervisor.

10 **15.3 Bulletin Boards**

11 The Union shall be allowed use of bulletin board space to post Union notices that have been  
12 signed by an officer, Union representative, or steward of the Union.

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1 **ARTICLE 16: CLASSIFICATIONS AND RATES OF PAY**

2 **16.1 Rates of Pay**

3 The classifications and rates of pay for all bargaining unit employees are listed in Appendix A  
4 of this Agreement. Overtime pay is excluded for the calculations of the hourly rate of pay.

5 **16.2 Temporary Assignment to a Higher-Paying Classification**

6 **A.** An employee temporarily assigned by his/her supervisor/designee to a higher-  
7 paying classification shall receive a salary adjustment to the step of the higher  
8 classification/assignment that provides an increase over the employee’s regular rate equivalent to at  
9 least a one-step increase in the higher classification, for actual hours worked. Upgraded employees  
10 will assume the FLSA status of the upgraded position.

11 For assignments of thirty (30) consecutive calendar days or more, a personnel change  
12 notification (PCN) will be written and all compensated hours will be at the higher rate.

13 An employee assigned by his/her supervisor for on-the-job training in a higher paying  
14 classification under the direction of others, shall not be eligible for the higher rate of pay.

15 A regular employee who accepts an appointment to a temporary position in a different  
16 classification, or who is assigned to a temporary appointment, shall retain all rights to return to a  
17 regular position within his/her classification including seniority, step increases, and benefits as  
18 provided in the Labor Agreement unless specifically waived in writing, with a copy sent to the  
19 Union. If the employee is promoted to the higher classification contiguous with the temporary  
20 appointment/assignment, he/she shall accrue seniority in that classification from the first day he/she  
21 accepted the appointment or was assigned to the higher classification.

22 **B. Compensation for persons filling in (relief) for an Operating Shift Supervisor:**

23 Group III certification. A Senior Operator with a Group III certification or a Senior  
24 Operator-In-Charge shall be upgraded to the top step (Step 10 of Range 60) for Senior Operator-In-  
25 Charge. [Note: The changes to the '03 - '06 language in this provision corresponds with placing the  
26 change in wage rate for SOIC, from Range 59, Step 10, to Range 60, Step 9. By making this change  
27 the SOIC wage rate remains the same, while creating a step above the SOIC rate to allow Senior  
28 Operator to be upgraded to a wage rate within the Local 925 bargaining unit. As per the wage

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1 addendum, SOIC does not advance beyond Step 9 of Range 60. This differential recognizes that this  
2 person is assuming the full scope of decision-making responsibilities and accountability for the  
3 operation of the plant.

### 5 **16.3 Premium Pay for Training Responsibilities**

6 An employee assigned full time to the role of technical trainer or facilities services trainer  
7 shall be paid the equivalent of Senior Operator-In-Charge.

### 8 **16.4 Shift Differential**

#### 9 **16.4.1 Night Shift**

10 (a) Non-Operations Straight Shifts - In addition to the regularly established  
11 hourly rates of pay shown in Appendix A, employees whose regularly assigned work ends between  
12 8:01 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. shall receive a shift differential of one dollar (\$1.00) per hour for all  
13 compensated hours. Employees temporarily assigned to such a shift are eligible for this one dollar  
14 per hour shift differential for actual hours worked. This section shall not apply to salaried  
15 employees.

16 (b) Operations Rotating Shifts - Employees regularly assigned to operations  
17 rotating shift shall receive, in addition to the rotating shift premium provided for in 16.4.2, a  
18 premium of 5% their regular rate of pay for all hours worked on the nighttime shift portions of the  
19 rotating shift. Employees temporarily assigned to the nighttime shift portion of the rotating shift  
20 shall receive the 5% rotating shift premium for hours worked on the nighttime shift portions of the  
21 rotating shift. This section shall not apply to salaried employees.

22 **16.4.2 Operations Rotating Shift.** In addition to the regularly established hourly  
23 rates of pay shown in Appendix A, employees regularly assigned to operations rotating shift shall  
24 receive a premium of one dollar (\$1.00) per hour for all compensated hours. Employees temporarily  
25 assigned to a full rotating shift cycle shall receive the rotating shift premium of one dollar per hour  
26 (\$1.00). This section shall not apply to salaried employees.

### 27 **16.5 Standby Pay**

28 **A.** Employees assigned to standby duty with a pager during time off shall receive

**Deleted:** 2. Group II certification. A Senior Operator with a Group II certification shall receive a premium of five percent (5%) above their current rate of pay. The Employer and the Union agree that this occurs only when a designated person with at least a Group III certification is on-call.

**Deleted:** Technical Trainer or Facilities Services Trainer shall be compensated as follows:¶

... **A.** In the event an employee's current hourly wage rate is less than the hourly wage rate equivalent to senior operator, the employee shall receive a wage increase to the hourly rate equivalent to Senior Operator. Step placement shall be determined in accordance with Section 16.2.¶

... **B.** In addition to the hourly pay rate shown in A. above, employees will receive a fifty cents (\$0.50) per hour premium pay for actual hours worked in this training assignment. If an employee is currently receiving a shift differential in accordance with Section 16.4, the fifty cents (\$0.50) per hour training premium pay will replace the shift differential. However, if the employee performs training duties on shifts other than day shift, the employee shall receive shift differential in addition to the training premium.¶

... Employees shall be eligible to receive the above compensation during the period of their training assignment. Employees shall be returned to their regular job classification upon the conclusion of the assignment.

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1 three dollars (\$3.00) per hour for the actual hours assigned to standby duty, with a minimum of  
2 twelve (12) consecutive hours assigned. ~~Effective January 1, 2009, and each January 1 thereafter, the~~  
3 amount paid under this provision shall be increased in accordance with the cost of living adjustment  
4 formula applying to general wage rates in Appendix A of this agreement.

5 B. Employees shall receive a minimum of seven (7) calendar days notice in writing  
6 prior to assignment on standby duty between April and October and a minimum of four (4) calendar  
7 days notice between November and March, except when emergencies interfere with such practice.

8 C. Employees called to work while on standby shall be paid at time and one-half (1-  
9 1/2) for actual time worked including the time required to travel from home to work location and  
10 return. Employees called in to work while on standby shall not receive standby pay during the period  
11 of time they receive time and one-half.

12 D. Salaried employees shall not be eligible for standby pay.

### 13 16.6 Call-in Pay

14 Employees not assigned to standby who are called in to work on an unscheduled basis or  
15 because of an emergency, within twelve (12) hours or less of their scheduled report time, shall be  
16 paid at time and one-half (1-1/2) for the actual hours worked, with a minimum of three (3) hours. If  
17 subsequent call-ins fall within three (3) hours, further pay will not start until the fourth (4th)  
18 unscheduled work hour. Travel time to and from the job shall be considered as working time in such  
19 circumstances. Employees who have been notified more than twelve (12) hours before report time  
20 that their work schedule has been changed shall not be eligible for call-in pay. Salaried employees  
21 shall not be eligible for call-in pay.

22 When a call-in is cancelled, the minimum call-in pay (three hours paid at time and one-half  
23 the employee's regular rate of pay) shall apply unless the cancellation occurs more than four hours  
24 prior to the report time for the call-in.

#### 25 16.6.1 Technical Call Out

26 A Technical Call Out (TCO) occurs when an employee is called to return to duty and  
27 performs those duties via telephone, facsimile, computer, or similar electronic device that does not  
28 require returning to a designated work site. Supervisors are responsible for determining whether an

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1 employee is capable of responding electronically or if the employee needs to physically come into the  
2 worksite. The supervisor must complete an “Authorization for Overtime” form and note the time  
3 spent by the employee in responding (via telephone, computer, etc.) rounded up to the nearest 15-  
4 minute (quarter hour) segment at a rate of time-and-one-half (1½) the employee’s regular rate of pay.  
5 If the employee is spending a brief period of time responding (“brief” being defined as less than ten  
6 minutes), the employee would not be provided with compensation.

7 **16.7 Compensation for Meetings Held on Regular Day(s) Off (RDO) or When Required**  
8 **to Return to Work to Attend a Meeting**

9 Employees who are scheduled to attend meetings on their regular day(s) off or who are  
10 required to return to work on a work day to attend a meeting shall be compensated as follows:

11 A. If a meeting is scheduled to be held on the employee’s regular day(s) off but is  
12 canceled without notification and the employee reports to work to attend the meeting, the employee  
13 will receive two (2) hours of overtime pay.

14 B. If the employee attends a meeting that lasts less than two (2) hours, he/she will  
15 receive the minimum of two (2) hours of overtime pay.

16 C. If the length of a meeting extends beyond two (2) hours, the employee will be  
17 compensated for the total actual time spent at the meeting, at the overtime pay rate.

18 D. This section shall not apply to salaried employees.

19 **16.8 Step Increases**

20 Step increases will be awarded annually to regular and temporary full-time employees after  
21 completing twelve (12) months of continuous employment for satisfactory performance. Part-time  
22 employees shall be awarded step increases on an equivalent hourly basis for all compensated hours.  
23 Step increases for employees in the job progression system are set forth in the job progression  
24 handbook.

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1 **ARTICLE 17: HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME**

2 **17.1 Hours of Work**

3 Regular work shifts are eight (8) hours per day for five (5) consecutive days per week, or ten  
4 (10) hours per day for four (4) consecutive days per week.

5 Rotating shifts are four (4) continuous days of two (2) eleven and seven tenths (11.7) hour  
6 day shifts and two (2) eleven and seven tenths (11.7) hour night shifts, followed by four (4)  
7 scheduled days off before starting a new rotation cycle. Management agrees to bargain the non-  
8 monetary effects of any changes to these schedules.

9 Other innovative work schedules mutually agreed upon by the Employer and the Union may  
10 be utilized. Such agreement shall be confirmed in writing.

11 **17.2 Meal and Rest Periods**

12 Thirty (30) minute meal periods will be provided on the employee's time during each shift or  
13 workday. Except in emergencies, employees will not be required to respond to work needs during  
14 the unpaid meal period.

15 Fifteen (15) minute paid rest periods will be provided approximately midway through each  
16 one-half (1/2) shift. Employees assigned to work the eleven and seven tenths (11.7) hour rotating  
17 shift will be provided with three (3) fifteen (15) minute paid rest periods during each shift.

18 Employees will not be required to work longer than three (3) hours without a rest or meal  
19 period except in emergencies.

20 **17.3 Overtime and Compensatory Time**

21 Employees who work more than 40 hours in a workweek (FLSA workweek), or who are  
22 authorized to work outside their regular workday or workweek will be paid either overtime for such  
23 additional hours at one and one-half (1-1/2) times the employee's regular hourly rate of pay or  
24 compensatory time at the rate of one and one-half (1-1/2) times the amount of overtime hours  
25 actually worked. Salaried employees shall not be eligible for overtime or compensatory time.

26 Paid benefit time and compensatory time does not count as time worked for purposes of  
27 overtime calculation.

28 For the purpose of calculating overtime, an employee's workday shall be defined as

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1 beginning with the first (1st) hour of their regularly assigned shift and continuing for a total of  
2 twenty-four (24) consecutive hours. The workweek shall correspond to the biweekly pay period.

3 The business teams, with approval of the plant manager, shall draft procedures for assigning  
4 overtime to an employee in a week in which that employee uses BT.

5 When an employee is held over or called in for a work period that includes a regular meal  
6 period, the meal period will be unpaid.

7 **A. Compensatory Time.** Accrued compensatory time shall be available for the  
8 employee's use as paid time off the job. Compensatory time used does not count as time worked.

9 Accrued compensatory time in excess of forty-eight (48) hours (eighty hours ((80) hours) where  
10 requested by the employee) shall be paid off at the conclusion of each calendar year quarter at the  
11 employee's regular hourly rate of pay. A current balance of compensatory time hours available will  
12 be shown on the biweekly pay stub. Employees may not use compensatory time until it is earned and  
13 is shown on the biweekly pay stub.

14 **B. Overtime/Compensatory Time Option.** The supervisor and the employee shall  
15 determine which form of compensation will be provided. The employee's preference for either  
16 overtime pay or accruing compensatory time or a combination thereof will be honored. However,  
17 business needs may prevent the employee from earning compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay.  
18 Whenever possible, this selection shall be made prior to the employee beginning the overtime  
19 assignment.

20 **17.4 Compensation for Call-in, Call-back, and Hold-Over Overtime Assignments**

21 As a result of working overtime on a call-in, call-back, or hold-over basis the preceding  
22 workday/shift, employees will be compensated for time not worked due to rest. Decisions regarding  
23 when an employee will work beyond his/her regular workday/shift, or whether he/she is called in or  
24 called back to work shall be jointly made between the supervisor and the employee. This decision  
25 will be based on business needs and safety considerations. This section shall not apply to salaried  
26 employees.

27 Compensation and Available Options. Employees receive one-half (1/2) hour of  
28 compensatory time for unscheduled overtime worked (referred to as CO) for each one (1) full hour of

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1 overtime actually worked between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 4:00 A.M., or if the total number of  
2 hours worked (including their regular shift and overtime hours) exceeds fourteen (14) continuous  
3 hours (CO to commence upon the 14th hour) when the employee is scheduled to work on the  
4 following day.

5 Employees may use CO earned (from the above description) to cover hours not worked the  
6 next regular work shift due to rest. The employee must be scheduled to work the following  
7 workday/shift in order to be eligible to earn or use CO. CO is only available to cover hours not  
8 worked the next workday/shift; it may not be used for any other reason. Employees will not be able  
9 to bank, accrue, or be paid down CO hours.

10 Employees may be able to work their following entire work shift. However, this option  
11 depends upon the number of overtime hours worked, the start time of their next regular workday, and  
12 safety considerations.

13 Employees also have the following options available to cover hours not worked the next  
14 regular work shift due to rest:

- 15 1. Employees may come in to work late the following workday and use accrued  
16 benefit time to cover hours not worked.
- 17 2. Employees may come in to work late the following workday and work the same  
18 number of hours they would normally work (if work is available).
- 19 3. Employees may use the overtime hours accrued the preceding workday “in trade”  
20 for hours worked the following workday (taken as CO). Supervisors will use regular holiday (RH)  
21 on employee’s timeslip in order for the employee to accrue benefit time as if they had worked their  
22 regular shift.

23 **17.5 Distribution of Overtime**

24 Each Business Team shall develop policies and procedures regarding the method(s) of  
25 offering and assigning overtime. Such policies shall be in writing and should address the following:

- 26 • Fair and equitable distribution to the degree practicable.
- 27 • Provide for adequate rest periods to ensure employee safety.
- 28 • Address business needs and qualifications needed.

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- Address emergency circumstances.

A copy of the Business Team Overtime policy/procedure shall be forwarded to the WTD HR office and to the Local 925 office. However, in any instance where the Business Team has not developed written policies and procedures for the assignment of overtime, or where the overtime work spans multiple Business Teams, or where the overtime work pertains to a capital project, the Plant Manager shall have the discretion as to the manner and method by which such overtime shall be assigned.

### 17.6 Work Schedule Changes

Fourteen (14) calendar days notice will be given an employee prior to implementing an involuntary change in the employee's regular schedule, except in cases of emergency. An employee's schedule may not be changed in isolated instances (for example, bringing an employee off day shift to backfill for shift crew that night, or changing an employee's schedule one week from Monday through Thursday to Tuesday through Friday in order to perform duties on Friday) solely for the purpose of avoiding the payment of overtime, except as provided in Article 17.7. However, nothing in this section shall prevent the change of an employee's regular schedule to another regular schedule (subject to the 14-day notice requirement where applicable), including when the rationale for doing so is to reduce or prevent instance of overtime.

As provided in Article 17.1, WTD management agrees to bargain over the non-monetary effects to those schedules specifically described in Article 17.1

### 17.7 Schedule Adjustment for Training

A. Mandatory Training. Mandatory training shall be compensated as hours worked.

Such training must be scheduled during the employee's regular schedule, if possible, to avoid overtime. Employees shall not be required to schedule adjust for mandatory training except when required to avoid working over 14 hours in a 24-hour period. (Note: OIT training shall be considered mandatory training for purposes of this section.)

B. Job Progression Training. Training that is not mandatory but is required for advancement through a negotiated job progression program will be compensated when attended during regularly scheduled work hours. When such training falls outside of an employee's regularly

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B. The employer may temporarily schedule adjust an employee's work week for the purpose of attending a structured training program. All changes must be in compliance with all other applicable articles in this Agreement, and shall not result in loss of regular compensation for the work week.

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1 scheduled hours, schedule adjustments will be made whenever possible depending on staffing and  
2 workload needs such that the employee may attend the training on paid time. Overtime will not be  
3 granted for Job Progression training.

4 C. Other Training. Compensation for time in training and costs of training, such as  
5 tuition, for career enhancement shall be granted in accordance with the WTD training policy.

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1 **ARTICLE 18: BENEFIT TIME**

2 **18.1 General Description**

3 Effective January 1, 2001, benefit time and extended sick leave shall be combined into one  
4 program. The Benefit Time (BT) Program recognizes the need for scheduled time away from the job  
5 (vacation and holidays) for personal reasons and for occasions when the employee must be away  
6 because of illness or injury. BT is the bank of time accrued for use during scheduled paid time off  
7 and unscheduled paid time off (excluding military leave, bereavement leave and jury duty). The  
8 program is designed to meet two primary goals. The first is to increase operating efficiency, and the  
9 second is to treat employees with dignity and respect.

10 **Eligibility:**

11 Full-time regular, part-time regular, provisional, probationary and term-limited temporary  
12 (TLT) employees shall accrue benefit time as specified in 18.4.

13 **18.2 Principles**

14 **A.** The Benefit Time Program is intended to provide a productive workplace where  
15 employees are encouraged to be healthy and regularly be at work.

16 **B.** Operational efficiency is increased by the responsible management of the benefit  
17 time usage.

18 **C.** Standards for BT usage will be developed and monitored by the Employer. These  
19 standards will recognize the diverse needs of the workplace and individual business team needs. The  
20 Employer will consult with the Union regarding these standards prior to implementation.

21 **D.** Problems regarding benefit time usage will be resolved in a positive manner  
22 consistent with good coaching and conflict resolution principles.

23 **E.** The Labor/Management Committee is responsible for overseeing any refinements  
24 or improvements to the BT Program.

25 **18.3 Guidelines**

26 **A.** BT is to be used for holidays, vacations, prescheduled medical appointments,  
27 unexpected short-term absences, injuries and donations, and absences to care for family members  
28 pursuant to federal/state law, and the County’s Family Medical Leave Policy. The employee is

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1 responsible for managing the use of their paid time off.

2 **B.** In order to use BT, the hours used must have been accrued by the pay period  
3 preceding the absence.

4 **C.** Employees are required to submit requests and receive approval for scheduled time  
5 off as far in advance as possible to facilitate business team planning, but at least prior to the end of  
6 the previous shift/workday.

7 **D.** Employees are required to notify the Employer each day of any unscheduled  
8 absence.

9 **E.** All BT shall be coordinated with, and supplementary to, workers' compensation.

10 **F.** Except for salaried employees, employees who become ill while at work shall be  
11 paid the applicable accrued benefit time for that portion of the shift that they are unable to complete.

12 **G.** Employees unable to work because of any other personal emergency shall be  
13 allowed to use BT for any unworked but scheduled hours.

14 **18.4 Benefit Time Accrual**

15 The BT Program is built on the sum of vacation leave, sick leave, and holiday pay and is  
16 based on a bi-weekly accrual rate available to the employee as it is accumulated on a 2,080 hour year.

17 Benefit Time accrual shall be based upon County-wide seniority in accordance with the  
18 following schedule:

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<b>Accrual Rates</b>			
<b>Years of Employment</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Bi-weekly</b>	<b>Hourly</b>
Less than 5 years	288	11.07692	0.13846
5 years but less than 8 years	312	12.00000	0.15000
8 years but less than 10 years	320	12.30769	0.15385
10 years but less than 16 years	352	13.53846	0.16923
16 years but less than 17 years	360	13.84615	0.17308
17 years but less than 18 years	368	14.15384	0.17692
18 years but less than 19 years	376	14.46154	0.18077
19 years but less than 20 years	384	14.76922	0.18462
20 years but less than 21 years	392	15.07692	0.18846
21 years but less than 22 years	400	15.38461	0.19231
22 years but less than 23 years	408	15.69230	0.19615
23 years but less than 24 years	416	16.00000	0.20000
24 years but less than 25 years	424	16.30769	0.20385

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Accrual Rates			
Years of Employment	Annual	Bi-weekly	Hourly
25 or more years of service	432	16.61538	0.20769

There shall be no limit on the amount of BT accrued.

**18.5 Donation of Benefit Time (BT) and/or Compensatory Time (CT)**

Employees will be allowed to donate their accrued BT and/or compensatory time to other employees who are unable to work due to personal circumstances, e.g., illness, injury or personal emergency. There is no limit to the amount of accrued BT and/or CT that can be donated. Hours must be donated in one-hour increments.

This donation of BT and/or CT will only be permitted in those situations where the employee to whom the hours are being donated, has or will shortly be exhausting his/her BT and/or CT. This shall be confirmed with Payroll prior to the commencement of donations by other employees.

No donation will be permitted in situations where the employee is on industrial injury status and is receiving workers' compensation benefits.

Requests for donation will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be coordinated by the Union shop stewards. The amount of benefit time and/or compensatory time donated shall be based upon the anticipated length of time the employee will be absent from work, as supported by available documentation from the employee's physician.

Employees wishing to donate hours to another represented employee must complete a donation form and submit it to his/her section manager. The manager will approve the form based upon the above criteria and forward it to the Payroll Section.

Donated hours not used within 90 days of donation shall revert to the donor.

Upon receipt of the donation request, Payroll will process the request, and the hours will be transferred to the employees benefit time account in the next regular payroll cycle.

**18.6 Cashout**

**A. UPON RETIREMENT OR DEATH**

Upon retirement from the County or death, an employee or their beneficiary, shall be paid for up to four-hundred eighty (480) hours of accrued benefit time (BT) at 100%. All BT in excess of

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1 four hundred and eighty (480) hours shall be cashed out at 35%.

2 **B. UPON SEPARATION**

3 An employee, upon separation with the County, shall be paid for up to four-hundred eighty  
4 (480) hours of accrued benefit time (BT) at 100%.

5 If an employee resigns without giving two weeks notice, the employee will forfeit thirty-three  
6 percent (33%) of his or her accrued BT for that calendar year. They will be paid one-hundred percent  
7 (100%) of the remaining hours up to a maximum of 480 hours.

8 If an employee leaves the Employer after working less than six (6) months, the employee will  
9 forfeit sixty percent (60%) of his or her accrued BT. He or she will then be paid 40% of their  
10 accrued BT at his or her regular rate of pay.

11 If the employee is terminated for just cause, the employee will forfeit thirty-three percent  
12 (33%) of their accrued BT for that calendar year. They will be paid one hundred percent (100%) of  
13 the remaining hours up to a maximum of 480 hours.

14 **18.7 Holidays**

15 Employees are expected to manage their use of BT to cover paid time off for holidays. If a  
16 new employee does not have accrued BT to cover a holiday because it is too close to his or her hire  
17 date, the employee's next paycheck will be short by the hours that his or her BT bank does not cover.

18 Except for salaried employees, all work performed on the following holidays shall be paid at  
19 the rate of one and one-half (1-1/2) times the employee's hourly rate of pay for all hours worked:

- 20 • New Year's Day
- 21 • Martin Luther King's Birthday
- 22 • Washington's Birthday (also known as President's Day)
- 23 • Memorial Day
- 24 • Independence Day
- 25 • Labor Day
- 26 • Veterans Day
- 27 • Thanksgiving Day
- 28 • Day after Thanksgiving Day

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- Christmas Day
- Day before or after Christmas Day (as scheduling requires for non-shift workers; shift workers will observe the day before Christmas as the holiday)

Holidays will be on the actual day of the holiday for shift crews and on the day King County observes the holiday for employees whose workdays are between Monday and Friday, inclusive. Shift employees required to work on Christmas Eve will be paid one and on-half (1-1/2) times the employee's hourly rate of pay for all hours worked.

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### **18.8 Holiday Shift Changes**

Work schedule changes during holiday workweeks shall be made at least fourteen (14) days prior to the holiday, or when a holiday work schedule is set by a business team.

The decision to modify an employee's work schedule during a holiday workweek shall be made by the employee's supervisor and business team(s) based upon the business need. Individual employees may not modify their work schedule without prior approval of their supervisor and/or business team(s).

#### **New Section 18.8.1 Holidays for Laboratory Employees**

Laboratory employees working a weekend rotating shift will observe the actual holiday. Laboratory employees working a Monday through Friday shift will follow the observed holiday schedule. Employees shall not observe a holiday more than once. For example, an employee working Monday through Friday who then works the weekend shift shall be considered to be working the weekend and therefore shall observe a Saturday holiday on the actual day (Saturday).

### **18.9 Benefit Time Scheduling**

Benefit Time requests submitted prior to April 1 of each year shall be approved in order of WTD-Wide seniority. Benefit Time requests submitted on or after April 1 each year shall be given preference in the order received.

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1 **ARTICLE 19: ATTENDANCE AWARD**

2 **19.1 Purpose**

3 As part of the Productivity Initiative, Management is committed to providing incentives  
4 which are consistent with business needs and which are within the financial constraints of the  
5 business plans. In order to accomplish this goal, an attendance award system has hereby been  
6 established. Its purpose is to reward employees who have outstanding attendance and to encourage  
7 employees to value a commitment to perfect attendance.

8 **19.2 Eligibility**

9 Regular employees with no unscheduled or unexcused absences in a consecutive twelve (12)  
10 month period will be eligible for the attendance award.

11 Part-time employees' awards shall be pro-rated. Effective the first January 1 after full  
12 ratification of this Agreement by both parties, eligibility for the attendance award shall be granted to  
13 all regular employees with no unexcused absences and no more than one unscheduled absence in a  
14 full calendar year (that is, January 1 through December 31).

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15 **19.3 Administration**

16 The program became effective January 1, 2001 and will be measured by consecutive months  
17 thereafter, twelve (12) months being the minimum. The award shall be cumulative but shall not  
18 exceed \$500.00 for a twelve (12) month period.

YEAR	MONETARY REWARD
One (1)	\$100.00
Two (2)	\$200.00
Three (3)	\$300.00
Four (4)	\$400.00
Five (5) or more	\$500.00

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1 Employee absences will be tracked in accordance with Article 18 of the collective bargaining  
2 agreement. Employees are responsible for notifying their supervisor of possible eligibility on a  
3 timely basis (no later than three months of completing eligibility period). Notification shall be in  
4 writing or by electronic mail. Supervisors shall forward the names of those eligible for the  
5 attendance award to their section manager for approval and submission to payroll.

#### 6 **19.4 Exemptions**

7 Authorized absences of 90 days or greater shall not count toward accumulation of time  
8 under Section 19.2. Absences of any duration under the Family Medical Leave Act and time off due  
9 to on-the-job injuries shall not be considered “unscheduled or unexcused absences” for purposes of  
10 this article.

**Deleted:** Absences under the Family and Medical Leave Act and time off due to on-the-job injuries are considered exempt. Employees must be approved for Family and Medical Leave under either federal law or King County ordinance.

#### 11 **19.5 Transition to Calendar Year**

12 Effective the first January 1 following full ratification of this Agreement by the parties,  
13 eligibility for the attendance award shall be based on full calendar years, rather than any “rolling”  
14 12-month periods, as provided in Section 19.2. Transition to the calendar year system shall be as  
15 follows:

16 19.5(A) Pro-rated Payment. For employees already earning some level of attendance  
17 award, a pro-rated payment of the Attendance Award shall be made as follows:

18 i. Employees with no unscheduled or unexcused absences on or after October  
19 1 (provided that most recent “rolling” 12-month period completed prior to October 1)  
20 shall be paid 25% of the attendance award level provided for in 19.5(B).

21 ii. Employees with no unscheduled or unexcused absences on or after July 1  
22 (provided that most recent “rolling” 12-month period completed prior to July 1) shall  
23 be paid 50% of the attendance award level provided for in 19.5(B).

24 iii. Employees with no unscheduled or unexcused absences on or after April 1  
25 (provided that most recent “rolling” 12-month period completed prior to April 1)  
26 shall be paid 75% of the attendance award level provided for in 19.5(B).

27 ~~iv. Employees with no unscheduled or unexcused absences on or after~~  
28 January 1 of one level up from most recent full attendance award level (provided that

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most recent "rolling" 12-month period completed on December 31 of prior year)  
shall receive 100% of the attendance award level provided for in 19.5(B).

19.5(B). Award Level. The applicable award level for employees shall increase to the next higher level upon transition to calendar years if the employee has no unscheduled or unexcused absences on or after July 1 and the employee's most recent "rolling" 12-month period completed prior to July 1 of the previous year.

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1 **ARTICLE 20: JOB PROGRESSION**

2 **20.1 Purpose And Intent**

3 The Employer and the Union agree to maintain a job progression system that will allow  
4 employees to move through the progression dependent on their contribution to the business.

5 The goal of the Job Progression Program is to provide covered employees at WTD with the  
6 opportunity for maximum career growth under a system that:

- 7 • Defines a progression path with attainable, realistic standards;
- 8 • Ensures that the same measurable criteria apply to all employees;
- 9 • Encourages employee development and career advancement;
- 10 • Increases efficiency and effectiveness in plant operation and maintenance;
- 11 • Promotes a productive, high quality work environment;
- 12 • Provides employees with maximum career growth opportunities to move through their job  
13 progression series based on demonstrated skills and knowledge within the prescribed time  
14 frames; and
- 15 • Compensates employees commensurate with the skills and knowledge that they have  
16 demonstrated through the program.

17 The Employer and the Union recognize that the job progression system is a good investment  
18 for both the employees and the County. The program will provide opportunities to employees so that  
19 they may have more control over their career growth at WTD while creating a more productive,  
20 higher quality work environment with increased efficiency and effectiveness in plant and conveyance  
21 system operations and maintenance.

22 **20.2 System Maintenance**

23 The Employer and the Union agree to maintain the Job Progression Program. The program  
24 shall be collaboratively administered by a Job Progression Oversight Committee (JPOC) composed  
25 of both labor and management representatives, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation  
26 of the program. The JPOC shall refer recommended refinement and changes which may affect  
27 contract terms, to the LMC for the review process. The JPOC is empowered to hear and resolve  
28 complaints or appeals relative to job progression. The JPOC shall make regular reports to the

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1 Labor/Management Committee and operate under their direction. Additional guidelines regarding  
2 the Job Progression Program are contained in the Job Progression Handbook and shall be considered  
3 as an Appendix to the Agreement. This handbook shall be reviewed periodically by JPOC, which  
4 may recommend any refinements and/or modifications which may affect contract terms to the LMC.

5 The wage structure for job progression in the Job Progression Handbook reflects a  
6 collaborative agreement between the Employer and the Union. The wage structure shall be modified  
7 to incorporate cost of living adjustments as described in Appendix A.

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1 **ARTICLE 21: BENEFITS**

2 **21.1 Benefit Plan Administration**

3 The administration of the employee benefit plans is the responsibility of the Employer. The  
4 Employer is committed to helping employees understand the benefits to which they are entitled  
5 eliminating red tape where possible, and ensuring efficient administration by the parties with which it  
6 contracts. The Employer may make administrative changes that are necessary or desirable and will  
7 notify the Union of administrative changes as they occur.

8 The Employer shall maintain the current level of benefits under its medical, dental, vision and  
9 life insurance programs during the life of this Agreement, except that:

10 A. There is an established County-wide Labor/Management Insurance Committee  
11 (JLMIC) comprised of an equal number of representatives from the Employer and the King County  
12 Labor Coalition whose function is to review, study, and make recommendations relative to existing  
13 medical, dental, and life insurance programs.

14 B. The Union and the Employer agree to incorporate changes to employee insurance  
15 benefits which the County may implement as a result of the agreement of the JLMIC.

16 **21.2 Eligibility**

17 Full-time regular, part-time regular, provisional, probationary, and term limited temporary  
18 employees, their spouses, domestic partners, dependent children, and dependent children of an  
19 employee's spouse or domestic partner are eligible for medical, dental, life, and disability insurance,  
20 and vision benefits.

21 Regular full-time employees and their dependents and regular part-time employees who are  
22 scheduled to work an average of twenty (20) hours per week in a biweekly pay period are eligible for  
23 benefit coverage upon the first (1st) of the month following date of hire.

24 Temporary full-time employees and their dependents, and temporary part-time employees  
25 who are scheduled to work an average of twenty (20) hours or more per week in a biweekly pay  
26 period, and who are hired to fill positions intended to last one hundred eighty (180) days or longer,  
27 shall be eligible for benefit coverage effective the first day of the month following date of hire.

28 Temporary full-time employees and temporary part-time employees who are hired to fill

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1 positions intended to last less than one hundred eighty (180) continuous days are not eligible to  
2 receive benefits. However, in the event an employee's appointment is extended beyond one hundred  
3 eighty (180) continuous days, the employee shall be eligible to receive benefit coverage effective  
4 upon the first of the month following one hundred eighty (180) continuous days of service.

5 **21.3 Retirement**

6 Bargaining unit employees are currently covered by either the Public Employees Retirement  
7 System or by the City of Seattle Retirement System. All terms, conditions, and benefits shall be  
8 pursuant to the laws, ordinances, and rules and regulations governing these retirement systems.

9 **21.4 Workers' Compensation**

10 A. The Employer will maintain workers' compensation procedures and payments  
11 consistent with all state laws, administrative rules, and guidelines promulgated by the state legislature  
12 and Department of Labor and Industries.

13 B. In addition to the compensation benefits accruing to employees under state  
14 industrial insurance laws, or in addition to the compensation earned for alternative work, an  
15 employee may use his/her accrued Benefit Time to supplement the workers' compensation payment.  
16 An employee will not receive compensation in excess of what he/she would normally receive in net  
17 take-home pay. Any overpayment must be returned to the Employer. Net take-home pay will be  
18 calculated based on the employee's hourly wage at the time of injury times eighty (80) hours minus  
19 mandatory deductions.

20 C. Employees who become injured while at work shall be paid at their regular rate of  
21 pay for the remaining portion of the shift that they are unable to complete.

22 D. Employees who miss work due to on-the-job injuries will continue to accrue  
23 Benefit Time on straight-time hours of work lost, for a maximum of sixty (60) workdays missed  
24 during each calendar year.

25 E. While on workers' compensation, the employee must do the following:

- 26 1. Notify the Employer's Workers' Compensation Office if unavailable for  
27 more than ~~twenty-four (24) hours during a regular workweek, from Monday through Friday.~~  
28 2. Inform the Employer's Workers' Compensation Office, in writing, of other

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1 employment or compensation received while being paid workers' compensation.

2                   3. Respond or be available for medical treatment, medical examination,  
3 vocational rehabilitation, consultation, or services. If records indicate two (2) "no shows" for  
4 scheduled medical or vocational services, the Employer may request suspension of benefits.

5                   4. Accept alternative work when authorized by the employee's physician as  
6 being able to do so.

7                   5. Maintain eligibility for workers' compensation under state regulations.

8                   6. Attend all meetings and independent medical examinations scheduled by  
9 the workers' compensation staff or the employee's division concerning the employee's status or  
10 claim when properly notified at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of such meeting or  
11 examination unless other medical treatment is scheduled on the same date which conflicts with the  
12 Employer's scheduling.

13                   F. Employees will be provided a copy of the rules in this section when they file a  
14 claim for workers' compensation.

15                   **21.5 Sick Child Care Benefit Program**

16                   The Employer agrees to provide employees with a sick child care service for eligible  
17 dependent children. The service is provided at no cost to employees. The terms of the service are  
18 specified under the Employer's contract with Virginia Mason Medical Center's Tender Loving Care  
19 (TLC) Program.

20                   **21.6 'Home Free' Guarantee**

21                   The Employer will operate a program to provide employees with a free ride home, by taxi, if  
22 on a given day the employee has commuted to work by bus, carpool, vanpool, bike or walking on the  
23 day of the trip and has an emergency that day which requires the employee to leave work at other  
24 than the employee's regularly schedule quit time. Determination of what constitutes a qualified  
25 emergency will be made at each worksite by the employee designated by the Employer. Employees  
26 can exercise their 'home free' guarantee a maximum of eight (8) times per calendar year.

27                   **21.7 Executive Leave**

28                   FLSA exempt employees with satisfactory performance evaluations for the preceding

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1 calendar year who are covered by this Agreement shall receive three days of executive leave per  
2 calendar year. Executive Leave up to seven additional days per year, as provided in Executive Policy  
3 8-1-1, may be granted at the discretion of the Employer.

4 **21.8 Training**

5 WTD is committed to supporting the career development of its employees. To that end, WTD  
6 has developed a policy which provides opportunities for employees to receive compensation and/or  
7 reimbursement for job- and career-related training. The Employer reserves the exclusive right to  
8 develop and administer the WTD training policy in accordance with business needs and available  
9 training resources (consistent with the terms of this Agreement). However, prior to making any  
10 changes in the WTD training policies, the Employer will consult with the Union at the parties' Labor  
11 Management Committee meetings to discuss with, and receive input from, the Union on such  
12 changes.

13 **21.9 Meal Reimbursement**

14 1. Regularly Scheduled Workday. Employees shall be eligible to receive a meal expense  
15 reimbursement under the following conditions:  
16 a. the employee is required to work two or more hours beyond the number of hours  
17 the employee is regularly scheduled to work in a day; and  
18 b. the employee works at least ten consecutive hours; and  
19 c. the employee is not notified of the requirement to work the extra hours prior to the  
20 calendar day the extra hours are worked.  
21 2. Regular Day Off. Anytime an employee is called in (unscheduled) on a regular day off  
22 and works more than ten consecutive hours, the employee shall be entitled to a meal reimbursement  
23 (except when that employee is called in to work a rotating shift).

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1 **ARTICLE 22: LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITH AND WITHOUT PAY**

2 **22.1 Leaves of Absence With Pay**

3 **A. Bereavement Leave.** Employees eligible for leave benefits shall be entitled to up  
4 to three working days of bereavement leave for each occurrence of death of members of their  
5 immediate family (as defined below) or another close relationship that may be justified in writing to,  
6 and approved by, the plant manager (using WTD forms). Bereavement leave shall be taken in full  
7 day increments. The maximum total number of bereavement days an employee may take in a single  
8 calendar year is six. Employees who have exhausted their bereavement leave (that is, exhausted  
9 either the 3-day single occurrence amount or the 6-day yearly amount) shall be entitled to use up to  
10 three days of accumulated leave for each instance of death as prescribed herein. In cases of family  
11 death where no accumulated leave is authorized or exists, an employee may be granted leave without  
12 pay. Holidays or regular days off falling within the prescribed period of absence shall not be charged  
13 against the bereavement leave allowance. "Immediate Family" means the spouse, child, parent, son-  
14 in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, domestic partner, and the child, parent,  
15 sibling, grandparent or grandchild of the spouse or domestic partner.

**Deleted:** In the event of death of a close relative or person with whom the employee had a close relationship, an employee will be granted two (2) days off with pay to attend the funeral. An additional day off will be granted when total travel to attend the funeral is two hundred (200) miles or more. In addition, an employee may use benefit time with approval of the employee's supervisor.

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17 **B. Jury Duty/Subpoena.** An employee called for jury duty or subpoenaed may be  
18 allowed the necessary leave with pay not to exceed forty (40) hours per week. The employee should  
19 notify his/her supervisor immediately upon receiving notification of jury duty or subpoena. As the  
20 employee will be paid by the Employer, compensation received from a jury function shall be  
21 submitted to the Employer. Any payment for travel expenses will be reimbursed to the employee.  
22 The employee shall make every effort to report to work in case of early excusal. This section does  
23 not apply when the employee is a plaintiff or defendant.

24 **C. Military Duty/Training Leave.** An employee who is a member of the  
25 Washington National Guard or any organized reserve of the Armed Forces of the United States, and  
26 is ordered to be on active training duty, shall be allowed military leave in accordance with federal  
27 law. The employee must present orders for active or inactive training duty to his/her supervisor prior  
28 to taking leave. The employee may receive military leave for weekend reservist duty.

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1           **22.2 Leaves of Absence Without Pay**

2           Employees may request a leave of absence without pay by presenting a written request to  
3 their immediate supervisor along with any supporting documentation. The decision to grant a leave  
4 of absence without pay shall be at the discretion of the Employer, except that the Employer shall  
5 grant leaves of absence without pay for the following reasons and lengths of time.

Type of Leave	Time
Family leave Maternity, paternity, adoption	Six (6) months
Medical leave	As certified by a physician
Military leave Active duty	Five (5) years unless otherwise required by law
Union business (as an officer or employee of the Union)	As required

10           **22.3 Return from Leave of Absence**

11           Employees wanting to return from a medical leave of absence, or who need to extend the  
12 leave of absence beyond the original return date, may be required to be examined by a physician of  
13 the Employer’s choice at the Employer’s cost to determine the employee’s right to either a continuing  
14 leave or return to work status. Disputes concerning an employee’s own medical leave are subject to  
15 the special medical arbitration process agreed upon by the Employer and the Union, as shown in  
16 Article 14.

17           Employees will be re-employed in their former classification at the end of the leave, provided  
18 the employee is able to perform the work. Seniority and Benefit Time accrual rates based upon  
19 seniority established at the time of departure on leave of absence shall be restored when the employee  
20 returns to work. No seniority or benefits will accrue while on a leave of absence without pay in  
21 excess of thirty (30) calendar days except as provided in this Agreement. In the case of Union  
22 business, employees granted leave will continue to earn seniority.

23           **22.4 King County Family Medical Leave**

24           Bargaining unit members shall be granted benefits consistent with all provisions of King  
25 County’s Family and Medical Leave Act (KCFML) Ordinance, No. 13377. This includes but is not  
26 limited to eligibility requirements, terms, conditions and restrictions. The parties agree to re-open  
27 negotiations over KCFML if terms are negotiated and agreed to in coalition bargaining which differ  
28 from what the ordinance provides.

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1 **ARTICLE 23: SAFETY STANDARDS**

2           The Employer and its employees value a safe working environment and recognize their  
3 mutual obligation to maintain safety standards. The Employer shall adopt and enforce a program in  
4 accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations that encourages the safety  
5 committees to establish programs that meet the Employer and the employee safety needs and that  
6 clearly delineates safety equipment needs, thereby setting the standard for all employees to perform  
7 their duties in a safe and competent manner.

8           The Employer shall supply and maintain safety-related items and equipment in accordance  
9 with established practice and special conditions.

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1 **ARTICLE 24: SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

2 **24.1 License and Tuition Reimbursement**

3 Employees required to have special licenses and/or required to attend seminars/outside  
4 courses of study that relate to business needs and are approved in advance will be reimbursed.

6 **24.2 Professional Licenses and Certifications**

7 Employees in the classifications and possessing the licenses listed below shall receive a \$50-  
8 per-month premium for each such license/certification as follows:

- 9 a. Boiler license for all Operators ~~working~~ regularly assigned to the rotating shift at  
10 West Point;
- 11 b. Commercial Drivers License (with tanker and hazardous material endorsements)  
12 (minimum of 6 premiums paid per plant);
- 13 c. Collections certificate for all operations and maintenance staff regularly assigned  
14 to an off-site team (minimum of 8 premiums paid per plant);
- 15 d. Mobile crane operator (minimum of 4 per plant); or
- 16 e. Group IV Operator license (minimum of 8 per plant).

17 The number of employees eligible for a premium under this section will be limited by management  
18 according to business needs (subject to the minimums stated above). Management will identify the  
19 maximum number of employees eligible by classification and/or Business Team in a list provided to  
20 the union on an annual basis.

21 **24.3 Shoe Allowance**

22 An employee who is required to wear safety shoes as a regular part of his/her duties will be  
23 provided safety shoes through a voucher process with a yearly limit of \$120.

24 **24.4 Job Descriptions**

25 A joint task force of the Employer and Union shall review, change, and/or develop new job  
26 descriptions as necessary for the classifications listed in Appendix A of this Agreement.

27 **24.5 Vehicle Usage Reimbursement**

28 Employees who use their own vehicles on the Employer's business shall be reimbursed at the

**Deleted: 24.2 Boiler License¶**

. Operators and Senior Operators who are regularly assigned to rotating shift at West Point are required to obtain and maintain a Steam Engineer License – Grade III and shall be paid \$25.00 per month for such license.¶

. Operators and Sr. Operators at West Point are required to obtain and maintain a Steam Engineer License – Grade III within one (1) year after being regularly assigned to rotating shift.¶

. Operators and Sr. Operators at West Point who are temporarily assigned to rotating shift will be required to satisfy the licensing requirement within twelve (12) months following the completion of the first six (6) months in their temporary assignment.¶

. Operators and Sr. Operators at West Point who possess a Steam Engineer License – Grade III who are temporarily assigned to a rotating shift for thirty (30) days or more will be paid the \$25.00 monthly license premium while on rotating shift.¶

. Other employees (at any work location) who are required by management to possess a Steam Engineer License – Grade III or Grade IV will be paid \$25.00 license premium during the period they are required to possess the license.¶

. In the event a specific number of employees, other than rotating shift operators/seniors at West Point, is required to obtain/maintain a Steam Engines License, management will solicit volunteers. In the event an insufficient number of employees volunteer, management will assign based on management discretion. If there are too many volunteers, the assignment will be made based on classification family seniority.

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1 Internal Revenue Service rate currently in effect.

2 **24.6 Personnel Files**

3 The employee or his/her representative (if the employee so authorizes in writing) may  
4 examine the employee’s personnel files, including the division personnel file and the permanent  
5 personnel file by contacting WTD Human Resources staff. Only appropriate information shall be  
6 maintained in an employee’s personnel file.

7 Employees may request that a document be removed from their personnel file in accordance  
8 with division established procedures and applicable policy.

9 **24.7 Performance Evaluation/Development Review**

10 The Employer shall maintain a system of employee performance evaluations/development  
11 reviews designed to give a fair evaluation of the work performed by the employee and to guide the  
12 professional development of the employee to meet business and individual needs.

13 The Employer and the Union shall jointly develop the performance evaluation/development  
14 system to be used. The Employer will provide training on the appropriate use of the performance  
15 evaluation/development review process.

16 Employee’s performance shall be evaluated once per year. A copy of the final evaluation will  
17 be provided to the employee, and a copy will be placed in the employee’s permanent personnel file.  
18 The employee will be given an opportunity within thirty (30) days of the evaluation to attach  
19 comments to the evaluation in the personnel file.

20 An employee may appeal the evaluation to the Section Manager if he/she disagrees with the  
21 ratings.

22 **24.8 Legal Counsel**

23 Whenever an employee is named as a defendant in a civil action arising out of the  
24 performance of the employee’s duties and is acting within the scope of employment, the Employer  
25 shall, at the written request of the employee, furnish counsel (or solely at the Employer’s discretion,  
26 reimburse the employee the cost of their private counsel) to represent the employee to a final  
27 determination of the action, without cost to the employee.

28 **24.9 Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy**

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1 The parties have agreed to implement the “Policy for King County Prohibited Drug Use and  
2 Alcohol Misuse Education and Testing Program” (hereinafter, “Drug and Alcohol Policy”) with the  
3 following modifications or additions:

4 A. All bargaining unit employees subject to this policy will be included in a single  
5 random testing pool of County employees.

6 B. The Union will be provided with a copy of the form(s) prepared indicating the  
7 grounds for requiring an employee to submit to a reasonable suspicion test within 24 hours of testing  
8 or as soon as possible thereafter.

9 C. When available, a second supervisor will observe a reasonable suspicion test and  
10 complete related forms in accordance with the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

11 **24.10 Job Shadow**

12 Employees may be permitted to “Job Shadow” on a voluntary basis. Job Shadowing shall be  
13 conducted during off duty time and without compensation. The off-duty employee shall be permitted  
14 to observe only and may not perform work of any kind. Job shadowing must be approved in advance  
15 by the Supervisor of the affected area. Such approval shall be in writing with copies forwarded to  
16 WTD-HR, and the Union.

17 Injuries sustained during a job shadow activity are not subject to worker’s compensation.

18 Job shadow participants will be required to observe all safety rules and wear appropriate  
19 personal protective clothing/equipment.

20 In the event that emergency circumstances arise while an off duty employee is engaged in a  
21 job shadow activity and the assistance of the off-duty employee is required, the employee will be  
22 paid at his/her regular or overtime rate, whichever is applicable.

23 **24.11 Vashon Island**

24 Residence on Vashon Island may be required, as a condition of employment, for positions  
25 located at the Vashon Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. Employees who transfer to the Vashon  
26 Island Treatment Facility will be given a reasonable amount of time to establish residency on Vashon  
27 Island, if it is required. -----

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1 **ARTICLE 25: SAVINGS CLAUSE**

2           Should any section of this Agreement or any addenda thereto be held invalid by operation of  
3 law or by any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or should compliance with or enforcement of any  
4 provision be restrained by such tribunal, the remainder of this Agreement and addenda shall not be  
5 affected thereby. In the event the Employer and the Union are unable to mutually agree upon  
6 language to replace that held invalid by law or tribunal, the parties agree to resolve their  
7 disagreement through the mediation and arbitration steps of the Conflict Resolution Procedure (12.6).

8           It is intended that this Agreement and the Employer’s established personnel policies, rules,  
9 and regulations be complementary. Wherever the personnel policies, rules, and regulations are not in  
10 conflict with this Agreement, their provisions shall be applicable to employees in the bargaining unit.  
11 Wherever a conflict may arise between said personnel policies, rules, and regulations, and this  
12 Agreement, the provisions of the Agreement shall control.

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1 **ARTICLE 26: CONTRACTING OUT**

2           The Employer shall not contract out work performed and consistent with work performed by  
3 members of the bargaining unit if the contracting of such work eliminates, reduces, or limits the  
4 normal work load of the bargaining unit.

5           In the case of a circumstance that is beyond the control of the Employer at the time action is  
6 required, that could not reasonably have been foreseen, and for projects which the Employer is not  
7 reasonably able to provide the necessary tools, employees, or equipment to perform the work in a  
8 timely and cost effective manner, the Employer shall be allowed to enter into temporary contract  
9 arrangements for these purposes only. The Employer shall notify a work site leader and/or the  
10 Local 925 business representative in advance and discuss the impact of and possible alternatives to  
11 these arrangements, if any, on the bargaining unit.

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1 **ARTICLE 27: TERM OF AGREEMENT**

2 This Agreement shall become effective, upon full ratification by the parties (except where  
3 otherwise provided for in this Agreement) and shall remain in effect through October 31, 2009.

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5 APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

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10 King County Executive

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18 SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 925

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1 APPENDIX A

2 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS AND WAGES

3  
4 There will be three cost of living adjustments payable as follows:

5 January 1, 2007

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6 January 1, 2008

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7 January 1, 2009

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8 A. 2007 Wage Increase

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9 Effective January 1, 2007, the base rates of pay in effect on December 31, 2006 shall be

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10 increased by ninety percent (90%) of the percentage increase in the United States City Average

11 Consumer Price Index which occurs during the twelve (12) month period from September 2005 to

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12 September 2006, provided, however, such percentage increase shall not be less than two percent

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13 (2%), nor shall it exceed six percent (6%). The Index used shall be the Consumer Price Index for the

14 Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

15 U.S. Department of Labor.

16 Also effective January 1, 2007, the permanent adjustment made in accordance with Article

17 8.4 of the contract shall be increased by 90% (ninety percent) of the percentage increase in the United

18 States City Average Consumer Price Index which occurs during the twelve (12) month period from

19 September 2005 to September 2006. The Index used shall be the Consumer Price Index for the

20 Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

21 U.S. Department of Labor.

Deleted: In accordance with Article 8.4 of the contract, a permanent adjustment of \$0.03 per hour shall be added on top of each employee's base hourly pay rate on November 1, 2003 for a total adjustment of \$1.46 (\$0.03 plus \$1.43). This adjustment shall not be subject to COLA until January 1, 2004, at which time it shall be increased by ninety percent (90%) of the percentage increase in the United States City Average Consumer Price Index which occurs during the twelve (12) month period from September 2002 to September 2003, provided, however, such percentage increase shall not be less than two percent (2%), nor shall it exceed six percent (6%).

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23 B. 2008 Wage Increase

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24 Effective January 1, 2008, the rates of pay in effect on December 31, 2007 shall be increased

25 by ninety percent (90%) of the percentage increase in the United States City Average Consumer Price

26 Index which occurs during the twelve (12) month period from September 2006 to September 2007,

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27 provided, however, such percentage increase shall not be less than two percent (2%), nor shall it

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28 exceed six percent (6%). The Index used shall be the Consumer Price Index for the Urban Wage

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Class Code	MSA Code	Peoplesoft Code	Classification Title	Pay Range (on Square Table)	Steps on Square Table
7540700	8762	954000	Helper (Seasonal)	30*	2-4-6-8-10
9101000	8742	912001	Assistant Custodian	26	2-4-6-8-10
9101100	8665	912103	Custodian	37	2-4-6-8-10
9101101			Custodian-2nd Shift	37	\$1.00 Shift Differential
7540600	8750	756601	Wastewater Treatment Utility Worker	37**	2-4-6-8-10
TBD			Wastewater Treatment Utility Worker II	41**	8-10
9200100	8669	921101	Gardener	43	2-4-6-8-10
9200200	8670	921201	Senior Gardener	48	8-10
8106100	8084	812104	Industrial Painter	51	2-4-6-8-10
2211100	8172	221503	Inventory Purchasing Specialist I	42	1-2-4-6-8-10
2211200	8173	221606	Inventory Purchasing Specialist II	46	2-4-6-8-10
2211300	8174	221705	Inventory Purchasing Specialist III	49	10
4210100	8940	421309	Wastewater Support Specialist	43	1-2-4-6-8-10
8424100	8640	844201	Industrial Lubrication Systems Specialist	51	2-4-6-8-10
8423100	8639	844101	Industrial Engine Mechanic	55	2-4-6-8-10
8421100	8636	842401	Industrial Machinist	55	2-4-6-8-10
8420100	8633	842101	Industrial Maintenance Worker	42	6-8-10
8420200	8634	842201	Industrial Maintenance Mechanic	51	4-6-8-10
8420300	8635	842301	Industrial Maintenance Mechanic - Master	55	8-10
8421200	8637	842501	Industrial Machinist/Mechanic - Lead	59	10
8301100	8618	831101	Industrial Instrument Technician	57	8-10
8203100	8610	822201	Industrial Maintenance Electrician	57	8-10
8301200	8619	831201	Industrial Instrument/Electrical Technician Lead	61	10
7540100	8585	756101	Wastewater Treatment Operator-in-Training	38	6-8-10
7540200	8586	756202	Wastewater Treatment Operator	51	1-2-4-6-8-10
7540300	8587	753602	Wastewater Treatment Senior Operator	55	8-10
7540400	8588	756402	Wastewater Treatment Senior Operator in Charge	60	9
7540101			Wastewater Treatment Rotating Operator-in-Training	38	\$1.00 Shift Differential

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Class Code	MSA Code	Peoplesoft Code	Classification Title	Pay Range (on Square Table)	Steps on Square Table
7540201			Wastewater Treatment Operator-Rotating	51	\$1.00 Shift Differential
7540301			Wastewater Treatment Senior Operator-Rotating	55	\$1.00 Shift Differential
7532100	8572	754301	Process Laboratory Specialist I	48	2-4-6-8-10
7532200	8573	754401	Process Laboratory Specialist II	52	2-4-6-8-10
7532300	8574	754501	Process Laboratory Specialist III	56	2-4-6-8-10
7120100	8520	713101	Wastewater Process Analyst I	54	2-4-6-8-10
7120200	8521	713201	Wastewater Process Analyst II	59	2-4-6-8-10
7120300	8522	713301	Wastewater Process Analyst III	64	2-4-6-8-10
7130100	8081	711204	Wastewater Process Engineer I	57	2-4-6-8-10
7130200	8082	711303	Wastewater Process Engineer II	66	2-4-6-8-10
7130300	8083	711404	Wastewater Process Engineer III	70	2-4-6-8-10
2334100	8223	234102	Safety and Health Administrator I	43	2-4-6-8-10
2334200	8224	234201	Safety and Health Administrator II	48	2-4-6-8-10
2334300	8225	234301	Safety and Health Administrator III	54	2-4-6-8-10
2334400	8226	234405	Safety and Health Administrator IV	63	2-4-6-8-10
<p>Note: Rates are to be adjusted in accordance with Article 8.4 of the CBA <a href="#">for employees in the bargaining unit upon ratification of the agreement.</a></p> <p>* <a href="#">Helper employees in the Supported Employment Program will be paid ninety-five percent (95%) of the appropriate step of Range 30.</a></p> <p>** <a href="#">Changes to Wastewater Utility Worker classification wages and series will take effect upon the completion of the development of the Utility Worker job progression protocols.</a></p>					

**Appendix B Operator-In-Training Job Progression Standards**

[The Operator-In-Training classification specification will be modified to include a limited time a person may occupy the classification. Job Progression is mandatory for the Operator-In-Training classification. OIT's who fail to progress through Gate I into the Operator Classification within two years shall be eligible to fill an open bargaining unit position at the same or lower pay range for which they qualify or shall be terminated.](#)

**Deleted: E. Classification Review and Wage Re-openers¶**

During the term of this Agreement, the parties shall agree to review the following classifications: Safety & Health Administrator IV, Gardener, Senior Gardener, Custodian, and Inventory Purchasing Specialist. This review shall be as set forth below. The parties understand and agree that prior to finalizing classification review set forth below any preliminary findings will be reviewed by the Joint Task Force convened under Article 24.4, and acknowledge nothing herein negates the parties' bargaining obligations.¶

**1. Safety & Health Administrator IV.** By December 31, 2004, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) shall submit to the County's Human Resources Division (HRD) a completed and reviewed position description questionnaire (PDQ) for the WTD Safety & Health Administrator IV position. HRD staff will review the PDQ to determine the appropriate classification for that position; such review shall be done in conjunction and consultation with a working committee of the Union and WTD management and shall include an analysis of whether the work performed is more accurately classified in another, existing County job classification, whether creation of a new classification is appropriate or if the work is appropriately described by the existing job classification. On or about June 1, 2005, the parties will meet to review the status of that classification review, with the goal of commencing a joint salary study to determine the classification's appropriate salary range. The parties' intent is to have the salary review completed no later than six (6) months prior to the expiration of this Agreement and to reach agreement on an appropriate wage rate to be effective during a successor Agreement's term.¶

**2. Gardener Classification Family Series and Custodian Classifications.** By December 31, 2004, WTD shall submit to HRD completed and reviewed modified PDQs (e.g., "speedy PDQ") for positions in the following job classifications: WTD Gardener Classification Family and Custodian. HRD staff will review the information provided to determine the appropriate classifications for the positions within each series or classification; such review shall be done in conjunction and consultation with a working committee of the Union and WTD management and shall include an analysis of whether the work performed is more accurately classified in another, existing County job classification, whether creation of a new classification is appropriate or if th... [1]

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It is understood by the parties that this provision shall not serve as setting a precedent for other classifications in the bargaining unit.

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## **E. Classification Review and Wage Re-openers**

During the term of this Agreement, the parties shall agree to review the following classifications: Safety & Health Administrator IV, Gardener, Senior Gardener, Custodian, and Inventory Purchasing Specialist. This review shall be as set forth below. The parties understand and agree that prior to finalizing classification review set forth below any preliminary findings will be reviewed by the Joint Task Force convened under Article 24.4, and acknowledge nothing herein negates the parties' bargaining obligations.

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classified in another, existing County job classification, whether creation of a new classification is appropriate or if the work is appropriately described by the existing job classification. On or about June 1, 2005, the parties will meet to review the status of the classification review, with the goal of commencing a joint salary study to determine the classifications' appropriate salary ranges. The parties' intent is to have the salary review completed no later than six (6) months prior to the expiration of this Agreement and to reach agreement on an appropriate wage rate to be effective during a successor Agreement's term.

**3. Inventory Purchasing Specialist.** By December 31, 2004, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) shall submit to the County's Human Resources Division (HRD) a completed and reviewed position description questionnaire (PDQ) for the positions in the WTD Inventory Purchasing Specialist classification series, which may include analysis by WTD of the feasibility of expanding the body of work assigned to positions' incumbents. HRD staff will review the PDQ to determine the appropriate classifications for those positions; such review shall be done in conjunction and consultation with a working committee of the Union and WTD management and shall include an analysis of whether the work performed is more accurately classified in another, existing County job classification series, whether creation of a new classification series is appropriate or if the work is appropriately described by the existing job classification series. On or about June 1, 2005, the parties will meet to review the status of that classification review, with the goal of commencing a joint salary study to determine the classification's appropriate salary range. The parties' intent is to have the salary review completed no later than six (6) months prior to the expiration of this Agreement and to reach agreement on an appropriate wage rate to be effective during a successor Agreement's term. The review shall also include an analysis of whether job progression should exist between each of the levels of the classification series.

**4. Facilities Maintenance Constructor.** The parties agree that upon reallocation of the existing Facilities Maintenance Constructor position to an Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, the current incumbent shall be grandfathered at his current step in the new salary range. Such grandfathering above the gate requirements will be non-precedent setting and may not be used as the basis for any future grievance. Once the position is vacated and management determines to fill the position opening, the

parties will review and determine the job progression requirements of the position.

**5. Wastewater Treatment Utility Worker.** The parties agree to review the feasibility of creating a gate within the existing Wastewater Treatment Utility Worker job classification. In addition, the parties will review the need for and feasibility of creating a Wastewater Treatment Utility Worker II level. The parties will meet no later than June 1, 2005 to begin this review.