

KOMO News

High court upholds handling of Brightwater sewer plant

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OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) - Washington's Supreme Court has rejected several challenges to the way King and Snohomish counties have handled the nearly \$2 billion Brightwater sewage treatment plant.

King County built the plant in south Snohomish County, and it opened two years ago. To offset the effects of the project, King County agreed to pay \$70 million for recreational facilities, a community resource center, and habitat and public safety improvements.

Two local sewer districts, the Cedar River and Soos Creek districts, sued the counties over a number of concerns. Among other things, they said the \$70 million was excessive. They also said the money should have come from the county's general fund. Instead, it was paid from a wastewater account and increased costs to their ratepayers.

They also criticized \$2 million payments designed to help a displaced Woodinville soup company retain jobs.

The high court unanimously rejected the challenges in a decision Thursday.