

August 11, 2021

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE
METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources and Parks file no. **E21CT003**
Proposed ordinance no. **2021-0242**
Parcel nos. **1823039165 and 1823039177**

MICHAEL LAURIE AND DIANE EMERSON

Open Space Taxation Application (Public Benefit Rating System)

Location: West and abutting 10670 SW Cedarhurst Road, Vashon

Applicants: **Michael Laurie and Diane Emerson**
PO Box 2315
Vashon, WA 98070
Telephone: (206) 406-7153
Email: dianeemerson@yahoo.com; mlaurie@mindspring.com

King County: Department of Natural Resources and Parks
represented by **Bill Bernstein**
201 S. Jackson Street
Suite 5600
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: (206) 477-4643

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department's Recommendation: Approve 17.81 acres for 10% of assessed value;
Conditionally approve additional points, but with no change
to acreage or assessed value

Examiner's Recommendation: Approve 17.81 acres for 10% of assessed value;
Conditionally approve additional points, but with no change to
acreage or assessed value

PRELIMINARY REPORT:

On July 16, 2021, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) submitted its report on file no. E21CT003 to the Examiner.

PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the preliminary report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a Zoom public hearing on the application on July 29, 2021.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner's Office.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. General Information:

Owners:	Michael Laurie and Diane Emerson PO Box 2315 Vashon, WA 98070
Location:	West and abutting 10670 SW Cedarhurst Road, Vashon
STR:	SW-18-23-03
Zoning:	RA-2.5
Parcel nos.:	1823039165 and 1823039177
Total acreage:	17.95 acres

- The Applicant timely filed an application to King County for the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS) program current use valuation of the property to begin in 2022. As required by law, notification of the application occurred.
- The property is currently enrolled in the timberland program. The new open space taxation agreement must supersede the existing agreement.
- A summary of relevant PBRS categories follows below. (Plain text represents a category an applicant requested an award for and that DNRP agrees is warranted. Any ~~strike through~~ represents a category an applicant requested an award for but that DNRP disagrees is warranted. Any *italics* represents a category an applicant did not request an award for, but that DNRP nonetheless concludes is warranted. And any *asterisk* represents a category where DNRP finds an award is warranted, but only if certain contingencies or conditions are met.)

PBRS categories:	<u>Open Space Resources</u>	
	Aquifer protection area	5
	Buffer to public or current use classified land	3
	<i>*Forest stewardship land</i>	*
	Rural open space	5
	Scenic resource viewpoint, or view corridor	5
	Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat	5
	Surface water quality buffer	5
	Watershed protection area	5
	<u>Bonus Categories</u>	
	Additional surface water quality buffer	36

The DNRP-recommended score of 36 points results in a current use valuation of 10% of assessed value for the enrolled portion of the property.

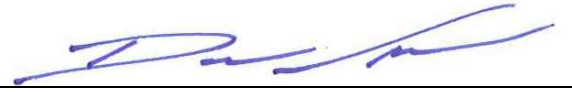
5. Additional credit may be awarded administratively under the forest stewardship land category, subject to submittal of a forest stewardship plan by **August 1, 2022**, and DNRP approval on that plan by **October 1, 2022**. Award of credit under this category will increase the point total by 5 points, with no change to the current use valuation (given that the applicants are already at the maximum reduction).
6. As to the land area recommended for PBRS enrollment, the Applicant requested a total of 17.95 acres and DNRP recommends total of 17.81 acres. (Enrollment acreage is the entire parcel less the excluded area, as calculated by DNRP. In the event the County Assessor's official parcel size is revised, the PBRS acreage shall be administratively adjusted to reflect that change.)
7. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in DNRP's preliminary report and testimony at the July 29, 2021, public hearing are correct and incorporated herein by reference. Copies of this report and DNRP's report will be provided to the Metropolitan King County Council for final approval.
8. Approval of 36 points and a current use valuation of 10% of assessed value for 17.81 acres, and conditional approval of 5 additional points (with no change in acreage or assessed value) are consistent with KCC Chapter 20.36 and with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve, and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. APPROVE a current use valuation of 10% of assessed value for the 17.81-acre enrolled portion of the property.
2. CONDITIONALLY APPROVE additional credit for the forest stewardship land category, subject to submittal of a forest stewardship plan by **August 1, 2022**, and

DNRP approval on that plan by **October 1, 2022**. Award of credit under this category will increase the point total by 5 points, but will not change the acreage or assessed value.

DATED August 11, 2021.



David Spohr
Hearing Examiner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

A person appeals an Examiner recommendation by following the steps described in KCC 20.22.230, including filing with the Clerk of the Council a sufficient appeal statement and a \$250 appeal fee (check payable to the King County FBOD). Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal. KCC 20.22.230 also requires that the appellant provide copies of the appeal statement to the Examiner and to any named parties listed on the front page of the Examiner’s recommendation.

Prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on *September 6, 2021*, an electronic copy of the appeal statement must be sent to Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov and a paper copy of the appeal statement must be delivered to the Clerk of the Council's Office, Room 1200, King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. If the Office of the Clerk is not officially open on the specified closing date, delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

Unless both a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *September 6, 2021*, the Clerk of the Council shall place on the agenda of the next available Council meeting a proposed ordinance implementing the Examiner’s recommended action. At that meeting the Council may adopt the Examiner’s recommendation, defer action, refer the matter to a Council committee, or remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

If a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *September 6, 2021*, the Examiner will notify all parties and interested persons and provide information about “next steps.”

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 29, 2021, HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF
MICHAEL LAURIE AND DIANE EMERSON, FILE NO. E21CT003**

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Bill Bernstein, Michael Laurie, and Diane Emerson participated in the hearing.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the hearing record:

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| Exhibit no. 1 | DNRP report to the Hearing Examiner |
| Exhibit no. 2 | <i>Reserved for future submission of the affidavit of hearing publication</i> |
| Exhibit no. 3 | Legal notice and introductory ordinance to the King County Council |
| Exhibit no. 4 | Arcview/orthophotograph and aerial map |
| Exhibit no. 5 | Application signed and notarized |

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