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August 9, 2017

The Honorable Dow Constantine
 Executive, King County
 King County Chinook Building
 401 5th Ave., Suite 800
 Seattle, WA 98104

Joe McDermott, Chair
 Metropolitan King County Council
 Room 1200, Courthouse
 516 3rd Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Constantine and Chair McDermott:

Please find attached KCD's *2016 Annual Report* and *2018 Proposed Annual Program of Work and Rates and Charges Budget*. Our Annual Report documents the progress made during our second year of a five-year Implementation Plan under our Inter-Local Agreement with King County. The *2017 Program of Work* outlines Year Four. The focus of KCD's programs is to build a regional, sustainable and equitable food system, improve the health of our forests, neighborhood tree canopies, and shorelines, and ensure clean water for all.

The *2018 Program of Work and Rates and Charges Budget* contain the same priority focus areas as in the 2016 and 2017 Programs, with roughly the same budget levels. The priority focus areas were identified through the 2013 KCD/KC Task Force process. They were further refined by the KCD Advisory Committee prior to approval by the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors and the King County Council last year.

Working hand in hand with King County, the KCD Advisory Committee and other partners, KCD made significant progress in its new programs and services in 2016, including:

- In **Regional Food**, KCD invested over \$150,000 in Strategic Initiatives for rural farmers and awarded over \$663,000 in regional food grants in the 2016 cycle. 2016 Strategic Initiative projects included partnering with King County to develop metrics for benchmarking progress in the agricultural and regional food economy and continuing investment in expanding institutional purchasing of locally-produced food.
- The **Urban Forestry** program worked with five King County cities to assess canopy coverage and install over 35,000 trees and shrubs covering over 35 acres in native plants.
- KCD's **Shoreline** program is providing greater outreach to cities to identify stewardship and conservation opportunities of the highest value on private property in proximity to every city.
- Demand for KCD's soil testing services continues to increase due to our **Urban Agriculture** education and outreach programs, resulting in over 1,500 residential tests.

BETTER
 GROUND

- **Rural Agriculture** lands benefited from a partnership between King County and KCD that resulted in agriculture drainage projects that brought 128 new acres of key farmland back into production and improved drainage on 481 acres.
- On private **Rural Forest** land, KCD in partnership with landowners treated and planted over nearly 300 acres of small lot rural forest.

We look forward to presenting the *2016 Annual Report* and *2018 Program of Work* at the August 15th King County Council Transportation, Economy, and the Environment Committee. In the meantime, if we can answer questions, provide information, or be of assistance please let me or the KCD staff know.

Thank you again for your continued support of our goal to create **better ground** in King County.

Regards,



Dick Ryon
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District

cc:

Councilmember Balducci	Burr Mosby, Vice-chair, KCD Board
Councilmember Dembowski	Bill Knutsen, Auditor, KCD Board
Councilmember Dunn	Jim Haack, KCD Board
Councilmember Gossett	Max Prinsen, KCD Board
Councilmember Kohl-Welles	Nancy Tosta, KCD Associate Board
Councilmember Lambert	Jason Salvo, KCD Associate Board
Councilmember von Reichbauer	
Councilmember Upthegrove	
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council	