



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance that, if enacted, would establish King County as a partner in an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the Snoqualmie Tribe and the Cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond and Sammamish to fund and implement Lake Sammamish Kokanee salmon recovery efforts. By passing this proposed ordinance, the King County Council would ensure a strong partnership for conservation of the critically depressed native Lake Sammamish Kokanee population and improvement of Lake Sammamish Watershed conditions which will improve the environment, and quality of life for all residents in King County.

This proposed legislation would authorize the Executive to enter King County into the 10-year Kokanee ILA with the Snoqualmie Tribe and the Cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond and Sammamish. It would also contribute funding annually from King County toward the total ILA budget which is estimated at approximately \$150,000 in 2020. The annual total budget will be shared by the cities, with contribution levels based on the WRIA-8 cost share model. King County's 2020 contribution is expected to be \$33,595, which has already been appropriated in the 2019-2020 budget.

This proposed legislation would make King County a member of the multi-jurisdictional Kokanee ILA Management Committee that will develop annual budgets and work plans, and establish the County as a member of the multi-jurisdictional Kokanee ILA Staff Committee to advise and support the Management Committee and coordinate with the existing Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group. Additionally, King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) would become the Service Provider and Fiscal Agent for the ILA.

The legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of a healthy environment by supporting recovery actions for critically low numbers of Lake Sammamish Kokanee salmon and implementing watershed studies and improvements to support the species. It also supports the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative goal of community partnerships by

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partnering with the Snoqualmie Tribe and the Lake Sammamish cities to improve the environment for their diverse residents, including indigenous peoples having a rich and long history of reliance on these salmon. The legislation furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of preparing for climate change through coordination with partners by working with various government agencies to develop science-based strategies to recover Lake Sammamish Kokanee and improve Lake Sammamish water quality conditions impacted by climate change.

In developing the proposed legislation, DNRP engaged the cities surrounding Lake Sammamish, the Snoqualmie Tribe and Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group members. DNRP incorporated the input gathered into the legislation, and the Lake Sammamish cities and the Snoqualmie Tribe have indicated they support the legislation. The Cities of Bellevue, Issaquah and Sammamish and the Snoqualmie Tribe have approved and signed the ILA. The City of Redmond Council approved the ILA on February 18 and the ILA is in the process of being signed.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents recover Kokanee salmon and improve the health of Lake Sammamish.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director of the Water and Land Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP