



## King County

**Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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

September 7, 2022

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 a one-year moratorium on the acceptance of applications for the establishment of new or expansion of existing wineries, breweries, and distilleries (WBDs), responding to the requirements in Ordinance 19309, Section 2.D.3.

Updated WBD regulations were adopted by the County in 2019 via Ordinance 19030. Litigation regarding the Ordinance and associated SEPA review ensued and is ongoing. A series of moratoria on the acceptance of applications for the establishment of new or expansion of existing WBDs have been adopted beginning in 2020 to allow legal proceedings to resolve, during which time the code standards applicable to WBDs have been uncertain.

Ordinance 19309 required the Executive to evaluate and prepare a report for the next steps for regulations regarding WBDs. The report recommends adopting a one-year moratorium to take effect prior to December 22, 2022, when the moratorium presently in place will expire. As of August 2022, no new regulations for WBDs have been enacted. Should the moratorium expire without updated regulations, there is risk for applicants and the County regarding which standards would apply. Adopting a moratorium Ordinance will pause submittal of new WBD applications, allow time for current litigation to resolve, and provide time for the Council to adopt new regulations which will provide clarity to all parties.

This proposed Ordinance recommended by the report supports the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government by pausing the acceptance of permit applications while development regulations are being updated until clear, reliable regulations are in place for members of the public and County staff.

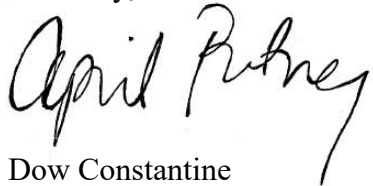
The Honorable Claudia Balducci

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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If your staff have any questions, please contact Jim Chan, Permitting Division Director, 206-477-0385.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services (DLS)

Jim Chan, Division Director, Permitting Division, DLS