



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**September 19, 2017**

**Motion 14957**

**Proposed No. 2017-0349.1**

**Sponsors Dunn**

1           A MOTION providing direction to the conservation futures  
2           citizen oversight committee on priorities for allocating  
3           conservation futures tax levy funds.

4           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.010 declares that it is in the best interest of the state to  
5 maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space  
6 lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops and to ensure the use and  
7 enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being  
8 of the state and its citizens, and

9           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.210 authorizes the county to acquire property rights "to  
10 protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or other otherwise  
11 conserve, selected open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land," and

12           WHEREAS, property right acquired under this authorization are defined as  
13 conservation futures, and

14           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.230 authorizes the use of a property tax levy to fund the  
15 acquisition of conservation futures and the maintenance and operation of acquired  
16 properties, and

17           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.240 authorizes counties to establish a special  
18 conservation futures fund to which the levy proceeds are credited, and

19           WHEREAS, King County has established a conservation futures tax levy and

20 fund, and

21 WHEREAS, King County is required to establish a process to help ensure, over  
22 time, that the distribution of the tax levy is throughout the county, and

23 WHEREAS, K.C.C. chapter 26.12 establishes an annual process for distribution  
24 of the tax levy to acquire open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife  
25 habitat and trail rights-of-way, and

26 WHEREAS, the process includes a citizen oversight committee that makes  
27 project and funding allocation recommendations for each project to the executive, and

28 WHEREAS, the executive makes project and funding recommendations as part of  
29 the budget process, and

30 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.010 allows the council to adopt a motion providing  
31 direction to the conservation futures citizen oversight committee on priorities for  
32 evaluating project applications, and

33 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project  
34 selection, which provides: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and  
35 aquatic resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources;  
36 urban passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park or open space system addition; and  
37 transfer of development rights program implementation. Additional criteria may include:  
38 passive recreation; education/interpretive opportunity; threat of loss of open space  
39 resources; ownership complexity; partnerships; stewardship and maintenance; and any  
40 other criteria consistent with RCW 84.34.020," and

41 WHEREAS, Molasses creek is known to be used by fish or meets the physical  
42 criteria to be potentially used by fish, and as a result is a valuable resource, both for the

43 local Fairwood community and for the larger Cedar River watershed, and

44 WHEREAS, Molasses creek is in an area identified as an Urban and Natural  
45 River Corridor in the executive's Land Conservation and Preservation Work Plan, and

46 WHEREAS, portions of Molasses creek are managed as open space and valuable  
47 habitat as part of the Soos Creek park and Soos Creek trail, while other portions of  
48 Molasses creek have undergone projects to improve fish passage, preserve and maintain  
49 water quality and prevent flooding, and

50 WHEREAS, a number of properties along Molasses creek in unincorporated King  
51 County are owned by the King County road services division and have been determined  
52 surplus, presenting opportunities to preserve open space, protect a valuable riparian  
53 corridor, provide protection for migrating fish and provide opportunities for trail  
54 connections, and

55 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property  
56 rights in the Molasses creek area for wildlife habitat, aquatic resources or open space  
57 system addition meets the criteria in K.C.C. 26.12.025;

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

59 A. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen  
60 oversight committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding  
61 recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase or property  
62 rights for the purpose of wildlife habitat, aquatic resources or open space system addition  
63 in or near Molasses creek in the unincorporated Fairwood community, to preserve the  
64 existing open space.

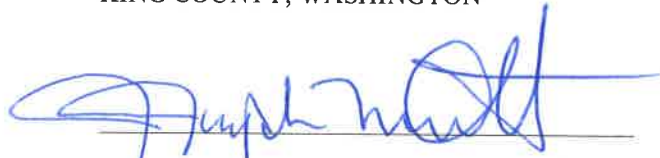
65 B. The department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources

66 division, is requested to work with landowners and jurisdictions in which properties  
67 reflecting this priority is located, in submitting project proposals that meet this priority, as  
68 part of the 2018 conservation futures tax levy funds selection process provided for in  
69 K.C.C. 26.12.010.  
70

Motion 14957 was introduced on 8/28/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 9/18/2017, by the following vote:

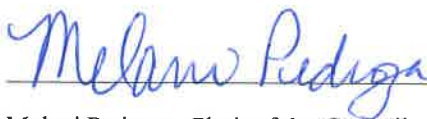
Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



Attachments: None