



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**February 24, 2015**

**Motion 14302**

**Proposed No. 2015-0074.1**

**Sponsors Dembowski**

1           A MOTION providing direction to the conservation futures  
2           citizen oversight committee on a priority for allocating  
3           conservation futures tax levy funds near the Sammamish  
4           river and certain regional trails.

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

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

13           WHEREAS, property rights acquired under this authorization are defined as  
14           conservation futures, and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, King County has established a conservation futures tax levy and  
21 fund, and

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, the executive makes a project and funding recommendation as part  
30 of the budget process, and

31 WHEREAS, the conservation futures allocation process requires a project to be  
32 sponsored and forwarded by the jurisdiction in which the project is located, either  
33 individually or in partnership with other jurisdictions because of shared interests, and

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

37 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project  
38 selection, which provides: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and  
39 aquatic resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources;  
40 urban passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park or open space system addition; and  
41 transfer of development rights program implementation. Additional criteria may include:  
42 passive recreation; education/interpretive opportunity; threat of loss of open space

43 resources; ownership complexity; partnerships; stewardship and maintenance; and any  
44 other criteria consistent with RCW 84.34.020," and

45 WHEREAS, conservation futures tax levy funds were used to purchase a  
46 conservation easement in the city of Bothell in 1996 for the purpose of preserving open  
47 space along the Sammamish river, and

48 WHEREAS, the conservation easement allowed the continued operation of the  
49 existing recreational land use, and

50 WHEREAS, the land along the Sammamish river provides recreational uses,  
51 scenic resources and open space as well as important habitat value and ecological benefit,  
52 and

53 WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to partner with cities, the state, private  
54 entities, local landowners and citizens to purchase additional property rights that would  
55 preserve additional open space and recreational land along the Sammamish river, the  
56 Burke-Gilman trail, the Sammamish River trail, the Tolt Pipeline trail and the Eastside  
57 Rail Corridor, and

58 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property  
59 rights for preservation of existing open space and recreational land meets the criteria in  
60 K.C.C. 26.12.025 for project selection;

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

62 The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen oversight  
63 committee consideration during the annual project selection and funding recommendation  
64 process, one or more projects that includes the purchase of property rights near or  
65 adjacent to already preserved properties, for the purpose of preservation of existing

66 recreational uses, view corridors and open space along the Sammamish river, the Burke-  
67 Gilman trail, the Sammamish River trail, the Tolt Pipeline trail and the Eastside Rail  
68 Corridor, in order to promote the enhancement of existing open space uses, and to  
69 preserve scenic resources and recreational land uses.  
70

Motion 14302 was introduced on 2/9/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 2/23/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert,  
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



---

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None