



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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February 29, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the 2024 Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) Report, in response to Ordinance 19633, Section 58, Proviso P1, and a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

King County's PBRs program offers an incentive to preserve open space and recreational opportunities on private property by providing a reduction in assessed land value for taxation purposes for land enrolled in the program. This report provides an overview of the PBRs program and summarizes its goals, objectives, and current participation. It also provides an analysis of the public access component of the program as well as its overlap with County strategic plans and policies for open space, land conservation, and equity, and summarizes opportunities for improvement.

PBRs is a long-standing land conservation tool used throughout King County for more than 30 years, with more than 1,300 properties and over 14,000 acres participating. Participation in the program reaches nearly all corners of the county and protects many types of valuable open space resources such as streams and wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, significant wildlife habitat, farm and forestland, and public recreational opportunities on private land throughout both rural and incorporated King County. PBRs is also an integral part of the County's larger conservation initiatives that prioritize open space conservation.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. Increasing development pressures have put the protection of forests, farmland, fish and wildlife habitat, open spaces, and recreational opportunities at the forefront of King County land conservation policies and strategies. The PBRs program plays an important role in protecting these resources.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

February 29, 2024

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

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

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

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