



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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March 25, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, authorize the renewal of an interlocal agreement (ILA) between King County and the cities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, and SeaTac to implement StormFest, a stormwater educational program for sixth graders in the Highline Public Schools District. The enclosed ILA has been approved by the cities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, and SeaTac.

The StormFest program supports King County and the city jurisdictions in their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements for education and outreach. StormFest offers an outdoor, hands-on science and math experience to support and build both student and community awareness and understanding of our environment and health. The program strengthens student awareness of educational and professional opportunities, empowers them to take interest and excel within science, and builds awareness within diverse communities of environmental health, math, science, and engineering careers and services that provide opportunities and better support at-risk students.

Specifically, the ILA would accomplish the following:

- Engage underserved youth in hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and activities with professionals, and build student confidence to develop and achieve long-term professional aspirations;
- Increase student understanding of environmental impacts of stormwater runoff and empower them to make personal changes to improve the health of local watersheds;
- Provide youth and community members paid (stipend) professional development opportunities to learn about environmental systems, leadership, and professional skills and ultimately apply them in transferring that knowledge to younger peers in an educational setting;

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- Hire and train community educators and interpreters to support building job and education skills, and train city, County, and nonprofit staff and volunteers on best practices to engage students, and
- Provide a scalable model and toolkit that can be implemented across other communities and school districts within King County.

The proposed Ordinance furthers the goals of the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan and Strategic Climate Action Plan. The program provides translation and interpretation services to ensure equitable access among English language learners, and development of Spanish and other language curriculum materials to improve engagement and comprehension. The program also introduces students to potential climate change impacts on regional weather patterns, stormwater runoff, and associated environmental challenges and professions.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help King County students engage in outdoor environmental education regarding water quality and climate related science needed for future scientists, engineers, and educators, and provides new communities an opportunity to learn and participate.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resource 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, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP