



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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

October 19, 2020

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 enable King County to partner with the Mt. Peak Historical Fire Lookout Association (MPHFLA) to build a replica fire lookout tower at the top of Pinnacle Peak Park, near Enumclaw. The proposed ordinance would authorize the King County Executive to enter into an agreement with MPHFLA for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the lookout tower.

Specifically, the proposed ordinance would authorize a ten-year Community Partnerships and Grant (CPG) agreement between the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) and MPHFLA. The agreement would address the design, construction, maintenance, and operations of the lookout tower.

The proposed legislation would award a \$250,000 CPG Grant to the MPHFLA towards the development costs, which are currently estimated at \$950,000. It further obligates MPHFLA to raise the balance of funds required to design and build the lookout tower, as well as cover the cost of routine maintenance.

MPHFLA is a community-based, open-membership organization located in Enumclaw. It is dedicated to the design and construction of a lookout tower similar to the historic fire lookout tower that once stood atop Mt. Peak, as the mountain is locally known. The facility would be open for use during park hours and serve the general public throughout the year, providing an exciting new recreational amenity in the form of a viewpoint destination at the top of the popular and challenging hiking trails in Pinnacle Peak Park.

In developing the project, MPHFLA engaged residents in and around Enumclaw by holding public meetings and conducting outreach at local events. The public is enthusiastic about the project as there is a lot of local pride in Mt. Peak. MPHFLA and the Parks and Recreation Division of DNRP incorporated the public input into the project plans. The Enumclaw Mayor, City Administrator, and Chamber of Commerce have support the project.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

October 19, 2020

Page 2

The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of preserving open space and rural character while addressing climate change. The proposed ordinance also supports the King County Strategic Plan goal of ensuring that the County government operates efficiently and effectively and is accountable to the public by leveraging County investments through partnerships with community organizations and businesses to design, build, operate and maintain this new recreation facility with limited use of public resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. Enacting this legislation will help King County residents by providing an exciting new recreational amenity in the form of a viewpoint destination at the top of the popular and challenging hiking trails in Pinnacle Peak Park.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4525.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

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

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP