



## **King County**

**Shannon Braddock**  
King County Executive

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August 21, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

I am pleased to transmit a proposed Ordinance, which, if enacted, would increase the principal amount of King County's loan to the Pacific Science Center by \$2.4 million.

As part of the construction of Climate Pledge Arena, the state allowed the developer to defer payment of a portion of the construction sales tax. The deferred funds are to be paid for the benefit of the Pacific Science Center over an eight-year period, which started in 2022.

In 2021, through Ordinance 19218, the County agreed to loan \$11,600,000 to the Pacific Science Center to be repaid from the deferred sales taxes. This allowed the Pacific Science Center to cover operating and capital costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and long-deferred maintenance. The first four years of the loan have been repaid on time.

The loan amount was based on an estimate of the deferred sales taxes that turned out to be significantly less than the actual amounts received from 2022 through 2025. The Pacific Science Center has requested an additional loan of \$2.4 million, based on a conservative estimate of the funds to be received in 2026 through 2029. I am happy to support this request.

The Pacific Science Center has been successful in obtaining other funding to support its operations, including private donations and funding from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A new entrance will open next year and a multi-year project to improve the courtyard will also start in 2026.

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Page 2

If approved, the additional loan amount will be implemented through the Executive Finance Committee.

If your staff have questions, please contact Dwight Dively, the Performance, Strategy and Budget Director, at 206-650-6577. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Braddock', written over a horizontal line.

for

Shannon Braddock  
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, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget