



Signature Report

November 8, 2004

Motion 12037

Proposed No. 2004-0510.1

Sponsors Constantine, Edmonds, Pelz,
Ferguson, Phillips, Patterson and
Hague

1 A MOTION expressing the intent of the council to enhance
2 incentives for watershed protection, to provide technical
3 assistance and staffing in support of flexible alternatives to
4 fixed critical areas regulations and to renew funding
5 support for the King Conservation District.

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8 WHEREAS, the county uses a mix of regulatory and nonregulatory tools to
9 protect critical areas, and

10 WHEREAS, these tools include tax incentive programs like the public benefit
11 rating system, public education and technical assistance, and

12 WHEREAS, Ordinance 15028, adopted by the council on September 27, 2004,
13 recently established two new categories for the public benefit rating system known as
14 "watershed protection" and "rural stewardship" to provide tax incentives for protecting
15 forest cover and carrying out site-specific best management practices to protect critical
16 areas, and

17 WHEREAS, additional amendments to the king county code are needed to
18 establish criteria for the new watershed protection and rural stewardship categories and to
19 update other public benefit rating system categories, and

20 WHEREAS, the Waterways 2000 Program successfully demonstrated how
21 community partnerships and direct assistance to landowners in preparing public benefit
22 rating system applications could make it easier for landowners to access the public
23 benefit rating system program, and

24 WHEREAS, the current application fee for the public benefit rating system
25 program is two hundred dollars, and

26 WHEREAS, the critical areas ordinance provides for rural stewardship plans,
27 farm plans and forest management plans as flexible alternatives to fixed regulations to
28 protect critical areas and to identify best management practices to protect water quality,
29 and

30 WHEREAS, the critical areas ordinance requires the county to provide up-front
31 classes, technical assistance, and model plans to facilitate landowner access to these
32 programs, and

33 WHEREAS, the council will adopt a budget for 2005 in late November; and

34 WHEREAS, the King Conservation District, a special purpose district authorized
35 under chapter 89.08 RCW, has been working with landowners to develop farm plans for
36 over fifty years, and

37 WHEREAS, the five-dollar-per-parcel assessment that supports the King
38 Conservation District assessment will sunset in 2005 without action by the council to
39 renew it, and

40 WHEREAS, the King Conservation District assessment is applied to properties in
41 both urban and rural King County, including areas within cities, and

42 WHEREAS, five dollars per parcel is the existing statutory limit for the King
43 Conservation District assessment;

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

45 A. As part of the 2005 budget adoption, it is the intent of the council to identify
46 current expense funding to support a waiver of application fees for the public benefit
47 rating system in 2005;

48 B. As part of the 2005 budget adoption, the council will provide adequate
49 staffing resources to the public benefit rating system program to support community
50 partnerships and direct assistance in preparing applications, using an approach modeled
51 after the successful Waterways 2000 program;

52 C. It is the intent of the council to provide expeditious review of an ordinance
53 updating public benefit rating system categories so that landowners can access the new
54 Watershed Protection and Rural Stewardship Plan categories during the upcoming
55 application cycle;

56 C. As part of the 2005 State Legislative Agenda, the council will seek changes to
57 state law that would streamline the public benefit rating system application process and
58 enhance available public benefit rating system incentives;

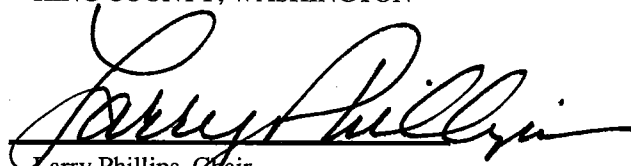
59 D. As part of the 2005 budget adoption process, the council will ensure that
60 adequate funding is available to provide technical assistance, classes, education, and
61 model plans to facilitate landowner participation in rural stewardship plans, farm plans
62 and forest stewardship plans; and

63 E. It is the intent of the council to renew the King Conservation District
64 assessment during 2005 to provide continued support to develop Farm Plans.
65
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Motion 12037 was introduced on 10/25/2004 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 11/8/2004, by the following vote:

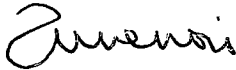
Yes: 11 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr.
Pelz, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons, Ms. Patterson and
Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 2 - Mr. McKenna and Mr. Hammond

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None