



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**Ordinance 19481**

**Proposed No.** 2022-0201.2

**Sponsors** Balducci

1           AN ORDINANCE concurring with the recommendation of  
2           the hearing examiner to approve, subject to conditions, the  
3           application for public benefit rating system assessed  
4           valuation for open space submitted by Development  
5           Services of America, Inc. for property located at property  
6           abutting and north and east of the intersection of Wax  
7           Orchard Road SW and SW 232nd Street, Vashon, WA  
8           98070, WA, designated department of natural resources  
9           and parks, water and land resources division file no.  
10          E22CT002.

11          BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

12          SECTION 1. This ordinance does hereby adopt and incorporate herein as its  
13 findings and conclusions the findings and conclusions contained in Attachment A to this  
14 ordinance, the report and recommendation of the hearing examiner dated July 15, 2022,  
15 to approve subject to conditions, the application for public benefit rating system assessed  
16 valuation for open space submitted by Development Services of America, Inc. for  
17 property located at property abutting and north and east of the intersection of Wax  
18 Orchard Road SW and SW 232nd Street, Vashon, WA 98070, WA, designated  
19 department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division file no.

Ordinance 19481

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- 20 E22CT002. The council does hereby adopt as its action the recommendation or  
21 recommendations contained in the examiner's report.

Ordinance 19481 was introduced on 6/7/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 8/16/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

*Claudia Balducci*

7E1C273CE9994B6...

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

*Angel Foss*

C267B914088E4A0...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Hearing Examiner Report dated July 15, 2022

Ordinance 19481

July 15, 2022

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue Room 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Telephone (206) 477-0860

[hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov)  
[www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner](http://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner)

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE  
METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources and Parks file no. **E22CT002**  
Proposed ordinance no. **2022-0201**  
Parcel nos. **1322029083 and 1322029089**

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OF AMERICA, INC.**

Open Space Taxation Application (Public Benefit Rating System)

Location: property abutting and north and east of the intersection of Wax  
Orchard Road SW and SW 232nd Street, Vashon, WA 98070

Applicant: Development Services of America, Inc  
*represented by* **Richard Wilson**  
PO Box 25139  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
Telephone: (480) 927-4890  
Email: richard\_wilson@sgagroup.com

King County: Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
*represented by* **Bill Bernstein**  
201 S. Jackson Street Suite 5600  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Telephone: (206) 477-4643  
Email: bill.bernstein@kingcounty.gov

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department's Recommendation: Approve 15.94 acres for 20% of assessed value

Examiner's Recommendation: Approve 15.94 acres for 20% of assessed value

## PRELIMINARY REPORT:

On June 17, 2022, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) submitted its report on file no. E22CT002 to the Examiner.

## PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the preliminary report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a Zoom public hearing on the application on June 30, 2022.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner's Office.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

## 1. General Information:

Owner:	Development Services of America, Inc PO Box 25139 Scottsdale, AZ 85255
Location:	property abutting and north and east of the intersection of Wax Orchard Road SW and SW 232nd Street, Vashon, WA 98070
STR:	NW 13-22-02
Zoning:	RA5
Parcel nos.:	1322029083 and 1322029089
Total acreage:	18.66 acres

- The Applicant timely filed an application to King County for the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS) program current use valuation of the property to begin in 2023. As required by law, notification of the application occurred.
- The property is currently enrolled in the farm and agricultural conservation land category. The purpose of this application is to reclassify the property and enroll it in PBRS. Any new open space taxation agreement must supersede the existing agreement.
- Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in DNRP's preliminary report and testimony at the June 30, 2022, public hearing are correct and incorporated herein by reference. Copies of this report and DNRP's report will be provided to the Metropolitan King County Council for final approval.
- A summary of relevant PBRS categories, as set for in DNRP's staff report, follows below. (Plain text represents a category an applicant requested an award for and that DNRP agreed was warranted. Any ~~strike through~~ represents a category an applicant requested an award for but that DNRP disagreed was warranted. Any *italics* represents a

category an applicant did not request an award for, but that DNRP nonetheless concluded was warranted. And any \*asterisk\* represents a category where DNRP found an award was warranted, but only if certain contingencies or conditions are met.)

PBRS categories:	<u>Open Space Resources</u>	
	<del>Aquifer protection area</del>	0
	<del>Buffer to public or current use classified land</del>	0
	Farm and agricultural conservation land	5
	<del>Rural open space</del>	0
	<del>Rural stewardship plan</del>	0
	Scenic resource, viewpoint or view corridor	*
	<del>Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat</del>	0
	<del>Special animal site</del>	0
	<del>Surface water quality buffer</del>	0
	<del>Urban open space</del>	0
	<del>Watershed protection area</del>	0
	<u>Bonus Categories</u>	
	<i>Conservation easement or historic easement</i>	15
	<hr/> Total	<hr/> 20

DNRP’s initially recommended score of 20 points would have resulted in a current use valuation of 30% of assessed value for the enrolled portion of the property.

6. Most of the categories the Applicant initially requested credit for are inapplicable, and the Applicant did not press these. However, the Applicant asserts that these properties qualify under KCC 20.36.100.B.13, as a scenic resource, viewpoint, or view corridor. The Applicant is not allowing “unlimited public access” (or any public access), a requirement to qualify as a (b) viewpoint. And while Vashon does have two “recognized view corridors,” this property is not near either of those, a requirement to qualify as a (c) view corridor.
7. However (a) “scenic resource,” defined as:
 

an area of ten or more enrolling acres of natural or recognized cultural features visually significant to the aesthetic character of the county. A site eligible as a scenic resource must be significant to the identity of the local area and must be visible to a significant number of the general public from public rights-of-way, must be of sufficient size to substantially preserve the scenic resource value and must enroll at least ten acres of open space,

requires more analysis.
8. Just because the property is a protected historic farm would not, standing alone, make it visually significant to the aesthetic character of the county and significant to the identity of the local area and visible to a significant number of the general public—a high bar to meet. But there are several features in play here. The property is participating in the farmland preservation program and being protected in perpetuity by a conservation

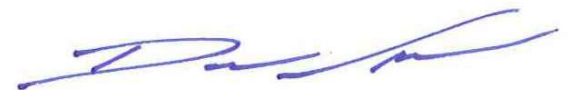
easement. The County is purchasing adjacent properties, demonstrating a serious public interest in the area and a limit in area development. And then, somewhat unique to this parcel, the Applicant has planted two neat rows of trees; normally, tree screen public views and are a detriment, creating a visual barrier to the public. However, these are smaller deciduous trees that burst into color in the fall and draw visitors, as well as being consistent with the property's history as the Wax Orchards. No one of the above items, standing alone, would be sufficient, but in total an award here seems warranted.

9. DNRP pointed out that if or when the property is developed, even just with a residence, eligibility could change. That is true. Future property changes here are more likely to trigger a reevaluation and potential removal of this award category, than for a typical category on a particular property. For example, for property qualifying as forest stewardship land, development outside the forested area would likely not impact continuing eligibility. Conversely, changes here could more easily remove the visual significance to the aesthetic character and significance to the identity of the local area, something an owner might want to keep in mind. However, there is no imminent development on the horizon to reduce the significance of the scenery. And the potential for future changes is not by itself a reason to deny a award under this category for property that, in its present configuration, qualifies.
10. After a robust discussion at hearing, DNRP agreed that, as the property exists today, it likely qualifies as a "scenic resource." We recommend an award for the scenic resource, viewpoint, or view corridor category. This would add five points and reduce the current use valuation to 20% of assessed value.
11. As to the land area recommended for PBRS enrollment, the Applicant did not specify a requested acreage, and DNRP recommends enrollment of a total of 15.94 acres across the two parcels. (Enrollment acreage is the entire parcel less the excluded area, as calculated by DNRP. In the event the County Assessor's official parcel size is revised, the PBRS acreage shall be administratively adjusted to reflect that change.)
12. Approval of 25 points and a current use valuation of 20% of assessed value for 15.94 acres is consistent with KCC Chapter 20.36 and with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve, and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE a current use valuation of 20% of assessed value for the 15.94-acre enrolled portion of the property.

DATED July 15, 2022.



David Spohr, Hearing Examiner

## NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

A person appeals an Examiner recommendation by following the steps described in KCC 20.22.230, including filing with the Clerk of the Council a sufficient appeal statement and a \$250 appeal fee (check payable to the King County FBOD). Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal. KCC 20.22.230 also requires that the appellant provide copies of the appeal statement to the Examiner and to any named parties listed on the front page of the Examiner’s recommendation.

Prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on *August 8, 2022*, an electronic copy of the appeal statement must be sent to [Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov) and a paper copy of the appeal statement must be delivered to the Clerk of the Council's Office, Room 1200, King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. If the Office of the Clerk is not officially open on the specified closing date, delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

Unless both a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *August 8, 2022*, the Clerk of the Council shall place on the agenda of the next available Council meeting a proposed ordinance implementing the Examiner’s recommended action. At that meeting the Council may adopt the Examiner’s recommendation, defer action, refer the matter to a Council committee, or remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

If a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *August 8, 2022*, the Examiner will notify all parties and interested persons and provide information about “next steps.”

### MINUTES OF THE JUNE 30, 2022, HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OF AMERICA, INC., FILE NO. E22CT002

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Bill Bernstein, David Carpman, and Richard Wilson participated in the hearing.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the hearing record:

Exhibit no. 1	DNRP report to the Hearing Examiner
Exhibit no. 2	<i>Reserved for future submission of the affidavit of hearing publication</i>
Exhibit no. 3	Legal notice and introductory ordinance to the King County Council
Exhibit no. 4	Arcview/orthophotograph and aerial map
Exhibit no. 5	Application signed and notarized

**Certificate Of Completion**

Envelope Id: B62AFB9EA99748DE872A455BA7B9C82A	Status: Completed
Subject: Please DocuSign: Ordinance 19481.docx, Ordinance 19481 Attachment A.pdf	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 2	Signatures: 2
Supplemental Document Pages: 5	Initials: 0
Certificate Pages: 2	Envelope Originator:
AutoNav: Enabled	Cherie Camp
Enveloped Stamping: Enabled	401 5th Ave
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	Suite 100
	Seattle, WA 98104
	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov
	IP Address: 198.49.222.20

**Record Tracking**

Status: Original	Holder: Cherie Camp	Location: DocuSign
8/17/2022 5:16:49 PM	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov	
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: FedRamp	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: King County General (ITD)	Location: DocuSign

**Signer Events**

Claudia Balducci  
 claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov  
 Council Chair  
 King County General (ITD)  
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

**Signature**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 7E1C273CE9994B6...  
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style  
 Using IP Address: 198.49.222.20

**Timestamp**

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 Signed: 8/18/2022 1:49:22 PM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Not Offered via DocuSign  
 Supplemental Documents:

Ordinance 19481 Attachment A.pdf

Viewed: 8/18/2022 1:49:07 PM  
 Read: Not Required  
 Accepted: Not Required

Angel Foss  
 Angel.Foss@kingcounty.gov  
 Deputy Clerk of the Council  
 King County Council  
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

DocuSigned by:  
  
 C287B914088E4A0...  
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style  
 Using IP Address: 146.129.133.37

Sent: 8/18/2022 1:49:23 PM  
 Viewed: 8/18/2022 2:03:33 PM  
 Signed: 8/18/2022 2:03:45 PM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Not Offered via DocuSign  
 Supplemental Documents:

Ordinance 19481 Attachment A.pdf

Viewed: 8/18/2022 2:03:40 PM  
 Read: Not Required  
 Accepted: Not Required

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp



<b>Witness Events</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Timestamp</b>
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<b>Notary Events</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Timestamp</b>
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<b>Envelope Summary Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	8/17/2022 5:18:31 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	8/18/2022 2:03:33 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	8/18/2022 2:03:45 PM
Completed	Security Checked	8/18/2022 2:03:45 PM

<b>Payment Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
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