



King County

2005 (FY2006) KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON STATEMENTS OF FEDERAL POLICY

*These legislative interests are advocated for in partnership
with national organizations or issue-specific coalitions.*

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST
Statewide Salmon Funding Coalition	Support the efforts of the statewide coalition comprised of government, tribal, environmental, and business interests to increase funding for salmon recovery and water quality protection.
Methamphetamines Enforcement Funding	Support the ongoing request for Washington State Methamphetamine (Meth) Initiative in Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations, under the COPS Methamphetamine/Drug "Hot Spots" Program for cleanup mitigation, health/treatment, child protective services, community mobilization and prevention.
Energy	Support the inclusion of Section 29 Tax Credits, for landfill gas-to-energy facilities, in the energy bill.
Urban and Community Forestry	Diversify sources of federal funding by seeking funds through USDA Forest Service to leverage local support for improving tree cover in open spaces and critical habitats. Priorities are improving wildlife habitats and quality of life in inner city areas and encouraging preservation of tree resources in emerging suburban developments. King County supports increased funding for the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program.
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG)	Support continued funding for the LLEBG program, especially those programs that support drug education, treatment and prevention.
Secure Emergency Communications Bandwidth	Support legislative policies and FCC actions that would assure full, interference-free utilization of all spectrums currently allocated for public safety and local government use, and seek additional spectrum to meet growing needs.
Flood Hazard Reduction	Support funding for the Snoqualmie flood hazard reduction project.
Shelter Plus Care	Maintain a separate budget line item for Shelter Plus Care renewals. These funds subsidize the cost of rental housing for homeless people with disabilities.
Domestic Violence	Support funding for the Title IV, the Violence Against Women Act of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (the Crime Act). The money made available through this program should be made available to develop Domestic Violence prevention programming in jails.
CDBG and HOME Formula Funds, McKinney Act Programs	Advocate for increases or at least maintain HUD appropriations for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs, homeless assistance (McKinney Act programs), and public housing operating subsidies, rental certificates/vouchers, and Section 8 contract renewals. These funds benefit low/moderate income residents of King County. It is also important to advocate for maintaining local discretion and flexibility over the use of these funds
Individuals with	Increase Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C



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Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	funding for early intervention services. Support the Senate's legislation to reauthorize IDEA.
Reinvesting in Youth	The City of Seattle and King County have launched this initiative to be used as a model for reforming the juvenile justice system. The goal is to implement "front end" or intervention measures that build strengths in children and families especially for youth at risk
Mental Health	Support funding to improve local jail and law enforcement's ability to address the issues related to the contact between the criminal justice system and the mentally ill. This would include officer training, screening and evaluation, housing, treatment, and discharge planning.
Community Access Program	Support reauthorization and appropriations funding at no less than 2001 level of \$125 million.
Infrastructure	Support a comprehensive federal investment into infrastructure needs, particularly drinking water and wastewater. Also support legislation to provide funding for communities needing new capital facilities to meet the new arsenic standard under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
State Criminal Alien Apprehension Program (SCAAP)	Support continued funding for the SCAAP. These funds reimburse local jails and state prisons for providing detention services to criminal aliens. King County has been a recipient for the last five years, including receiving \$700,000 in reimbursement funds in 2003.
Juvenile Detention	Support funding for juvenile detention-based programs that focus on drug education, crisis intervention, prevention, and treatment.
State Enhancement Program (SEP)	Support federal participation in the establishment of a SEP for the State of Washington, which will enable the State to overcome the barriers to greater participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the nation's largest conservation program administered by the federal government. In addition, establishment of a SEP will allow the State to tailor the CRP so that it will more effectively address the State's unique conservation challenges, particularly as they relate to salmon habitat protection and restoration.
Safe Drinking Water Act	Support legislation to provide funding for communities needing new capital facilities to meet the new arsenic standard under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)	Support federal funding for guidance and full TMDL implementation for the new TMDL rules that will be proposed in 2002 and adopted in 2003.
Low Flow Fixtures	Oppose legislation that attempts to eliminate national plumbing code standards that mandate low-flow fixtures.
Wet Weather Water Quality	Support legislation that provides regulatory clarity and federal funding for combined sewer overflow (CSO) and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control.
FEMA	Seek modifications to FEMA's interim policy barring reimbursement of



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	the cost of replanting trees and shrubs as part of repairs made to river facilities, detention/retention areas, water quality sites and stream and river bank stabilization areas.
FEMA	Seek variance for Pacific Northwest to Corps of Engineers and FEMA disaster assistance eligibility criteria. Currently, levees and other flood works that contain vegetation are ineligible for assistance from the Corps under P.L. 84-99 and FEMA funding for repairs under the Stafford Act.
FEMA	Seek federal funds from FEMA and other agencies with flood hazard mitigation programs to support the removal of structures within the flood plain and the restoration of important habitat.
Seismic Infrastructure	Federal funding to improve the seismic reliability of public facilities in most threatened regions of King County.
Housing	Support revisions to the tax code to support homeownership for households earning 120 percent of median income or less.
Housing	Seek appropriations and tax code revisions to support a King County House Land Trust to purchase land to construct owner-occupied housing for moderate- and median-income households.
Homeless	Reauthorization of the Consolidated Health Centers program, which includes health care for the homeless.
Homeless	Support "hold harmless" provision in legislation to block grant federal homeless assistance funding for the Seattle-King County area to maintain current funding levels and support maximum flexibility for local jurisdictions in the use of the funds.
Transportation	Fast Corridor II: Support partner efforts to secure continued funding (\$10 million) for the program in the Transportation Appropriations Bill.
Flow Investigation/Salmon Recovery (New)	Support line item funding for the Middle Green Flow Investigation Study that seeks to change the landscape and flow management practices to respond to fish recovery needs in a multi-benefit river system in King County.



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Snoqualmie Watershed Integrated Plan <i>(New)</i>	Support funding for a series of on-the-ground restoration projects on private agricultural lands for salmon habitat restoration in the Snoqualmie watershed.
Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 <i>(New)</i>	Support increased funding for community fire prevention planning in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2004 (No funding in '04, Greenwater was the only King County project to receive funds in 2003).
Washington State Meth Initiative <i>(New)</i>	Support continuation of COPS grant funding of the Washington State Methamphetamine Initiative.
Law Enforcement Explosives Storage Enhancement Act <i>(New)</i>	Support passage of the Law Enforcement Explosives Storage Enhancement Act that would require the State Attorney General to establish security requirements for law enforcement explosive storage; and support the accompanying grant funds provided to cover up to one half the costs to comply with the legislation.
Mental Health <i>(New)</i>	Support broadening allowable Medicaid mental health services. Best practice models of mental health services described and recommended in the report of the President's "New Freedom Commission on Mental Health" are not currently acceptable or approved uses of Medicaid mental health funds. Congressional action is needed to change Medicaid policies in order to fund and implement the initiatives.
Military Bases <i>(New)</i>	King County supports maintaining military bases in Washington State, recognizing their importance to the states economy.

LEGISLATIVE INTERESTS

King County lobbyists will monitor federal legislation and regulations continuously and report to King County when participation in the process is beneficial to the county. They will also coordinate efforts on these issues with national associations.

King County has expressed a particular interest in the following issues:

- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
- Privacy
- Affirmative Action
- Clean Water Act / Endangered Species Act Integration
- HIV/AIDS
- Private Activity Bond Cap and Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Mental Health Block Grant
- Property Rights and "Takings" legislation
- EPA's Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program
- Welfare to Work (Workforce Investment Act)
- Regional Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention
- Regional Anti-Terrorism and Response needs and Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Air Support
- CARA
- Internet Tax
- EPA, Waterbody Monitoring and Assessment Rule
- Child Care
- Education
- Individuals w/Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Housing (CDBG, HOME, homeless assistance, public housing, first time buyers, Section 8, etc.)
- Pediatric Cancer Research funding
- Telecommunications
- Federal Highway Administration's Grant Program (Section 1221 of TEA 21)
- Pre-incident Emergency Management Planning

GRANTS

The Ferguson Group will conduct a grants workshop with King County departments to further help the County improve its grant application process. In addition, The Ferguson Group will research federal grant opportunities at the County's request. When the County is interested in applying for a grant it will notify The Ferguson Group so that any additional information may be sent. After the County has applied for the grant and notified The Ferguson Group, The Ferguson Group will work with the County, congressional delegation, and agencies to garner support for the application. Active participation in the process will continue to determine the approximate time of grant announcement and the status of the County's application, as well as to ensure the County's application receives the best possible consideration. If the County's application is successful, The Ferguson Group will work with the federal agency to expedite allocation of the grant award. If the County's application is unsuccessful, The Ferguson Group will follow-up with the federal agency's grant reviewers to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the application and then work with the County to prepare for the next funding opportunity.

E-CIVIS

Through an agreement between The Ferguson Group and eCivis, King County will also receive access to *Grants Locator* within The Ferguson Group's existing annual contract. The value of this provision to King County is \$25,000.

Grants Locator, a complete grants research system, is a web-based tool tailored for the needs of local governments, providing comprehensive research on Federal and Foundation grants information along with customization and efficiency tools. This system, which is updated daily, customizable for each user, instantly searchable, and complete with downloadable files for each funding opportunity, is a sole source product adding effectiveness and efficiency to the grants process. Management features are built in, allowing for communication and accountability throughout departments. Full training, customer service, and technical support are included with access for an unlimited number of users within the County.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS

The Ferguson Group will build partnerships and coalitions with national associations in which King County is an active member. These associations include, but are not limited to, the National Association of Counties, and its subgroups the Large Urban County Caucus, the American Public Transit Association and other groups which the Legislative Steering Committee deems of particular interest.