



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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October 21, 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 report in accordance with Ordinance 19122, Section 2.B. The report outlines the steps necessary for compliance with the Growth Management Hearings Board, Central Puget Sound Region Order on Dispositive Motions through Case No. 20-3-0004c.

The King County Council adopted Ordinance 19030 on December 4, 2019. This ordinance set forth new regulations for wineries, breweries, and distilleries in unincorporated King County. Subsequently, the legislation was appealed to the Growth Management Hearings Board, which issued an order finding the environmental review to be inadequate.

On June 23, 2020, the King County Council approved Ordinance 19122 establishing a moratorium prohibiting the establishment of new or the expansion of existing wineries, breweries, distilleries, and remote tasting rooms for six months the effective date of the ordinance. Also required by Ordinance 19122, a proposed ordinance that renews and extends the moratorium to allow additional time to evaluate and plan for how King County will comply with the Board's order will be transmitted to the Council concurrently with this transmittal and under separate cover.

The current moratorium expires in December 2020. It is in the public interest to pause unregulated winery, brewery, and distillery development until further analysis can be completed. The proliferation of unregulated winery, brewery, and distillery developments could negatively impact King County's rural communities.

As required by Ordinance 19122, the enclosed report outlines the steps necessary to come into compliance with the Board's order; a resource discussion; and a timeline for compliance with the board's order.

The Washington State Department of Commerce was notified of King County's intent to renew and extend the moratorium on September 22, 2020. The development of the State

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October 21, 2020

Page 2

Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and threshold determination is currently underway and will be issued before the end of October 2020.

The enclosed report supports the Healthy Environment and Economic Vitality goals of the King County Strategic Plan by preserving rural character, supporting productive farms, and fostering appropriate economic development in the Rural Area.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. If your staff have any questions, please contact Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning at 206-263-9606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

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

Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget