



King Conservation District

935 Powell Ave. SW, Suite D • Renton, Washington 98055
Phone (425) 277-5581 • Fax (425) 277-5588 • e-mail: district@kingcd.org

*C. members ✓
M. Reed ✓
file*

July 27, 2005

Mr. Larry Phillips
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

RECEIVED
2005 JUL 28 AM 11:21
CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Phillips,

The Board of Supervisors of the King Conservation District hereby formerly requests the Metropolitan King County Council to approve a King Conservation District Special Assessment for a regional natural resources conservation funding package. **Pursuant to chapter 89.08 .400 RCW, the District respectfully submits this request for a per-parcel, per-year assessment in the amount of 10 (ten) dollars for a period of 4 years on all benefited lands within the District boundary.** Enclosed is a copy of the Board of Supervisors formal resolution for this proposed system of assessment of lands.

The District has met all the required conditions under RCW 89.08 in order to be able to file this proposal at this time. As you know, this assessment proposal is a continuation of our current assessment that is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2005. We are asking that the assessment be increased and utilized and allocated as follows:

- \$4.00 -WRIA / watershed forums (to be divided equally among the three) through a non competitive grant process to fund KCD Board approved projects as detailed in the adopted watershed forum plans
- \$2.00 - Member cities and unincorporated King County through a non-competitive grant process to fund Board approved projects
- \$3.00 - King CD to fund operations and an annual plan of work
- \$1.00 – Conservation partnership fund

As you can see, 20% of the assessment funds is allocated to our 33 member cities as well as King County for unincorporated lands and 40 % to the 3 watershed forums operating in King County for implementation of the watershed plans completed this year. The remaining 40% will fund a Council approved work plan for the District and a conservation partnership fund. All of these funds are used under the requirements of chapter 89.08 RCW to deliver on the ground conservation activities and projects such salmon habitat improvement, water quality improvements, public education and resource protection and enhancement.

ESTABLISHED 1949

Board of Supervisors

Chair
Max Prinsen

Vice-Chair
Scott Wallace

Auditor/Secretary-Treasurer
Matt Livengood

Member
Bobbi Lindemulder

Member
Richard Gelb

We have in place a strong financial accounting and administrative system mindful of our fiduciary duties in managing these public funds. We are audited yearly by the Washington State auditor and these recent reports demonstrate our ability to manage and oversee these funds in accordance with all applicable laws and practices. In addition, the District's non-competitive grants procedure and regional funding principles insure the funds are allocated and used in the most cost-effective and productive manner possible.

In conclusion, The District and its partners in King County have built a strong infrastructure enabling us to deliver regional natural resources conservation services. We would like to continue building on our successes, and therefore, at this time respectfully request reauthorization of this special assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max Prinsen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Max Prinsen
Chair, King Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Cc: Ron Sims, King County Executive
King County Councilmembers
Mike Reed, Council staff
Anne Norris, Clerk of the Council
Mark Isaacson, Director King County WLRD

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADOPTING A PROPOSED SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING DISTRICT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES; AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENTS WITH THE METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL FOR ITS REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

WHEREAS, the King Conservation District ("District") is a governmental subdivision of the State of Washington, organized under chapter 89.08 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) with the purpose and authority to protect and conserve natural resources throughout King County ("County"), except within the boundaries of the incorporated cities of Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton, Pacific, and Skykomish, which are not located within or a part of the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 89.08.400, the Metropolitan King County Council ("Council") is authorized to impose a special assessment in response to a formal resolution of the District Board of Supervisors adopting a proposed system of assessments to finance the King Conservation District activities and programs to conserve natural resources; and

WHEREAS, in order to finance such District activities and programs, the District is authorized by chapter 89.08 RCW to develop and submit prior to the first day of August 2005, a proposed system of assessments for Council review and approval; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2005 the District adopted by formal resolution a proposed system of assessments which is intended to provide funding for District activities and programs which are declared by RCW 89.08.400(1) to be of special benefit to lands located within the boundary of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District concurs with the effort to include broad, regional needs in its program of work for flood control, salmon habitat improvement and protection, and other natural resource conservation concerns which are of special benefit to lands located within the boundary of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized by chapter 89.08.220 RCW, and is uniquely positioned and prepared to facilitate and contribute to an analysis of such regional needs through a natural resources inventory; and

WHEREAS, necessary and appropriate work plans for the District are prepared through a joint process with the County and the cities which are a part of the District and which results in the need for the Board to reserve the right to amend the District's proposed system of assessments in order to meet landowner's resource management goals; and

WHEREAS, the District has completed a long range plan identifying strategic initiatives to conserve valuable farmland, implement sustainable land use practices, protect critical areas, enhance fish and wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources for current and future human uses; and

WHEREAS, the District has supported development of the local salmon recovery plans and is committed to supporting the implementation of these plans; and

WHEREAS, the District has investigated and determined the need to address emerging natural resource conservation concerns and activities, and seeks to fund such activities through a Conservation Partnerships Program administered by the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 89.08.400(2), the District conducted two public hearings (May 11, 2005 and July 6, 2005) and two written open public comment periods (May 11 through May 27, 2005, and June 13 through July 8, 2005) for the purpose of gathering public comments and information on a proposed system of assessments; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of the public comments and information gathered and submitted to the District, the District considers the proposed system of assessments fair and reasonable to support the activities and programs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District is prepared at this time to formally propose a system of assessments to provide continued funding for existing and new District activities and programs, including its strategic initiatives and annual program of work, noncompetitive

grants awarded by the District in partnership with member jurisdictions and the three local watershed forums operating in King County, and grants awarded through the Community Partnerships Program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the King Conservation District that the District hereby adopts the following proposed system of assessment which shall be submitted to the Metropolitan King County Council before August 1, 2005 for the Council's review and approval:

1. Assessment of Lands. An annual assessment of \$10.00 (ten dollars) per parcel shall be imposed on all real property located within the District's boundary, except for forest lands used solely for the planting, growing, or harvesting of trees and assessed by King County as forest land consistent with chapter 89.08. RCW. This assessment shall apply to existing parcels of property and any parcels hereafter created.

2. Duration of Assessment. The \$10 assessment shall be imposed annually during the period commencing on January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009.

3. Allocations of Assessment. The \$10 per parcel per year assessment shall be administered as follows:

\$ 2.00 (two dollars) per parcel to fund natural resource conservation initiatives consistent with chapter 89.08 RCW in partnership with member jurisdictions within the boundary of the District commensurate to the number of parcels within each jurisdiction and from which the funds are collected and remitted to the District; and

\$4.00 (four dollars) per parcel to fund salmon recovery initiatives consistent with chapter 89.08 RCW in partnership with and to be shared equally among the three King County watershed forums (Green-Duwamish-Central Puget Sound, Cedar-Lake Washington-Sammamish, and Snoqualmie) commensurate to the number of parcels within the boundary of the District and from which the funds are collected and remitted to the District; and

\$3.00 (three dollars) per parcel to fund the strategic initiatives and program of work of the District consistent with chapter 89.08 RCW and approved by the Council; and

\$1.00 (one dollar) per parcel to fund emerging and ongoing natural resource management concerns consistent with chapter 89.08 RCW through the District administered Conservation Partnerships Program.

4. Administration Fees. The King County Assessor shall collect and retain a 1% (one percent) collection fee and the District shall retain a one percent (1%) fiscal administration fee from all revenues derived from the per parcel assessment. The District fiscal administration fee shall be utilized to cover administrative expenses, including costs associated with providing proper and prudent financial oversight of all assessment collections remitted to the District.

5. Filing of Proposed System of Assessments. A certified copy of this resolution adopting the District's proposed system of assessments for the period from 2006 to 2009 shall be filed with the Council for review and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Supervisors of the King Conservation District, State of Washington on this 27th day of July, 2005.

Max Prinsen, Chair

Max Prinsen

Scott Wallace, Vice Chair

Scott Wallace

Matt Livengood, Sec / Auditor.

Matt Livengood

Richard Gelb, Member

Richard Gelb

Bobbi Lindemulder, Member

Bobbi Lindemulder

Certificate

I, Matt Livengood, Secretary of the Board of Supervisors of the King Conservation District, King County, Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2005-01 of such Board, duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the day of July 27th, 2005, signed by the members of such Board in attendance at such meeting and attested by myself in authentication of such adoption.



Matt Livengood, Secretary
Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
King County, Washington.

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) FORUM



October 5, 2005

The Honorable Larry Phillips
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104



Algona

Auburn

Black Diamond

Burien

Covington

Des Moines

Enumclaw

Federal Way

Kent

King County

Maple Valley

Normandy Park

Renton

SeaTac

Seattle

Tacoma

Tukwila

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

We are writing in response to the July 27, 2005 letter to you from the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors. The letter requests the King County Council to approve a King Conservation District Special Assessment for a regional natural resources conservation funding package. Pursuant to action by the WRIA 9 Watershed Forum at its September 21, 2005 meeting, we unanimously agreed to send you the following comments regarding the KCD Board's recommendations:

We support the reauthorization of the Special Assessment and the increase from \$5 to \$10 per parcel per year. We, however, do not support the reauthorization of the Special Assessment for only four years. Rather, we strongly recommend and support a commitment to the Special Assessment for ten years.

The finance strategy of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan explicitly identifies the King Conservation District Special Assessment as a key source of funding to implement the projects and to leverage other funds. Specifically, the Plan calls for the region to "double the current assessment per parcel from \$5 to \$10, and allocate the revenue as follows:

- Double the appropriation to the WRIA Forums.
- Double the appropriation to participating local governments.
- Double the appropriation to the King Conservation District." (source: WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan: Making Our Watershed Fit for a King, page 8-21)

We strongly and unanimously recommend and support, pursuant to the above finance strategy that was thoroughly discussed and debated before being approved unanimously by both the Steering Committee and Forum, that the \$10 dollar Special Assessment be allocated as follows:

- \$6.00 – WRIA/Watershed Forums, to be divided 20 percent to the Snoqualmie Forum, 40 percent to the WRIA 8 Forum, and 40 percent to the WRIA 9 Forum (maintaining the existing allocation among the WRIA Forums);
- \$2.00 – Member local governments; and
- \$2.00 – King Conservation District.

We have consistently held this view. While we appreciate the work the King Conservation District has done, after five years working on our Plan we feel that the "6/2/2" allocation is a better use of funding to move the Plan forward. We are the experts on the needs of the watershed. Our habitat projects to conserve and recover Chinook salmon and bull trout are prioritized and our communities are depending on the King Conservation District special assessments to help implement recovery solutions.

The Honorable Larry Phillips

October 5, 2005

Page 2 of 2

Under our recommended allocation above, all current recipients achieve a doubling of the funding over current levels. As proposed by the KCD Board, however, funding for the King Conservation District would quadruple (from \$1 to \$4; \$3.00 for operations and the annual work plan and \$1 for a new conservation grant fund) and double for the Snoqualmie watershed, while the funding for the WRIAs 8 and 9 Watershed Forums would only increase about 10 percent (from \$3 to \$4; split equally among all three Forums). We are very concerned, given the need to implement the watershed Salmon Habitat Plan and demonstrate to NOAA Fisheries a local financial contribution, that the Board's recommendations would result in a mere 10 percent increase in the funding for WRIAs 8 and 9. Furthermore, the vast majority of the funds collected through the Special Assessment are from the urban areas of the County, primarily WRIAs 8 and 9. Our proposal equitably balances the funding allocated to each of the three watersheds.

The Board's recommendations are not consistent with WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan and will not enable us to begin making significant strides in implementing the Plan. Moreover, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan identifies the need for implementers of habitat plan actions at the local level, including watershed groups, to significantly increase project implementation over existing levels throughout Puget Sound. In the case of WRIA 9, the Salmon Habitat Plan calls for an estimated \$164 to \$333 million to implement the *priority salmon habitat projects* in the first ten years.

Indeed, a recent paper developed by Shared Strategy for Puget Sound that addresses implementation needs of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan states:

"The first and most important element is to continue local community (watersheds) efforts to recover salmon consistent with the community's broader goals. This is where the connection to place and local knowledge is most powerful." (source: Recovering Puget Sound Salmon—Democracy in Action, October 5 2005, Puget Sound Shared Strategy)

While we have not been apprised of any actions of the King County Council on the recommendations of the KCD Board of Supervisors, we felt it important for the Council to know our concerns now and to begin a dialogue with you before the Council finalizes crafting legislation on the KCD Special Assessment reauthorization. If you have any questions, please contact me at 206-433-1850.

Sincerely,



Steve Mullet, Mayor of Tukwila
Chair, WRIA 9 Watershed Forum

cc: Ron Sims, King County Executive
King County Councilmembers
WRIA 9 Forum Members
WRIA 8 Forum Members
WRIA 7 Forum Members
City Managers
Shared Strategy



Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Special Assessment on Lands within the King Conservation District.

The Board of Supervisors of the King Conservation District invites you to a public hearing on a King Conservation District special assessment on parcels within the District boundary (most of King County). The public hearing will be Wednesday May 11th, 2005 from 4PM to 6PM in the hearing room at King County Department of Development and Environmental Services building located at 900 Oaksdale Ave. SW in Renton. You may also submit your comments in writing until May 27th, 2005 regarding this issue.

By Mail: Public Comment, King Conservation District-
935 Powell Ave SW • Renton WA 98055

By Electronic Mail: District@kingcd.org

Background:

Currently the King CD has a special assessment on all applicable lands within the King Conservation District boundary (most of King County) of \$5.00 per parcel per year from 2000 through 2005. This assessment raises approximately 2.6 million dollars per year which the District uses to fund its annual plan of work and watershed and natural resources conservation projects in our 34 member cities and the 3 Watershed Forums operating in King County. This special assessment is due to sunset at the end of 2005. The Board is seeking input on whether to request a reauthorization of this assessment from the Metropolitan King County Council. The amount, duration and distribution of the assessment are also issues that the Board is seeking public comment on.

For more information contact geoff.reed@kingcd.org or 425-277-5581 x.103 or visit www.kingcd.org

Public Hearing May 11th, 2005

Public Comment Review for May 11, 2005

Date	Support	Non-Support	\$ Distribution	# Years
5/3/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	King County to Governor Gregoire Larry Phillips and Ron Sims			
5/27/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	King County to Max Prinsen, KCD Larry Phillips, Carolyn Edmonds, Dow Constantine, and Ron Sims			
5/26/2005	X		Incr from \$1 to \$4 for Cities	5 years
	City of Seattle Chuck Clark, Public Utilities			
5/26/2005	X		Incr to \$10 - WRIA's \$6 / NCG\$2 w/Equal share to WRIA's	
	City of North Bend Mayor Ken Hearing			
5/25/2005	X		Incr to \$10 - NCG 20% / KCD 15% / WRIA's 65%	10 years
	City of Redmond Mayor Rosemarie M. Ives			
5/27/2005	X		Incr to \$10 - WRIA's \$6 with Greater share to Snoq WSF	
	City of Duvall Mayor ProTem Jeffrey Possinger			
5/31/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	City of Renton Dan Clawson, Renton City Council			
5/20/2005	X		Incr to \$10 - WRIA's \$6	
	WRIA 7 - Snoqualmie Mark Sollitto, Chair			
5/20/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	WRIA 8 - Cedar River - LkWA - Sammamish Dr. Don Davidson, City of Bellevue Council Member			
5/26/2005	X		Incr to \$10 - Draft Resolution No 2005-1	
	WRIA 9 - Green Duwamish - CPS Steven M. Mullet, WRIA 9 Chairman			
5/17/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	Department of Fish & Wildlife Bob Everitt, Regional Director			
4/26/2005	X		\$5	
	Ray & Judy Willman Cooperator			

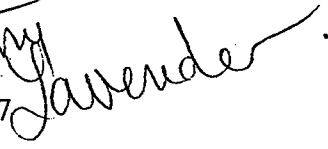
NCG - Non Competitive Grants; UW - University of Washington; WRIA's - Watershed Forums; KCD - King Conservation District

Date	Support	Non-Support	\$ Distribution	# Years
4/27/2005	X			
	Jan Misner and Riley Parker			
	Wildlife Farm - 1999			
			Great programs	
5/11/2005	X		Re-up \$	
	Terry and Jo Sullivan			
	Cooperator			
5/16/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	Raymond Timm			
	UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences			
5/17/2005	X		Keep same % distribution at \$5 or \$10	
	Richard D. Crittenden			
	Pipewright, Inc. - Construction			
5/17/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	Julie Hall			
	Cooperator			
5/17/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	Karl Burton			
	karl.burton@seattle.gov			
5/17/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	Shannon McCluskey			
	University of Washington			
5/17/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	John Frech, P.E.			
	Landowner			
5/17/2005	X		\$5	
	John Dixon			
	Volunteer Thornton Creek			
5/22/2005	X		Incr to \$10 - KCD \$3 / NCG \$1 / WRIA's \$3 / UW \$1	
	Bill Knutson, Dairyman			
	Remaining funds to be managed by KCD & awarded to worthy projects county wide.			
5/22/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	Terry Lavender			
	KC Conservation Futures Citizens Advisory Comm.			
5/25/2005	X		Incr to \$10	
	Sarah Morley			
	Landowner			
4/25/2005		X	Feels property owners can do a better job with \$\$.	
	Bob Vos			
	Landowner - Mentioned Supervisor election of write in candidate and lack of public awareness of the election.			

May 22, 2005

To: King Conservation District
935 Powell Ave. S.W.
Renton, WA 98055

From: Terry Lavender
17304 208th Ave. N.E.
Woodinville, WA 98077



Re: Public Comment regarding reauthorization of the assessment

I strongly support reauthorization of the King Conservation District per parcel special assessment. I also support increasing the assessment to \$10.00 as allowed by State law.

This is an important source of funding for salmon recovery projects and supports many agricultural programs. I currently chair the King County Conservation Futures Citizens Advisory Committee and dollars used for open space acquisition with Conservation Futures are often matched with King Conservation District dollars. I have also seen this fund be an important source of implementation ability for the Forums. When the Forum can actually select projects and then make them happen, it provides motivation to continue to cooperate to accomplish shared goals.

A \$10 per parcel annual assessment does not pose a hardship to owners of property and yet will raise funds that can be matched and leveraged to support a large number of local programs and projects.

I urge the King County Council to reauthorize the per parcel special assessment and raise it to \$10.00 per year.

May 22, 2005

To: King Conservation District
935 Powell Ave. S.W.
Renton, WA 98055

From: Terry Lavender
17304 208th Ave. N.E.
Woodinville, WA 98077

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I urge the King County Council to reauthorize the per parcel special assessment and raise it to \$10.00 per year.

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 6:40 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: King Conservation District re-authorization

-----Original Message-----

From: serratella@gmail.com [mailto:serratella@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 5:13 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: King Conservation District re-authorization

Hello - I'm writing to voice my support for having a small portion of my yearly property taxes go towards conservation efforts. In fact, I'd like to see you increase the amount to \$10 a year to help preserve and improve habitat for salmon and other species.

thank you,

Sarah Morley
Seattle home-owner

25 April 2005

King Conservation District
935 Powell Ave SW
Renton, WA 98055

To the Board of Supervisors:

This is comment on the special assessment on parcels, due to sunset at the end of 2005.

The data given in the public hearing notice would seem to indicate that for a small fee (\$5.00 per parcel) there is a very considerable fund established (\$2.6 M) for conservation projects. Another valid viewpoint is that there are 520,000 parcel owners, each of whom is taxed to create this fund.

I would ask the Board to consider what these 520,000 parcel owners would choose to do, if given a vote. Each owner could have a small, but not insignificant, sum to use as he or she best saw fit. Perhaps to replace a rotting fence post, sow some grass seed, or plant some extra vegetables in the garden. Or perhaps contribute an extra five bucks to a school fundraiser for their child's soccer team. Would these 520,000 parcel owners vote to renew the assessment?

I would also ask the board to consider that there is a growing disillusionment (and even anger) on the part of many property owners at the way that King County is treating them. One evidence of this is the recent Conservation Board election. In spite of the fact that the election seemed to be a well kept secret, a last minute write-in ballot campaign generated enough votes for the write-in candidate to almost win over the two "official" candidates. What does this say? Next time some of these voters will be aware of what is going on, and will be ready. Please note that 520,000 informed votes (or even a small fraction of them) is a powerful force for change.

The bottom line is that I believe most property owners value their homes and land, and are true "conservationists." They also believe that they, rather than county government, can do a better job of "conserving" the property, families and values which they hold dear.

I ask that the Board show good faith, sincerely represent the people, and let this assessment sunset.

Bob Vos
18405 SE 394th St.
Auburn, WA 98092
360.825.6660 (H)

BRIEFING PAPER

ISSUES RELATED TO KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Sponsor: Steve Mullet, Mayor of Tukwila

Background: As authorized by RCW 89.08, the King County Council has imposed a special assessment of \$5.00 per parcel per year to fund the King Conservation District's natural resource conservation programs. The assessment is collected throughout King County, except within the cities of Enumclaw, Skykomish, Milton, Pacific, and Federal Way, which are not members of the district (see footnote on next page). The \$5.00 per parcel is distributed as follows: \$1.00 per parcel goes to the District to conduct its annual work program; \$1.00 per parcel goes to the jurisdiction within which the assessment is collected; and \$3.00 per parcel is distributed among the five watershed forums in the District.

Issue: There are three upcoming issues of interest to cities regarding the KCD special assessment:

1. RCW 89.08 sets the ceiling for conservation district special assessments at \$5.00 per parcel. The current KCD assessment is at that ceiling. SB 5094, initiated by KCD and sponsored by Senator Jacobsen of North Seattle, would raise the ceiling on the special assessment to \$10.00 per parcel. The primary reasons cited by KCD for the proposed increase are: (1) The District has not received an increase in its share of the assessment in 10 years, and inflation has eroded its ability to continue needed programs; and (2) Member jurisdictions will need more money to fund conservation activities related to salmon recovery.
2. The current KCD special assessment of \$5.00 per parcel expires at the end of this year. In order to continue beyond that, it must be reauthorized by the King County Council. If the state legislature increases the assessment ceiling to \$10.00 per parcel, KCD will likely ask King County to reauthorize the assessment at or near that level. Otherwise, KCD will ask that it remain at \$5.00 per parcel. As part of the reauthorization process, both KCD and the King County Council are required to hold public hearings. By law, KCD's hearing must be held before August 1 of this year.
3. Even if the special assessment ceiling is not increased and the annual assessment remains at \$5.00 per parcel, KCD says it would try to negotiate a higher share for the District than the current \$1.00 per parcel. (This means the amount distributed to cities and/or watershed forums would decrease.) On the other hand, if the legislature increases the ceiling, all parties could argue for an increase in their share of the assessment.

Available documents and staff: Documents such as relevant portions of RCW 89.08, the King County Ordinance authorizing the current special assessment, and a KCD flyer will be provided as this issue moves forward in the PIC. The KCD Board of Supervisors has indicated a willingness to brief the Public Issues Committee at a future meeting.

Why this issue is important to suburban cities: The KCD special assessment funds the District's and watershed forums' natural resource conservation activities, which are directly or indirectly beneficial to city residents. In addition, the portion distributed to cities allows cities to

fund their own conservation-related projects and programs (it can be used to match state and federal grants). If the legislature raises the ceiling for the special assessment, member cities would have an opportunity to negotiate an increase in their share of the assessment. Even if the ceiling is not increased, member cities have an interest in ensuring the current special assessment is reauthorized and that the city share is not decreased.

Some cities may view it as a negative that property owners would be subject to a higher special assessment if the ceiling is raised. (The special assessment is collected by the county treasurer and listed as a separate item on property tax bills.) Also, some cities may view an increase in the assessment ceiling as the opening salvo in local residents' footing the bill for salmon recovery.

Other entities that may partner with SCA on the issue. SCA could partner with Seattle, Bellevue, and King County if it turns out we are like-minded on one or more of the issues. KCD will be partnering with other conservation districts in the state to lobby the legislature to approve SB 5094.

Footnote:

KCD was formed in 1949. At that time, all unincorporated areas were automatically included, but incorporated cities had to formally join the District. The city of Enumclaw elected not to join KCD, but has inquired about joining several times in recent years. Skykomish decided it would make more sense for it to join the Snohomish Conservation District. Similarly, Milton and Pacific decided to join the Pierce Conservation District. Since then, newly incorporated cities in King County are automatically included in KCD. However, Federal Way withdrew from KCD in 1998, when the assessment was increased from \$1.50 to \$5.00 per parcel, with \$3.00 per parcel distributed to watershed forums. It is possible to withdraw from the District by petitioning the state conservation commission, a process outlined in RCW 89.08.



Suburban Cities Association

6300 Southcenter Blvd Suite 206

Tukwila Washington 98188

Phone 206 433 7168

Fax 206 242 8076

Email sca@suburbancities.org

SCA Public Issues Committee

Minutes

March 16, 2005 – 7:00PM

Renton City Hall

▪ **Welcome and Roll Call**

Sonny Putter, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 without a quorum.

▪ **Introductions of guests**

Michael Hubner, SCA

▪ **Approval of minutes of February 9, 2005 meeting (Attachment 1)**

Postponed until the April 20 meeting.

▪ **Issues for consideration by the Committee**

#1. Issues Related to King Conservation District Special Assessment (Attachment 2-A)

#2. I-747 (Attachment 2-B)

Sonny Putter reminded the PIC representatives that the rules call for introduction and discussion at one meeting and vote at following meeting. In the absence of Pete Lewis, Issue #2 - I-747 will be discussed at the April 20 meeting.

Issue #1- Three separate issues related to the King Conservation District (KCD) Special Assessment were introduced by Steve Mullet. Issues should be taken to each Council and discussed, with PIC members returning city comments to the SCA office as soon as possible.

1. RCW 89.08 sets the ceiling for conservation district special assessments at \$5.00 per parcel. The current KCD assessment is at that ceiling. SB 5094, initiated by KCD and sponsored by Senator Jacobsen of North Seattle, would raise the ceiling on the special assessment to \$10.00 per parcel. The primary reasons cited by KCD for the proposed increase are: (1) The District has not received an increase in its share of the assessment in 10 years, and inflation has eroded its ability to continue needed programs; and (2) Member jurisdictions will need more money to fund conservation activities related to salmon recovery.
2. The current KCD special assessment of \$5.00 per parcel expires at the end of this year. In order to continue beyond that, it must be reauthorized by the King County Council. If the state legislature increases the assessment ceiling to \$10.00 per parcel, KCD will likely ask King County to reauthorize the assessment at or near that level. The split of the money has not been determined.
3. Otherwise, KCD will ask that it remain at \$5.00 per parcel. As part of the reauthorization process, both KCD and the King County Council are required to hold public hearings. By law, KCD's hearing must be held before August 1 of this year.
4. Even if the special assessment ceiling is not increased and the annual assessment remains at \$5.00 per parcel, KCD says it would try to negotiate a higher share for the District than the current \$1.00

per parcel. (This means the amount distributed to cities and/or watershed forums would decrease.) On the other hand, if the legislature increases the ceiling, all parties could argue for an increase in their share of the assessment.

▪ **Review and recommend SCA positions on work of Regional Committees (Attachment 3)**

Karen Goroski explained the goal is to give guidance to and hold accountable SCA representatives chosen to serve on regional committees. With written guidance, SCA could become less reactive and more proactive which is an often stated desire from individual cities. Caucus' could ultimately carry messages that add items to the work plans of the committees on which they serve

The PIC reps broke into small groups to discuss the issues being currently handled by regional committees. What follows are the reports back regarding those discussions. The boxes isolate possible action by SCA.

RPC – presented by John Wise

Recommends that SCA stay within policy and not offer solutions. There are three possible SCA policy statements:

A. (equitable distribution of solid waste transfer facilities among all contracting jurisdictions – topic didn't come to top but needs staff work and idea of when is proper time.

B. (SCA support examining privatization of all or any part of the SW system) this was the top priority within the discussion group and a huge issue.

SCA should look at opting out in favor of privatization and make policy statements now, while in a proactive time frame.

C. It was agreed that SCA should prepare policy statements very soon, to keep the existing number of reps post-2005 to ALL King County regional committees. Changes in representation should occur as population changes, as occurred 2 - 3 years ago pursuant to the King County charter.

Homeland security and preparedness was discussed as an issue for cities of less than 50,000 population. Those cities do not get direct grants and the cities don't know exactly what they can get. This needs some investigation and ultimately a policy statement. It may not be an RPC issue, but the issue needs raised for it to be directed to the appropriate place.

Sally Nelson said that these concerns are common to all cities in the US and offered to share information to which she has access.

GMPC presented by Lucy Krakowiak

She reviewed the 2005 work program for this regional committee, including:

-Reports from Benchmark and Buildable Lands programs (informational)

-Urban Center designations (S. Lake Union and , possibly Overlake)

-CPPs promoting land use and transportation linkages that promote public health.

Regional committee representatives see no need for an SCA policy position on any of these items at this time.

Emerging issues:

-Vision 2020 update. PSRC may be asked to update GMPC on this major update, including policy options that may have implications for recent GMPC policy making (Urban Centers, growth targets).

SCA should track the update process and may adopt an association position once further details on the Vision 2020 update emerge.

-Urban density 4 du/ac brightline. This issue is playing out in 3 arenas.

1. Several member cities have been appealed by Futurewise (formerly 1000 Friends of WA) to the growth management hearings board for alleged failure to permit "appropriate urban densities."
2. AWC has been promoting legislation to specify that local governments have broad discretion as to how they accommodate targeted growth, including densities appropriate to local circumstances.
3. A potential arena for addressing cities' concerns is GMPC, which could amend the countywide planning policies to clarify a range of appropriate urban densities as well as exceptions that would justify area-wide densities at lower densities in the UGA.

SCA should consider adopting a policy on urban densities and countywide planning policies. Depending on the outcome of the legislative process, SCA should consider adding this item to the GMPC work program.

-In anticipation of the possibility that the release of the WRIA plans this year may prompt King Co to push for CPPs implementing the plans.

SCA may consider adopting a policy position underscoring the need for local flexibility and discretion. Such a position would likely echo the position taken by SCA in 1999 in response to CPPs promoted at that time in advance of the WRIA plans and ESA 4d rule negotiations.

Steve Mullet added that SCA should consider adopting a position on the Growth Management Act and specifically the maintenance of the current urban growth area boundary lines in King County vs. UGA expansion.

PSRC Exec – presented by Sally Nelson

SCA encourage the PSRC Executive Committee Support more efficiency, less staff, better focus and less redundancy in its work.

Upcoming issue papers with broad titles such as Health and Transportation were used as examples of mission creep which could ultimately affect the cities by placing additional requirements and restrictions in city comprehensive plans separate from those requirements already being created by other committees and boards.

Another issue discussed it the regional airport system. PSRC Executive Board is discussing a potential second regional airport; the issue is unrelated to the third runway. Group felt this is an upcoming need but more work needs to be done as to where it would be located and other such decisions. Obviously, there would be more capacity in a location other than SeaTac. There is a huge amount of work regarding location and capacity done for the SeaTac expansion, but the issue was dropped. It is recommended that work already done be reexamined. SCA staff was tasked with finding the old Kaiser bill and old PSRC work. The issue is highly controversial, and might be handled best in a reactive, not proactive setting.

RWQC – presented by Bill Pelozza

I. Monthly Executive level Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant Financial Summary - Budget has grown from \$1.34B to \$1.48B within the last year. Future cost estimates potentially will continue to grow because of increased labor, materials and inflation.

Attachment 2 to the April 20, 2005 PIC Agenda

SCA should take a position to support the RWQC and County Council requirement of regular executive summaries (monthly) of the costs to monitor "rate creep" in an attempt to avoid increases in Sewer Rate/Capacity Charge (sewer hookups) in the short and long term.

II. RWQC potential reduced membership as a result of MKCC reduction from 13 to 9 Councilmembers- Current committee is made up of 12 members and 4 alternates distributed as follows: KC Council (4 members); SCA (4 members & 2 alternates); Seattle Council (2 members & 1 alternate); and Sewer Districts (2 members & 1 alternate). Each member, except suburban cities, having one vote. Alternates are also required to attend meetings but only vote if membership does not have a quorum.

SCA should support the status quo representation from suburban cities. Suggested changes to committee structure -12 members and 4 alternates distributed as follows: KC Council (4 members); SCA (4 members w/1/2 vote each & 2 alternates); Seattle Council (2 members & 1 alternate); and Sewer Districts (2 members & 1 alternate). For purposes of voting, this change may require a weighted or one/1/2 vote system.

III. Inflow/Infiltration -

Storm water and cracked/broken sewer pipes can lead to full capacity of outflow systems causing potential sewer overflows in communities served by wastewater treatment plants. Municipalities should continue to monitor the development of an I/I Control Program initiated by KC. Follow the MWPAAC technical guidance/recommendation on this issue.

IV. Public Disclosure -

"New pays for new", known as the capacity charge requires the owner of a new home to pay for a connection fee. Often the cost of the connection is not known by the new owner until the bill arrives, often 6 months after purchase

SCA may want to take a proactive position on this issue.

RTC and PSRC TPB – presented by Ralph Shape

- 1) The immediate increase in transit fares may defeat the purpose of getting cars off roads.
- 2) Water transportation (ferry service) from Elliott Bay to West Seattle is being considered again. This comes close to paying for itself during tourist season, but not the rest of the year. Metro needs to get out of the boat business altogether. Metro is competing with Sound Transit in a multi- modal system environment.
- 3) Metro should concentrate on bus service and work as partners with Sound Transit, not compete.

Karen Goroski talked about how issues are coming to SCA and who will staff them. She asked for guidance on next the steps. PIC members were encouraged to talk to colleagues and encourage them to come. All agreed the breakout groups helped. Cities should take the lead to staff research and bring issues back to PIC...ultimately writing some specific policy statements for consideration.

In a brief discussion of gambling it was agreed that it doesn't belong in GMPC or RPC. *Steve Mullet volunteered Tukwila to take the lead on the gambling issue.*

- **Review top issues for 2005 of SCA member cities (Attachment 4)**

PIC representatives are to be responsible for getting this back in three weeks.

Item tabled for lack of time and also few responses.

▪ **Other**

1. Letters from the Board of Directors

- To Snohomish County Officials regarding Brightwater
- To Congressional Delegation regarding Community Service Block Grants

2. SCA Networking Dinners

- April 13, 2005 – Ron Sher, owner 3rd Place Books, speaking on “The change in retail and how it has impacted communities -Placemaking, partnerships, and non-elective democracy
- June 8, 2005 – State Attorney General Rob McKenna
- **November 16, 2005 – SCA Annual Meeting**

▪ **Next meeting – April 20, 2005 – Renton City Hall**

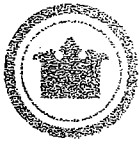
▪ **The meeting adjourned a 8:58 PM**

Roll Call –PIC March 16, 2005
Short 1 member for quorum

City	Representative	Alternate	Other
Algona	Jeff Viney	Joe Scholz	
Auburn	Pete Lewis	Sue Singer	
Beaux Arts			
Black Diamond			
Bothell		Mike Johnson	
Burien			
Carnation			
Clyde Hill	Patrick Hawkins	George Martin	
Covington	Bud Sizemore		
Des Moines	Susan White	Dan Sherman	
Duvall			
Enumclaw			
Federal Way	Jim Ferrell	Dean McColgan	
Hunts Point			
Issaquah	Ava Frisinger		
Kenmore	David Baker	Steve Colwell	
Kent	Jim White		
Kirkland	Joan McBride		
Lake Forest Park	Nate Herzog	Carolyn Armanini	
Maple Valley			
Medina	Mary Odermat		
Mercer Island		Bryan Cairns	
Milton			
Newcastle		Jean Garber	
Normandy Park		George Hadley	
North Bend	Ken Hearing		
Pacific		Clint Steiger	
Redmond		Nancy McCormick	
Renton		K. Keolker-Wheeler	
Sammamish		Michelle Petitti	
SeaTac		Terry Anderson	
Shoreline		Robert Ransom	
Skykomish			
Snoqualmie	Kathy Prewitt		
Tukwila		Pam Linder	
Woodinville	Cathy VonWald		
Yarrow Point			
SCA			

Attachment 2 to the April 20, 2005 PIC Agenda

Bolded cities mean the city was represented and the shaded names present the presence of the city's representatives.



King County

May 3, 2005

The Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor
Office of the Washington State Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Since 1998, King County and its cities have worked in partnership with the King Conservation District to protect and restore the valuable natural resources, agricultural activities and aquatic and terrestrial habitats in King County. To support this partnership, under state statutory authority we worked with the King County Council to assess a \$5 per parcel fee. The King Conservation District used this revenue with its watershed and local government partners to fund important technical work and on-the-ground conservation projects in the Snoqualmie valley, and the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish, Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound watersheds.

This assessment, and the conservation projects that have been accomplished, are extremely important in King County, and have resulted in the protection of viable farms and agricultural activities and the restoration of habitat that many species, including the federally listed Chinook salmon and bull trout, depend upon. Working in partnership, the King Conservation District has effected a five to ten-fold leverage of the \$5 per parcel assessment.

The state legislature has sent you Substitute Senate Bill 5094, an important bill that will raise the statutory limit for the Conservation District assessment in King County from \$5 per parcel to \$10 per parcel. We urge your strong support of this important bill and thank you for your efforts on behalf of the natural resources, farms and residents throughout King County. The increased local option authority gives the King Conservation District, the cities and King County the opportunity to further our shared conservation goals. This partnership plans to work together to implement additional conservation projects, to ensure that we protect the valuable natural resources and important agricultural activities in King County for future generations. If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Richey, Manager of the Strategic Initiatives Section in the Water and Land Resources Division, in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks at 206-296-8056.



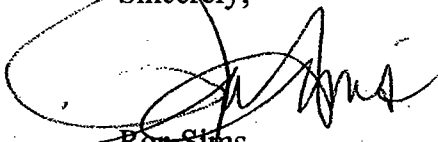
The Honorable Christine Gregoire

May 3, 2005

Page 2

Thank you for your support of this important bill. We look forward to working with you in the future in the active conservation and restoration of our valuable natural resources here in King County and Puget Sound.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims

King County Executive



Larry Phillips

Chair, King County Council

cc: The Honorable Greg Nickels, Mayor, City of Seattle
The Honorable Connie Marshall, Mayor, City of Bellevue
Max Prinsen, Chairperson, King Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Chuck Williams, Government Relations Director, King County Council
Pam Bissonnette, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, DNRP
Mark Isaacson, Assistant Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), DNRP
Joanna Richey, Manager, Strategic Initiatives Section, WLRD, DNRP



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities

Chuck Clarke, Director

May 26, 2005

King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

Dear King Conservation District Commissioners:

The City of Seattle would like to express support for the reauthorization of the King Conservation District. The District has played an important role in natural resource conservation in the context of an economically important county within the State of Washington. The scope of the District's mission is important as it includes protection and restoration of a wide variety of natural resources. Seattle appreciates the services provided directly by District staff in helping landowners as well as the District's administration of a grant program to local jurisdictions and the WRIA Forums.

We recognize that it is important to increase the funding for natural resource protection both because the WRIA plans for salmon recovery are entering into the implementation phase and because our citizens have significant expectations about preservation and ecosystem restoration. We encourage the District to seek reauthorization at the maximum level allowed by State law.

The distribution of the fee will likely become a focus of much discussion. It is important to remember that nearly two-thirds of the KCD revenues are generated inside incorporated municipalities. These municipalities will incur significant costs implementing the WRIA plans. It is our perception that actions by municipalities will be key in the successful implementation of these plans. For instance, recommendations on regulatory changes, stewardship and incentive programs are featured in each plan. Municipalities seem willing to take these actions but the plan recommendations need to be shaped to respond to the unique circumstances of each jurisdiction. It is important that some significant portion of the funds generated in the cities be available to support municipalities' implementation of these aspects of WRIA plans.

Although the City of Seattle expects to fund projects recommended in the plan that are within our boundaries, there may also be worthwhile projects that are not included in the plan that we will choose to implement. Such a project can also provide significant value but may not have been reviewed for plan inclusion for various reasons. For instance, Seattle recently was able to add KCD funding to a Seattle Transportation Department project. Mitigation for the project was determined to include riparian planting. However the site had considerable debris in the intertidal area. The KCD funds allowed us to add

debris cleanup to the project. This project was not considered in the WRIA plan, but added to the habitat value of an area cited in the plan as being of importance to juvenile salmon.

To preserve the maximum ability of jurisdictions to holistically approach ecosystem protection and recovery, the City suggests that the funds allocated to individual jurisdictions be increased from \$1/parcel to \$4 /parcel. This will allow jurisdictions to target the most important needs within their area of responsibility including using KCD funds to support other projects within the scope of District priorities.

The City of Seattle thinks jurisdictions could also choose to pool funds to accomplish a larger WRIA habitat project if they so choose. The City of Seattle was pleased to have contributed \$100,000 of General Fund monies to the purchase of Site 1 in the City of Tukwila, a WRIA priority project identified early in the WRIA planning process through the Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Study. We will continue to consider such collaborative projects in the future but would prefer to maintain flexibility to also use funds generated from our citizens to support other ecosystem restoration activities within our jurisdiction.

The City of Seattle understands the importance of continuing to make funds available to the WRIA Forums for common implementation of the WRIA plans. We join with other jurisdictions eager to get on with this next phase.

We support an increase in the allocation of the Conservation District fee to the District itself. It is our observation that the District's work with landowners is important and effective, and that implementation of the WRIA plans will require increases in the services now well delivered by District staff. We encourage the district to focus on its most important work: direct services to private property owners. We also encourage the district to increase the rigor with which they scrutinize jurisdictional proposals for the non-competitive grants administered by the district. We look forward to seeing the District's work program for the additional funding that they may receive.

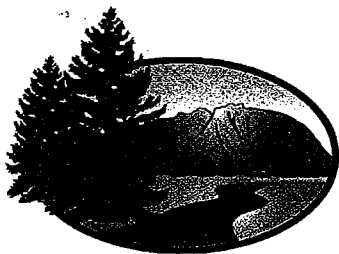
The City encourages the District to seek a 5-year reauthorization. This will allow readjustment of both the level and allocation of the fee if it becomes apparent that some other level or allocation would better support natural resource protection in the County.

We support the King Conservation District and its mission. We appreciate the funding made available to us that has supported our wetlands mapping to support our Critical Areas update, various restoration projects including the beach restoration at Luna Park, and scientific work which helps us all better understand the best investments we can make in ecosystem health.

Sincerely,



Chuck Clarke
Director of Seattle Public Utilities



CITY OF NORTH BEND

"Excellence in Government – Pride in Service"

May 26, 2005

Max Prinsen
Chair, King Conservation District Board of Supervisors
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

RE: King Conservation District Special (KCD) Assessment

Dear Mr. Prinsen:

The City of North Bend is pleased to submit comments on the KCD special assessment. For the past seven years, the City of North Bend has greatly relied upon the King Conservation District grant funds available through the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. The Forum has an excellent track record of delivering high value projects to the Snoqualmie Valley community. We are proud of what we have accomplished and have proved ourselves capable of doing excellent work with these dollars.

The City of North Bend endorses the reauthorization of King Conservation District's special assessment including an increase of the assessment to \$10. If the assessment were to be raised to \$10 per parcel, the Watershed Forums' portion should be raised to \$6 of the proposed \$10. The City of North Bend also supports maintaining the current 20% level of funding for the cities parcel share. Maintaining the 20% per parcel and supporting the \$6 to the Forum is crucial, due to the relatively small number of parcels in each valley city. North Bend has received approximately \$500,000 in watershed forum KCD grant funds to do projects over the past seven years, and approximately \$9,000 in KCD grants from the city's \$1 portion in that same period. The watershed forum portion remains absolutely critical in leveraging more money for the rural communities.

Within this \$6 Forum share, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum should receive a greater or equal share of the total WRIA 7, 8, 9 Forum dollars. Having just completed the Salmon Conservation Plan, the Snoqualmie Watershed is poised and ready for implementation. The Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish watersheds make up almost half the land area in King County. The Snoqualmie watershed has high priority spawning habitat for Chinook and coho. The Snoqualmie Chinook stock is expected to be labeled as "critical" by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries for Puget Sound Chinook recovery. There is an opportunity to protect and restore the Snoqualmie before it is further degraded by regional population growth. For the last five years the Snoqualmie has received a disproportionately smaller amount of funding than the other watersheds. With incredible opportunity for fish recovery and an agriculture community on board and partnering in this effort, the Snoqualmie Watershed should be receiving a greater amount of the watershed forum's portion of the KCD assessment.

City Hall
211 Main Ave. N.
Phone (425) 888-1211
Fax (425) 831-6200

Community Services
126 E. Fourth St.
Phone (425) 888-5633
Fax (425) 888-5636

Fire Department
112 W. Second
Phone (425) 888-0242
Fax (425) 888-5275

Public Works
1155 E. North Bend Way
Phone (425) 888-0486
Fax (425) 888-3502

Sheriff's Office
1550 Boalch Ave. NW
Phone (425) 888-4433
Phone (206) 296-0612
Fax (206) 296-0929

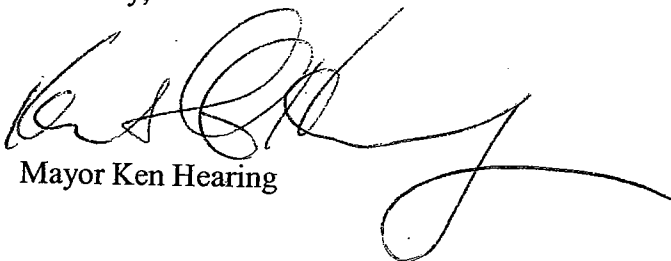
The City of North Bend would like to work with the King Conservation District on the Interlocal Agreement to ensure that the cities cost share will continue to be covered by the KCD assessment. The City of North Bend is provided access to information and a level of staffing on watershed issues that we would not be able to afford on our own. The Snoqualmie cities Interlocal Agreement cost share currently comes out of the Forum's grant share of the KCD assessment. The cities receive regular technical assistance, access to help in implementing capital projects, and have formed critical relationships with neighboring jurisdictions which is critical in managing the rural area.

On behalf of the City of North Bend I want to extend a thank you to the King Conservation District for your contributions and support to the Forum, and the valuable projects that have been funded for North Bend and the other valley cities. The KCD has been an important partner as we forge ahead to recover salmon to the Snoqualmie while at the same time supporting agriculture and respecting the value of the rural communities.

The Snoqualmie Valley cities, King County, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and the King Conservation District share the same goals of promoting vibrant rural areas that are sustainable for people and fish in the future. The KCD assessment is a critical piece of our opportunity to support working rural landscapes, vibrant small cities connected to their core rural character and healthy runs of salmon.

We promise to keep working hard for the Snoqualmie Valley and we look forward to seeing this assessment continue to help us make valuable contributions to the region. Thank you for your efforts and support. Please contact myself or Associate Planner, Jamie Burrell at (425) 888-5633 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ken Hearing

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Edmonds, Councilmember, King County
The Honorable Kathy Lambert, Councilmember, King County
Sandy Kilroy, Coordinator, Snoqualmie Watershed
Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Members

The Honorable Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember
The Honorable Mark Sollitto, North Bend Councilmember
The Honorable Heather Page, Duvall Councilmember
The Honorable Bill Paulsen, Carnation Councilmember
The Honorable Charles Peterson, Snoqualmie Councilmember
Matt Stone, Snoqualmie Riverfront Landowner
Bill Knutsen, King County Agriculture Landowner
Gary Roberts, King County Rural Residential Landowner
William Harper, King County Riparian Landowner
King Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Scott Wallace, Vice-Chair
Bobbi Lindemulder, Member
Matt Livengood, Member
Richard Gelb, Member



THE CITY OF REDMOND

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ROSEMARIE M. IVES, Mayor

May 25, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, Washington 98055

RE: Redmond's Support for King Conservation District Assessment

The City of Redmond supports renewing and increasing the King Conservation District yearly assessment from \$5 to \$10 per parcel and distributing this revenue so that the county and each city in the district receive twenty percent (20%), the King Conservation District receives fifteen percent (15%), and Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8, WRIA 9 and the King County portion of WRIA 7 receive sixty-five percent (65%) of the revenue collected; revenue distributed to the watershed forums shall be equitably divided based on the current interlocal agreement governing these forums, with two/fifths of revenue distributed to WRIA 8, two/fifths of revenue distributed to WRIA 9, and one/fifth of revenue distributed to the King County portion of WRIA 7.

The City supports a renewal and increase of the King Conservation District (KCD) Assessment for a period of ten years, as authorized pursuant to state law, to fund vital natural resource conservation activities; this funding will enable jurisdictions to partially fund implementation of salmon recovery plans, as well as habitat conservation plans.

Redmond and the larger watershed of which it is part, has benefited greatly from funds provided by the KCD assessment. These funds have been used to restore salmon habitat along the Sammamish River and its smaller tributaries, purchase relatively intact stretches of salmon habitat along Bear Creek, and to educate people about the environment. Additionally, KCD funds also have supported multi-jurisdictional community events such as "Sammamish Releaf" which allows the public to actively participate in restoration projects.

As a result of KCD funds, smaller jurisdictions have had an opportunity to initiate projects that otherwise would not have been possible with their limited resources. Many of these jurisdictions have some of the most vital habitat areas within their jurisdictions.

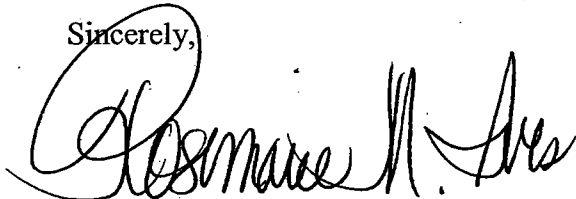
Public Comment
King Conservation District
May 25, 2005
Page 2 of 2

KCD funds enhance our local conservation efforts by supporting the collection of regional data about salmon. Programs such as the Bear Creek Juvenile Fish Trap, the automated juvenile salmon counters at the locks, and the Army Corps Juvenile Salmon Study along the Sammamish has created a scientific foundation against which we can measure our successes and refine our conservation methods.

These project and program examples demonstrate how the KCD funds have resulted in "on the ground" efforts that support the recovery of salmon today. We must preserve our salmon legacy for future generations. We urge you to request King County Council authorization to retain and increase this vital component of local and regional funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rosemarie M. Ives". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Rosemarie M. Ives
Mayor

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 6:40 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Comment on renewal of KCD assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel Clawson [mailto:dclawson@ci.renton.wa.us]
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2005 5:15 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Cc: Ronald Straka; Terri Briere
Subject: Comment on renewal of KCD assessment

I am writing to support renewal of KCD assessment authority and increase to the \$10 level. The funds have very useful in purchasing habitat on the Cedar River and could help fund other salmon recovery projects in King County. The funds are needed and this is a source that is not an undue burden on any property owner.

Dan Clawson
Renton City Council

Member:
WRIA 8 Forum
WRIA 8 Steering Committee

S N O Q U A L M I E W A T E R S H E D F O R U M

Carnation

May 20, 2005

Duvall

Max Prinsen

King County

Chair, King Conservation District Board of Supervisors

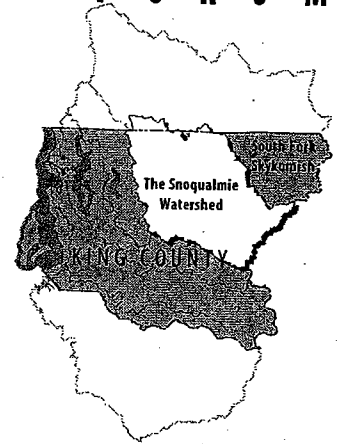
North Bend

935 Powell Avenue SW

Snoqualmie

Renton, WA 98055

RE: King Conservation District Special (KCD) Assessment



Dear Max Prinsen:

The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum is pleased to submit comments on the KCD special assessment. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum is a partnership between the cities of Duvall, Carnation, North Bend and Snoqualmie and King County. For the past seven years, we have been responsible for recommending projects for a portion of the current KCD assessment. The Forum has an excellent track record of delivering high value projects to the Snoqualmie Valley community. We are proud of what we have accomplished and have proved ourselves capable of doing excellent work with these dollars.

The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum endorses the reauthorization of King Conservation District's special assessment including an assessment increase to \$10.

- Funding from the assessment, which is set to expire in 2005, has been used wisely by governmental agencies across King County to encourage land and water conservation and enhance watershed health. Additional dollars will go a long way in furthering our goals for salmon recovery, strong rural areas, vibrant farms and forests, and locally driven actions.

If the assessment were to be raised to \$10 per parcel, the Watershed Forums' portion should be raised to \$6 of the proposed \$10.

- The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum has used its past portion of this money to the benefit of jurisdictions and the region. The Forums' portion gives the greatest flexibility to all jurisdictions to implement the highest priority projects that are necessary for salmon recovery and watershed health. The watershed forum portion is an excellent source of funding for local governments to implement on-the-ground projects providing a greater amount of money than any one jurisdiction could ever raise alone. Due to the relatively small number of parcels in the Snoqualmie, small cities do not receive significant funds through the municipal portion of the assessment. The Forum portion is critical to the rural areas. For example, North Bend has received approximately \$475,000 in watershed forum KCD grant funds to do projects over the past seven years, in contrast to receiving approximately \$9,000 in KCD grants from the city's \$1 portion in that same period. This is the same story

for the other small cities. The watershed forum portion is absolutely critical in leveraging more money for the rural communities.

Within this \$6 Forum share, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum should receive a greater or equal share of the total WRIA 7, 8, 9 Forum dollars.

- Having just completed the Salmon Conservation Plan, the Snoqualmie Watershed is poised and ready for implementation. The Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish watersheds make up almost half the land area in King County. The Snoqualmie watershed has high priority spawning habitat for Chinook and coho. The Snoqualmie Chinook stock is expected to be labeled as "critical" by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries for Puget Sound Chinook recovery. There is an opportunity to protect and restore the Snoqualmie before it is further degraded by regional population growth. For the last five years the Snoqualmie has received a disproportionately smaller amount of funding than the other watersheds. With incredible opportunity for fish recovery and an agriculture community on board and partnering in this effort, the Snoqualmie Watershed should be receiving a greater amount of the watershed forum's portion of the KCD assessment.

The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum would like to work with the King Conservation District to agree on how to assist the four valley cities in continuing their Forum Interlocal Agreement cost share.

- The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Interlocal Agreement is an asset to the four cities in the valley. The cities are provided access to information and a level of staffing on watershed issues that they would not be able to afford on their own. The Snoqualmie cities Interlocal Agreement cost share currently comes out of the Forum's grant share of the KCD assessment. The cities receive regular technical assistance, access to help in implementing capital projects, and have formed critical relationships with neighboring jurisdictions which is critical in managing the rural area.

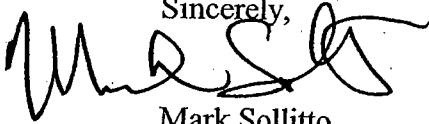
On behalf of the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum I want to extend a thank you to the King Conservation District for your contributions to the success of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Plan and the Forum. The KCD has been an important partner as we forge ahead to recover salmon to the Snoqualmie while at the same time supporting agriculture and respecting the value of the rural communities.

The Snoqualmie Valley cities, King County, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and the King Conservation District share the same goals of promoting vibrant rural areas that are sustainable for people and fish in the future. The KCD assessment is a critical piece of our opportunity to support working rural landscapes, vibrant small cities connected to their core rural character and healthy runs of salmon.

Max Prinsen
May 23, 2005
Page 2

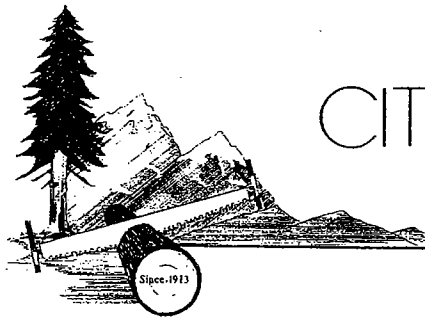
We promise to keep working hard for the Snoqualmie Valley and we look forward to seeing this assessment continue to help us make valuable contributions to the region. Thank you for your efforts and support. Please contact Sandra Kilroy, Snoqualmie Watershed Coordinator at (206) 296-8047 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Sollitto
Chair

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Edmonds, Councilmember, King County
The Honorable Kathy Lambert, Councilmember, King County
Sandy Kilroy, Coordinator, Snoqualmie Watershed
Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Members
The Honorable Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember
The Honorable Heather Page, Duvall Councilmember
The Honorable Bill Paulsen, Carnation Councilmember
The Honorable Charles Peterson, Snoqualmie Councilmember
Matt Stone, Snoqualmie Riverfront Landowner
Bill Knutsen, King County Agriculture Landowner
Gary Roberts, King County Rural Residential Landowner
William Harper, King County Riparian Landowner
King Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Scott Wallace, Vice-Chair
Bobbi Lindemulder, Member
Matt Livengood, Member
Richard Gelb, Member



CITY OF DUVALL

May 27, 2005

Max Prinsen
Chair, King Conservation District Board of Supervisors
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

RE: King Conservation District Special Assessment

Dear Mr. Prinsen:

The City of Duvall is pleased to submit comments on the King Conservation District (KCD) special assessment. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum is a partnership between the cities of Duvall, Carnation, North Bend and Snoqualmie and King County. For the past seven years, we have been fortunate to receive funding for several restoration projects through the KCD assessment to the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. Projects included culvert removals that improved stream passage for migratory salmon and other creek habitat improvement projects. These projects would not have happened without KCD funding. The Forum and cities have an excellent track record of delivering high value projects to the Snoqualmie Valley community. We are proud of what we have accomplished and have proved ourselves capable of doing excellent work with these dollars.

The City of Duvall endorses the reauthorization of King Conservation District's special assessment, including an assessment increase from \$5 to \$10. Funding from the assessment, which is set to expire in 2005, has been used wisely by governmental agencies across King County to encourage land and water conservation and enhance watershed health. Additional dollars will go a long way in furthering our goals for salmon recovery, strong rural areas, vibrant farms and forests, and locally driven actions.

If the assessment were to be raised to \$10 per parcel, the Watershed Forums' portion should be raised to \$6. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum has, in the past, used its portion of this money to the benefit of jurisdictions and the region. The Forums' portion gives the greatest flexibility to all jurisdictions to implement the highest priority projects that are necessary for salmon recovery and watershed health. The watershed forum portion is an excellent source of funding for local governments to implement on-the-ground projects providing a greater amount of money than any one jurisdiction could ever raise alone. Due to the relatively small number of parcels in the

Snoqualmie Watershed, small cities do not receive significant funds through the municipal portion of the assessment. The Forum portion is critical to the rural areas. For example, Duvall has received approximately \$388,000 in watershed forum KCD grant funds to do projects over the past seven years, in contrast to receiving approximately \$12,000 in KCD grants from the city's \$1 portion in that same period. This is the same story for the other small cities. The watershed forum portion is absolutely critical in leveraging more money for the rural communities.

Within this \$6 Forum share, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum should receive a greater or equal share of the total WRIA 7, 8, 9 Forum dollars. Having just completed the Salmon Conservation Plan, the Snoqualmie Watershed is poised and ready for implementation. The Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish watersheds make up almost half the land area in King County. The Snoqualmie watershed has high priority spawning habitat for Chinook and coho. The Snoqualmie Chinook stock is expected to be labeled as "critical" by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries for Puget Sound Chinook recovery. There is an opportunity to protect and restore the Snoqualmie before it is further degraded by regional population growth. For the last five years the Snoqualmie has received a disproportionately smaller amount of funding than the other watersheds. With incredible opportunity for fish recovery and an agriculture community on board and partnering in this effort, the Snoqualmie Watershed should be receiving a greater amount of the Watershed Forum's portion of the KCD assessment.

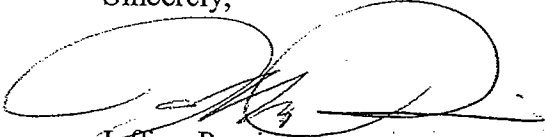
The City of Duvall would like to work with the King Conservation District to agree on how to assist the four valley cities in continuing their Forum Interlocal Agreement cost share. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum Interlocal Agreement is an asset to the four cities in the valley. The cities are provided access to information and a level of staffing on watershed issues that they would not be able to afford on their own. The Snoqualmie cities Interlocal Agreement cost share currently comes out of the Forum's grant share of the KCD assessment. The cities receive regular technical assistance, access to help in implementing capital projects, and have formed critical relationships with neighboring jurisdictions which is critical in managing the rural area.

On behalf of the City of Duvall, I want to extend a thank you to the King Conservation District for your contributions to the success of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Plan and the Forum. The KCD has been an important partner as we forge ahead to recover salmon to the Snoqualmie while at the same time supporting agriculture and respecting the value of the rural communities.

The Snoqualmie Valley cities, King County, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and the King Conservation District share the same goals of promoting vibrant rural areas that are sustainable for people and fish in the future. The KCD assessment is a critical piece of our opportunity to support working rural landscapes, vibrant small cities connected to their core rural character and healthy runs of salmon.

We promise to keep working hard for the Snoqualmie Valley and we look forward to seeing this assessment continue to help us make valuable contributions to the region. Thank you for your efforts and support. Please contact Doreen Booth at (425) 788-1156 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Possinger', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

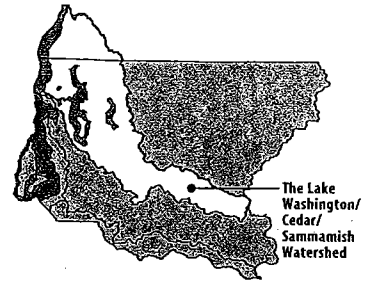
Jeffrey Possinger
Mayor ProTem

cc: Kathy Lambert, King County Council
Sandra Kilroy, Snoqualmie Watershed Coordinator
Doreen Booth, City Hall Administrator/Planning Director

LAKE WASHINGTON/CEDAR/SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8) FORUM



201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104
May 20, 2005



Beaux Arts Village

Bellevue

Bothell

Clyde Hill

Edmonds

Hunts Point

Issaquah

Kenmore

Kent

King County

Kirkland

Lake Forest Park

Maple Valley

Medina

Mercer Island

Mill Creek

Mountlake Terrace

Mukilteo

Newcastle

Redmond

Renton

Sammamish

Seattle

Shoreline

Snohomish County

Woodinville

Yarrow Point

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Ave SW
Renton, WA 98055

Dear King Conservation District Board Supervisors,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the reauthorization of the King Conservation District (KCD) Assessment. I am writing on behalf of members of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Water Resources Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8) Forum. The WRIA 8 Forum strongly supports the reauthorization of the KCD Assessment. The KCD Assessment has been a very important source of funding for salmon conservation, water quality and flood hazard reduction in our watershed.

For example, KCD funding helped to dramatically improve the passage of juvenile salmon through the Ballard Locks. This is especially significant because all the salmon in the watershed must pass through the Locks. In the past seven years, over 30 habitat protection and restoration projects received KCD funds in our watershed. These projects include habitat protection and restoration in many of our most important spawning and migratory areas. Please see enclosed map for project locations and a list of all past KCD grants. KCD funding has been used to leverage other local, state, and federal sources of funding such as local capital improvement funds, Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and federal funds for flood hazard reduction.

KCD funds have also been critical in funding important public outreach and stewardship efforts in the WRIA 8 such as the Sammamish ReLeaf program (involves citizens in riparian restoration along the Sammamish River), the Salmon Watcher program (trains volunteers to record salmon presence information on streams throughout the watershed), and the Beach Naturalist

Program (trained volunteers tell the public about the Nearshore environment on low tide days).

Finally, KCD funds have been instrumental in funding research and monitoring that has greatly increased our understanding of the problems facing salmon in our watershed and how these problems should be addressed. This work forms the scientific foundation of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan. This research also helps to ensure that habitat protection and restoration dollars are spent wisely and cost-effectively.

The WRIA 8 Forum supports increasing the KCD assessment to \$10 per parcel to support implementation of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan. The plan includes over 1,200 recommended actions, many of which would be very appropriate for KCD funding.

The WRIA 8 Forum looks forward to continuing our partnership with the King Conservation District in the future. If we can be of assistance in reauthorizing the assessment, please contact Jane Lamensdorf-Bucher, the WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator, at 206-296-1907 or jane.lamensdorf-bucher@metrokc.gov.

Sincerely,



Dr. Don Davidson
Councilmember, City of Bellevue
Chair, Lake Washington/Sammamish/Cedar Watershed (WRIA 8) Forum

Enclosure: WRIA 8 KCD Map

cc: WRIA 8 Forum members
Brandy Reed, District Co-Coordinator

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) FORUM

GREEN / DUWAMISH
AND



Algona

May 26, 2005

Auburn

Black Diamond

Max Prinsen, Board of Supervisors Chair
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

Burien

Covington

RE: Public Comment on Special Assessment on Lands
within the King Conservation District

Des Moines

Dear Max and King Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

Enumclaw

Federal Way

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the reauthorization of the King conservation District (KCD) Assessment. I am writing on behalf of the members of the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9) Forum.

Kent

King County

At its May 18, 2005 meeting, the WRIA 9 Forum discussed the question of re-authorization of the King CD special assessment, as well as the amount, duration, and distribution of the assessment. Our consensus decision on these issues is contained in the enclosed Resolution. As noted within the Resolution, WRIA 9 acknowledges the significant benefits received through the KCD grant program and values the partnership with the KCD organization. WRIA 9 looks forward to advancing our shared priority resource objectives in the future.

Maple Valley

Normandy Park

Sincerely,

Renton

SeaTac

Steven Mullet
Mayor, City of Tukwila
Chair, WRIA 9 Forum

Seattle

Tukwila

D R A F T
RESOLUTION NO. 2005-1

A RESOLUTION of the Watershed Resource Inventory Area 9 Forum
supporting the King Conservation District and encouraging
re-authorization and increase of the District's per parcel Assessment.

WHEREAS the King Conservation District (KCD) is an independent, non-regulatory public agency that provides technical assistance and education to King County citizens about sustainable agriculture and livestock management practices, stream and wetland habitat protection and restoration, and water quality protection and improvements; and

WHEREAS the activities of KCD are funded primarily through a per parcel Assessment, which will sunset at the end of December, 2005; and

WHEREAS the KCD distributes portions of the Assessment to member jurisdictions and Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9 for activities consistent with the goals and objectives of the KCD; and

WHEREAS the current Assessment raises approximately \$2.6 million annually with approximately \$650,000 allocated to WRIA 9 activities and projects; and

WHEREAS the KCD Board of Supervisors is seeking public comment on whether to request reauthorization of the Assessment; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature approved Senate Bill 5094 authorizing the increase of the per parcel Assessment for conservation districts to \$10.00; and

WHEREAS beginning in 1998, the KCD Assessment has been an important source of funding for WRIA 9 programs and projects directed toward salmon recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- I. That the WRIA 9 Forum, on behalf of the 17 member jurisdictions of the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed, does hereby express support for the purposes of the KCD; and
- II. That the WRIA 9 Forum does hereby encourage the KCD Board of Supervisors



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

16018 Mill Creek Boulevard • Mill Creek, Washington 98012 • (425) 775-1311 FAX (425) 338-1066

May 17, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98005

RE: Renewing King Conservation District Assessment

Dear King Conservation District Board,

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) strongly supports the reauthorization of the King Conservation District (KCD) Assessment. In addition as authorized by the State Legislature the WDFW supports the legislations authorization for King County to increase the KCD assessment of up to \$10.00 per parcel.

As you are aware the KCD Assessment has been a very important source of funding for salmon conservation, water quality and flood hazard reduction throughout the greater King County area. Furthermore the KCD Assessment will be a critical part of the implementation of the Chinook Salmon Conservation Plans developed by the Watershed Groups within King County.

WDFW hopes that the King Conservation District and the KCD Assessment will allow for a continued partnership with the stakeholders of King County and salmon recovery. Thank you for your support on past projects and we look forward to your future support.

Sincerely,

Bob Everitt
Regional Director

cc: Kirk Lakey, WST
Rich Costello, Region 4 Habitat Program Manager

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2005 6:59 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed; Marla Hamilton Lucas
Subject: FW: KCD assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: Ray D Willman [mailto:rayjudithwillman@juno.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2005 2:05 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: KCD assessment

Sirs,

We will not be in town on the 11th of May, so please accept this e-mail as our testimony. We want to express our strong support of the King Conservation District and the work they do with the public. The Conservation District does a valuable job working on land and water protection issues, and they are one of the few "official" places the public can get help without feeling threatened and without being concerned about whether they can afford to ask for it. Even though we have had a farm plan in place with the Conservation District for a number of years now, we still use them as a source of information and support.

\$5 a year is a small price to pay and we get back so much. Please put us down as supporting the reauthorization of the assessment.

Sincerely

Ray and Judy Willman
12323 209th Ave. NE
Redmond, WA 98053
425 885 5498

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2005 2:20 PM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Conservation District Assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: Riley and Jan [mailto:parkmish@juno.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2005 2:06 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Conservation District Assessment

Dear King County Conservation District Assessment Committee,

The Conservation District is one of the most important Departments in the King County Government. Please re-up their assessment, so they can continue to do their crucial work in this county!

They have helped and are helping so many of us to be good stewards to our land and waterways through the education programs, farm plan process, and their hands on approach to give us the information and resources we need on an on going basis. Our horse farm is such a wonderful place, and we owe a special thanks to the Conservation District for their on going help in giving us the tools to keep the our Eco system in sync.

With the Eco balance playing such a huge roll in King County now, it is so important to keep the Conservation District going strong, so their essential help is there for us all.

We have learned so much about how to keep the water clean, pasture management (including seeding, soil testing, acidity, weeds...) wildlife balance, fencing and cross fencing, composting, sacrifice areas, drainage, animal husbandry.....wow the list goes on. We have also shared what we have learned to help others. It's just one of those wonderful things that can keep growing in a positive way.

It is such a great Program you have there and a great group of knowledgeable people, Please keep it well funded!!

Sincerely,

Jan Misner and Riley Parker
Wildlife Farm of the Year for 1999

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 1:50 PM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: special assessment comment

-----Original Message-----

From: artandsole@comcast.net [mailto:artandsole@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 10:28 AM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: special assessment comment

We are writing in support the special assessment in King County. The assessment results in the implementation of many important problem-solving projects. It makes the environment of King County a better place. Whether it is dealing with invasive weeds, making sure salmon don't go extinct, or any number of other important natural resource issues--the assessment is a source of funding for many vital and valuable programs. We hope to see it continued.

Thank you,

Terry and Jo Sullivan

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 2:05 PM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: KCD conservation fund

-----Original Message-----

From: raytimm [mailto:raytimm@u.washington.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 1:48 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: KCD conservation fund

Dear King County Conservation District,
Please continue the good work you do by re-authorizing the KCD fund. As a taxpayer in the city of Seattle, I am willing to increase the yearly assessment to \$10.00. Please urge the appropriate politicians to renew the KCD fund on my behalf.
Thank you for the important work you do.
Sincerely,

Raymond Timm
UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences
Box 355020
1122 NE Boat Street
Seattle, WA 98195-5020
206-221-5403
206-685-7471 (fax)

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 8:05 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Support for KCD Re-authorization

-----Original Message-----

From: Dugan Crittenden [mailto:dugan@pipewright.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:56 AM
To: District@kingcd.org
Cc: dugan@pipewright.com
Subject: Support for KCD Re-authorization

5-17-05

To whom it may concern,

My name is Richard D. Crittenden. I am a lifetime Washington resident and a Seattleite since 1992. I own a home and a construction company here in Seattle. I like to think I've got a fair idea of where my tax dollars go. With regard to the re-authorization of the King Conservation District, I am in full support. The \$5, or proposed \$10 assesment, seem not only reasonable, but responsible. I understand that \$3 of the current \$5 currently go to the Salmon forum. The other \$2 split between the city and county. I like this % split. It seems to be working well. Lets not change for the sake of it. The city and county each get some money that they can count on. The more regional Salmon Forum can administer it's funds where the need seems greatest. If the assesment goes to \$10 per year, keep the same \$ split. With regard to re-authorization duration: Research takes time, results can be subtle, what we can't afford is to let the carpet be yanked out from under the conservation district. This thing needs to run for the long term.

As a contractor, I realize that conservation measures may impact my business. I also realize that the quality of life here is what draws people to the area. Without the KCD operating I might be able to make some short term profits at the expense of our surroundings, but in 20 years, when the region is damaged beyond repair, how will my business prosper? I'll take quality over quantity every time.

Thank you for your time,

Richard D. Crittenden

Pipewright, Inc. •

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:09 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Continuing the KCD assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Hall [mailto:Julie.Hall@Seattle.Gov]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 5:06 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Continuing the KCD assessment

Dear King Conservation District Board of Supervisors,

This email is in support of continuing the KCD assessment, with an increase to \$10 per year. These conservation funds have been very important for the preservation and improvement of water and habitat quality within Seattle and surrounding areas of King County and they should be secured to provide future funding to continue the work.

Sincerely,

Julie Hall
4511 SW Stevens Street
Seattle, WA 98116

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:11 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Please accept my support as a landowner of your program. I am more than willing to donate \$10 extra

-----Original Message-----

From: Karl Burton [mailto:Karl.Burton@Seattle.Gov]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 2:57 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Please accept my support as a landowner of your program. I am more than willing to donate \$10 extra

Please accept my support as a landowner of your program. I am more than willing to donate \$10 extra dollars of tax money for salmon conservation and related activities.

Karl Burton

karl.burton@seattle.gov

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:12 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Conservation District Re-Authorization

-----Original Message-----

From: Shannon McCluskey [mailto:shanmcc@u.washington.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 2:56 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Conservation District Re-Authorization

I support the re-authorization of parcel money going towards conservation funding. I would support an increase to \$10 per parcel to go towards conservation planning and research.

Thanks,
Shannon McCluskey

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:13 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Property taxes for conservation efforts

-----Original Message-----

From: John Frech [mailto:frech@bhiinc.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 2:44 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Property taxes for conservation efforts

I support the idea of having a portion of my property taxes going towards a conservation effort. I understand that the current rate is \$5/property and I would recommend that be it be increased to \$10/per property. I am highly concerned about the health of our rivers and streams and hope a good portion of these funds go to that cause.

Sincerely,

John Frech, P.E.
Berryman & Henigar
720 Third Avenue, Suite 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104

Telephone: 206.505.3400, Extension 106
Facsimile: 206.505.3406
Email: john.frech@us.bureauveritas.com

For the Benefit of Business and People

NOTICE: This message contains information that is confidential and the copyright of our company or a third party. If you are not the intended recipient of this message please delete it and destroy all copies. If you are the intended recipient of this message you should not disclose or distribute this message to third parties without the consent of our company. Our company does not represent, warrant and/or guarantee that the integrity of this message has been maintained nor that the communication is free of virus, interception or interference. The liability of our company is limited by our General Conditions of Services.

John Dixon
14027 Stone Ave. N.
Seattle, Wa. 98133

May 17, 2005

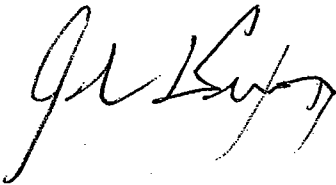
Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I recommend you to extend the special assessment of \$5.00 per parcel per year as per reauthorization from the Metropolitan King County Council. I am a volunteer on the Thornton Creek watershed for the past fifteen years. We (Stewards of Twin Ponds) have planted hundred of trees and other native plants in this wonderful park.

The King Conservation District has supplied us with low cost trees and shrubs over the years. We need KCD to continue their work.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dixon", written in a cursive style.

John Dixon

May 22, 2005

Jeff Reed
King Conservation District

Re: Distribution of Conservation Assessment.

I am writing to express my thoughts on the most prudent distribution of the conservation assessment. It seems foregone that the tax will be renewed and raised to \$10. I urge you to remember this is money dedicated to the conservation district and that you are charged with managing it to achieve the best outcome for both farmers and fish. The Conservation District has long partnered with farmers and rural landowners to establish best management practices.

When the Chinook salmon was declared endangered several years ago the rural community was told that it must step forward and make a best effort to restore habitat crucial to the fishes survival. The rural community was told that if they made the effort on their properties the urban community would pledge financial support to recovering healthy salmon populations. The Conservation Tax was created to assure that support would continue to be available.

Keeping in mind that your office is the guardian of Best Management Practices and have long assisted farmers in implementing those practices it seems that \$3. of the \$10. be dedicated to the district operations.

This increase should allow the district to meet its historic obligations and provide adequate funding to address the additional responsibilities passage of the Critical Areas Ordinance has created for the district.

Secondly it has been suggested that monies be directed to WSU for research. I would agree. \$50-\$1. seems a reasonable amount with the caveat that it be directed to finding crops and establishing new practices that will be beneficial to King County farmers and foresters.

Thirdly, the cities of each forum are receiving \$1. from the current assessment. In the Snoqualmie Forum that amount meets the obligation they are charged by King County for providing support services. I submit that amount is adequate at this time. Any increase to our cities would not be adequate to fund any meaningful projects.

I suggest that the Forums continue to receive \$3.. They would continue to use that money as they have in prior years, funding projects and research. As you know much of this money has been matched with funds from other sources and in our watershed great results are being achieved.

The remaining \$2.00 to \$2.50 should be held by the King Conservation District and awarded by the District to Applicants across the county that best meet the needs of fish, foresters and farmers. A robust rural economy and a sustainable salmon harvest are the targets. Establishing a rural economy that in some small way depends on salmon recovery will be more motivated to participate.

I submit these suggestions in the name of,
HAPPY FARMERS AND HAPPY FISH

Bill Knutsen



Notice of Second Public Hearing Regarding Special Assessment on Lands within the King Conservation District.

The Board of Supervisors of the King Conservation District invites you to a second public hearing on a King Conservation District special assessment on parcels within the District boundary (most of King County). The public hearing will be Wednesday July 6th, 2005 from 4PM in the hearing room at King County Department of Development and Environmental Services building located at 900 Oaksdale Ave. SW in Renton. You may also submit your comments in writing until July 8th, 2005 regarding this issue.

By Mail: Public Comment, King Conservation District-
935 Powell Ave SW • Renton WA 98055

By Electronic Mail: District@kingcd.org

Background:

Currently the King CD has a special assessment on all applicable lands within the King Conservation District boundary (most of King County) of \$5.00 per parcel per year from 2000 through 2005. The Board of Supervisors is finalizing a proposal to the Metropolitan King County Council for a \$10 per year per parcel for the period of 2006 through 2015. The \$10 per parcel funds would be allocated as follows:

- \$3.00 - 34 member cities & unincorporated King County for conservation projects
- \$2.50 - Divided equally among the 3 watershed forums in King County for conservation projects
- \$1.50 - *Community Partnerships Program* to address emerging natural resource conservation issues
- \$3.00 - King Conservation District Operations

For more information contact geoff.reed@kingcd.org or 425-277-5581 x.103 or visit www.kingcd.org

Public Hearing Wednesday, July 6th, 2005 - 4 pm

Public Comment Review for July 6, 2005

Date		Support	Non-Support	\$ Distribution	# Years
6/29/2005	Paul Demetriades Retired Medina City Council, and WRIA 8	X		KCD \$2, Cities \$2, WRIA's \$6	
7/6/2005	Don Davidson Bellevue City Council, and WRIA 8	X		Forums \$6	
7/6/2005	Kathy Keolker-Wheeler, Mayor City of Renton, WRIA8, and WRIA 9	X		KCD \$2, Cities \$2, WRIA's \$6	
7/6/2005	Steve Mullet, Mayor City of Tukwila, and WRIA 9	X		KCD \$2, Cities \$2, WRIA's \$6	
7/8/2005	Rosemarie M. Ives, Mayor City of Redmond	X		KCD 15%, Cities 20%, WRIA's 65%: WRIA7 13%, WRIA8 26%, WRIA9 26%	
7/8/2005	Fuzzy Fletcher, Mayor City of Snoqualmie	X		KCD \$3, Cities \$1.50, WRIA's \$4 (split equally) KCD Grant Program \$1.50	
7/6/2005	Joan McGilton, Deputy Mayor City of Burien	X		KCExtension Dedicated Funding	
7/5/2005	Tim Smith, Special Assistant Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership	X		Increase all WRIA funding.	
7/8/2005	Brad Gaolach, Director WSU Extension	X		KCExtension \$1	
7/8/2005	Jim Kramer, Executive Director Shared Strategy	X		WRIA's \$6	

KING County Council did not submit a new comment. The previous comment did not identify an allocation formula.

All the above entries either support the 10 year timeframe, or make no specific comment.

NCG - Non Competitive Grants; UW - University of Washington; WRIA's - Watershed Forums; KCD - King Conservation District

Date		Support	Non-Support	\$ Distribution	# Years
6/14/2005	Neala Kendall Landowner	X			
6/28/2005	John Betrozoff Landowner		X	Reduce Assessment to \$3 all for KCD	
6/28/2005	Dena & Allen Reiter Landowner, Disgruntled taxpayers		X	No Increase	
6/29/2005	Timothy Ramsey Landowner		X	No Increase	
7/6/2005	John Mihich, Jr Landowner		X	No assessment	
7/6/2005	Jeff Wright Landowner		X	No Increase, lien and foreclosure to get it.	
7/6/2005	Cindy Alia Landowner		X	No Private Conservation Organization Funding No Assessment	
7/6/2005	Maxine Keesling Landowner		X	Get it from Ron Sims KCD \$3 - Sties Stormwater Fee, and Legal Assessment Guidelines	
7/6/2005	Charles Strouss III		X	Give \$ to Citizen's Alliance for Property Rights	
7/6/2005	Lorinda Richmond-Grant Landowner		X	Dedicate \$\$ to WSEExtension	
7/6/2005	Greg Taylor Landowner		X	Specifically \$1.50 to Local Conservation (Environmentalists) Organizations	
7/6/2005	Preston Drew VP - Citizens Alliance for Property Rights		X	Will scrutinize the allocation and spending.	

NCG - Non Competitive Grants; UW - University of Washington; WRLA's - Watershed Forums; KCD - King Conservation District

Date		Support	Non-Support	S Distribution	# Years
7/6/2005	Sharon Tiekamp Landowner, Cooperator	X			
7/6/2005	Mr. Shelley Dahlgren, PhD Volunteer Greenbelt Restoration	X			
7/6/2005	Laura Dahlem Landowner		X	\$1 to WSExtension	
7/6/2005	Arie van der Hoeven Landowner		X	Requesting more specifics on Website regarding Metrics, Goals, Accomplishments	
7/7/2005	Jon W. Nelson, Project Manager Land Acquisition - DR Horton		X	Let Rural Landowners pay for Farm Plans	
7/7/2005	Howard & Patricia Van Laeken Landowner		X	No WRIA funding, No Conservation Org Program	
7/7/2005	Colleen Johnson Landowner		X	Any funds acquired should go to KCD operations Use funds for Seattle Metropolitan area.	
7/7/2005	Michael J. Reynolds Enunclaw Cattle Company		X	Owms Multiple Parcels adjacent to each other. Reference to other taxing district without accountability.	
7/8/2005	Kay Mabry Landowner		X	No increase, and no funding to groups opposing farmers.	
7/8/2005	Marilyn Freeman Landowner	X		Dedicated funding to WSExtension	
7/8/2005	Erick Haakenson Landowner		X	Dedicated funding to WSExtension	
7/8/2005	Marshall M. Brenden Landowner		X	No support for WRIA's	
7/8/2005	John C. Cochenour Landowner		X	Against doubling assesement.	
7/11/2005	Tony Zgraggen Landowner		X	Against \$1.50 allocation for community partnerships program. KCD \$2, and for projects under our control \$1 Let the others obtain SWM fees for funding.	

NCG - Non Competitive Grants; UW - University of Washington; WRIA's - Watershed Forums; KCD - King Conservation District

JOHN C. COCHENOUR
5620 245th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98053
(425) 822-3812

July 8, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

Re: Special Assessment on Lands

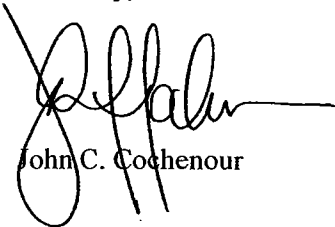
I am writing to express my opposition of:

1. The increase in the charge from \$5.00 to \$10, and
2. the change in the allocation to include \$1.50 for the Community Partnerships Program.

In a time of public concern over increasing taxes, I find it surprising that the County would ask for a doubling of the charge.

Additionally, I think it is wholly inappropriate that money could be allocated to other conservation groups.

Sincerely,



John C. Cochenour



THE CITY OF REDMOND
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ROSEMARIE M. IVES, Mayor

Dated 7/8/05

July 8, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, Washington 98055

RE: Redmond's Support for King Conservation District Assessment

The City of Redmond supports renewing and increasing the King Conservation District yearly assessment from \$5 to \$10 per parcel as indicated in our letter from the previous comment period. We support the work of the King Conservation District and believe the region benefits from this work. However, Redmond is not in support of the King Conservation District funding breakdown in the current proposal being finalized by the Board of Supervisors.

Board of Supervisors proposed funding breakdown.

\$3.00 – King Conservation District Operations

\$3.00 – 34 member cities & unincorporated King County for conservation projects

\$2.50 – Divided equally among the 3 watershed forums in King County for conservation projects

\$1.50 – Competitive Grants to local conservation organizations

Concerns with the Board of Supervisors proposal:

Inadequate funding for the Forums

Funding from the King Conservation District Assessment is critical to the WRIA effort. This assessment is one of the few sources of regional funding available to support the enormous funding need. The Supervisor's proposal would actually decrease the level of funding to the WRIA forums from the previous assessment. In 1999 the forums supported raising the assessment from one dollar to five dollars only because the increase would be dedicated to the forums. We support the proposal to double the assessment; however, it is imprudent that the forums would be allocated less funds than they are currently allocated, especially at a time when more resources are needed to implement salmon conservation plans.

Public Comment
King Conservation District
June 23, 2005
Page 2 of 2

Conservation groups should work through the forums

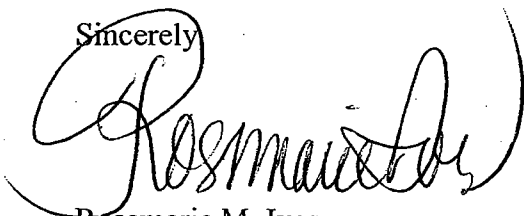
Competitive grants for local conservation organizations should not be allocated separate from the WRIA forums, as proposed by the King Conservation District. Currently, conservation organizations can apply for grant funds through the WRIA so long as a jurisdiction partners with the organization (this is a King Conservation District requirement not a forum requirement). Having conservation organization projects considered with jurisdiction projects ensures that the highest priority projects are funded and that projects are consistent with salmon plans. The City of Redmond would support dropping the District requirement that conservation groups need a local jurisdiction partner, to allow these groups to apply for funding and to ensure projects would be evaluated along with other applications received for WRIA funding.

Redmond supported funding breakdown:

Redmond supports distributing the revenue so that the county and each city in the district receive twenty percent (20%), the King Conservation District receives fifteen percent (15%), and Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8, WRIA 9 and the King County portion of WRIA 7 receive sixty-five percent (65%) of the revenue collected; revenue distributed to the watershed forums shall be equitably divided based on the current interlocal agreement governing these forums, with two/fifths of revenue distributed to WRIA 8, two/fifths of revenue distributed to WRIA 9, and one/fifth of revenue distributed to the King County portion of WRIA 7.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rosemarie M. Ives". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rosemarie M. Ives
Mayor



**SHARED STRATEGY
FOR PUGET SOUND**

working with communities to restore salmon

Shared Strategy for Puget Sound
1411 4th Avenue, Suite 1015
Seattle, Washington 98101
206-447-3336
www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org

July 8, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Ave SW
Renton, Washington 98055

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the special assessment on lands within the King Conservation District (KCD) and the proposed allocation of the \$10 per parcel funds.

It is my understanding that KCD is seeking reauthorization of special assessment reflecting a per parcel assessment increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00 for 2006 to 2015. I am happy to convey my support of the reauthorization and the proposal to double the per parcel assessment. The work of the Conservation District, including its support of habitat restoration projects which benefit salmon and other fish and wildlife, has enabled watershed Forums to leverage funds and implement actions identified in their local watershed plans. This has been a vital contribution to our success in continuing to secure federal funds for the Puget Sound Region for implementation of the salmon recovery plans developed by the watersheds.

The second part of your proposal – that is, the proposed allocation formula – could limit the efforts to recovery salmon. Currently, funds provided to the Watershed Forums are utilized in accordance with the watershed action plans that are the result of member government review and prioritization. The action plans are also closely aligned with Salmon Recovery Funding Board criteria. There does not appear to be such a requirement for the Competitive Grants program. A second advantage to the current system which would be preserved in an alternate allocation proposal lies in the leveraging of funds provided to watershed forums by KCD. The plans developed by the watershed forums explicitly identify the KCD special assessment as a source of funds. This is exactly the kind of secure, substantial and coordinated commitment that has contributed to Congressional support for salmon recovery monies. Local governments, as members of their respective watershed forums, have identified potential habitat actions and prioritized them accordingly to the highest potential benefits.

As we begin to implement a region wide salmon recovery plan, reducing the amount of funding provided to the watershed forums would be detrimental to the important work ahead of these groups. Cutting back KCD funding for these watersheds sends the wrong message about the priorities of KCD. Rather, an increase in watershed forum funding will be essential to recover healthy salmon runs to the Puget Sound.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Brad Ack, Ken Berg, Barbara Cairns, Honorable Don Davidson, Bob Kelly, Randy Kinley, Jeff Koenings, Honorable Pete Kremen, Steve Lewis, Bob Lohn, Jay Manning, Chuck Mosher, Bob Nichols, Bill Ruckelshaus, Mike Shelby, Honorable Ron Sims, David Troutt, and Terry Williams

We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors reconsider the proposed reduction in watershed forum funding, and support an increase for the salmon recovery work commensurate with the proposed increase in the assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Kramer

Executive Director

Shared Strategy for the Puget Sound

LAKE WASHINGTON / CEDAR / SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8) FORUM



Beaux Arts Village

Bellevue

Bothell

Clyde Hill

Edmonds

Hunts Point

Issaquah

Kenmore

Kent

King County

Kirkland

Lake Forest Park

Maple Valley

Medina

Mercer Island

Mill Creek

Mountlake Terrace

Mukilteo

Newcastle

Redmond

Renton

Sammamish

Seattle

Shoreline

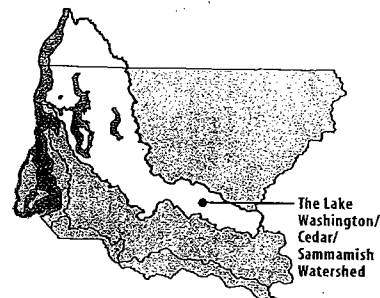
Snohomish County

Woodinville

Yarrow Point

July 6, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Ave SW
Renton, WA 98055



To the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Forum members, I would like to offer the following comments regarding the King Conservation District (KCD) special assessment.

The WRIA 8 Forum consists of elected officials from 27 local governments that are cost-sharing development of a salmon conservation plan. Since the creation of the special assessment, the WRIA 8 Forum and its predecessors, the Lake Washington/Cedar and the Sammamish Forums, have recommended KCD grants that have restored and protected habitat, involved citizens in stewardship efforts, and increased scientific certainty on what benefits salmon. We appreciate the support of the Board in funding these projects.

Recovering salmon is the top conservation issue facing the region, as evidenced by the listing of Chinook salmon under the Endangered Species Act. Now that the WRIA 8 salmon plan has been completed, it will help us better prioritize actions to maximize limited funding and to build on what the Board has already supported. Already, 16 local governments have ratified the WRIA 8 plan, and the remaining 11 in the watershed are scheduled to do so in the near future. But the plan does not just benefit salmon. In fact, it will also improve water quality and habitat for other species, retain forest lands, protect open space, address stormwater management, reduce flooding, and generally enhance our quality of life.

As stated in our earlier comment letter, the WRIA 8 Forum supports increasing the assessment to 10 dollars per parcel, and we are pleased to see this in the Board's proposal. However, we believe that the proposal should increase funding for all parties – KCD member cities, the WRIA Forums, and KCD. We would also like to see a doubling of the funds that come to the WRIA 8 Forum to implement priorities in the salmon plan and related actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continuing to work with you to protect and restore our watershed.

Sincerely,

Don Davidson
Bellevue City Councilmember and Chair, WRIA 8 Forum

CC: WRIA 8 Forum members
Jane Lamensdorf-Bucher, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator
Jean White, WRIA 8 Projects Coordinator

June 29
2005



Mr. Paul Demetriades
2254 Evergreen Point Rd.
Medina, WA 98039

Dear members of the Board:

As a retired Medina City Council-member & Mellina's WRIA (8) Forum representative, I'm submitting the following comments re: the KCD Assessment:

- I support the Legislature's/County effort to double the KCD assessment from \$5 to \$10 / parcel / year.

- I believe direct funding of the Forums by KCD should be increased - the WRIA 8 Forum has been effective in funding critical & needed salmon habitat restoration projects. The Forum allows all member governments to prioritize WRIA 8 area-wide projects.

- we need to keep the momentum going forward. Suggested allocation:

- \$2 KCD

- \$6 Forums

- \$2 member cities/unincorporated
King County

- \$10

Keep up the good work - KCD support is appreciated! Pls publicize decision!
Sincerely,

Paul B. Demetriades
(425) 453-8288



CITY OF RENTON

Mayor
Kathy Keolker-Wheeler

July 6, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

SUBJECT: KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As participants in the WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 Watershed Forums, and as a membership city of the King Conservation District (KCD), the City of Renton has been considering the proposed changes to the KCD special assessment. As I understand the proposals put forward by the Board of Supervisors, it is recommended that the current KCD annual assessment per parcel be doubled and that the distribution of the assessment revenue be changed.

I support the reauthorization of the KCD special assessment for ten years, and doubling the per parcel assessment from \$5 to \$10. I disagree, however, with the recommended distribution of the revenues.

The KCD has funding needs to continue providing many valuable services in the areas of soil and water conservation and fish and wildlife habitat protection and restoration. The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum and the Watershed Forums of WRIA's 8 and 9 are in great need of funding to assist with the implementation of the actions identified in the WRIA Salmon Habitat Plans. The membership local governments are in need of additional funding to improve the local services that we provide related to water quality and habitat.

We believe, therefore, that doubling, rather than tripling, the allocations to KCD operations and to the membership local governments and doubling the allocation to the Watershed Forums would provide a more proportionate, balanced, and equitable distribution of the funds to meet the needs of all participants.

We strongly feel that the highest priority need is the implementation of the actions identified in the three WRIA Salmon Habitat Plans that we have been working on together for over five years. The funding needs identified in the habitat plans are in the hundreds of millions of dollars over ten years, the same period of time suggested for the reauthorized special assessment.

We do not support an allocation to a separate competitive grant program. The KCD could consider offering a grant program within the revenues raised by a doubling of its current allocation.

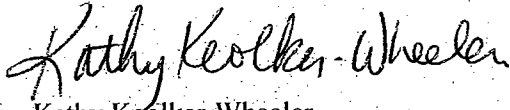
We support, as an alternative to the KCD Board's proposed allocation of the \$10 per parcel funds, the following distribution:

- \$6.00 to the Watershed Forums to implement actions identified in the WRIA Salmon Conservation Plan.
- \$2.00 to KCD operations.
- \$2.00 to the KCD membership cities.

King Conservation District Special Assessment
July 7, 2005
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the proposals regarding the King Conservation District special assessment.

Sincerely,

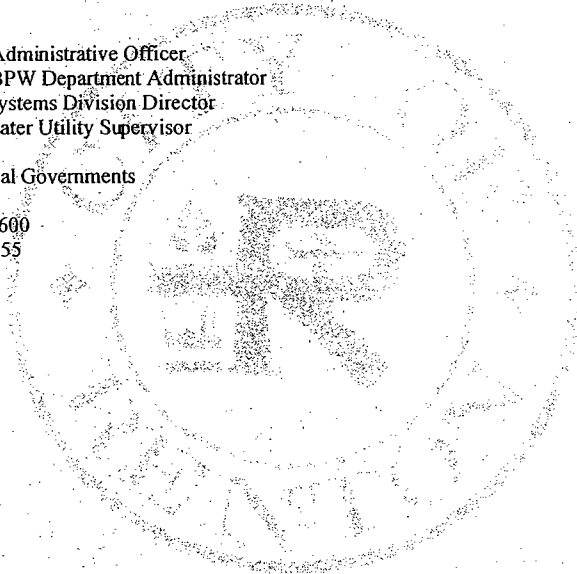


Kathy Keolker-Wheeler
Mayor

05-065/KKW:mp

cc: Renton City Council
Jay Covington, Chief Administrative Officer
Gregg Zimmerman, PBPW Department Administrator
Lys Hornsby, Utility Systems Division Director
Ron Straka, Surface Water Utility Supervisor

WRIA 9 Forum of Local Governments
c/o Doug Osterman
201 S. Jackson St. Ste 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855



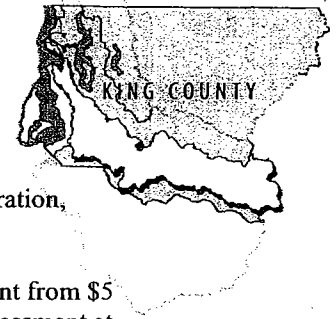
WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) FORUM

GREEN/DUWAMISH
AND
CENTRAL PUGET SOUND
WATERSHED

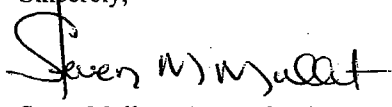
July 7, 2005



Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055



Dear Board of Supervisors:

- Algona We are writing in response to the solicitation of comments regarding the amount, duration, and distribution of the King Conservation District special assessment.
- Auburn We previously provided comment supporting the increase of the per parcel assessment from \$5 to \$10. We are pleased that the District is seeking a reauthorization of the yearly assessment at \$10 per parcel for 10 years.
- Black Diamond
- Burien We do not support the distribution of the funds as proposed in "Notice of Second Public Hearing Regarding Special Assessment on Lands within the King Conservation District." A decrease in funds to any of the existing recipients of the assessment is unacceptable. We are deeply concerned, at the advent of implementing a habitat plan to recover Chinook salmon and bull trout that has an estimated cost of several hundred million dollars over the same time period as the KCD assessment (2006-2015), that the District would propose a reduction in the funding provided to the watershed forums. Indeed, the Draft WRIA 9 Habitat Plan explicitly identifies the King Conservation District special assessment as a key funding source to implement much of the Plan's priority habitat projects. Moreover, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan identifies the need for implementers of habitat plan actions at the local level, including watershed groups, to significantly increase project implementation over existing levels throughout Puget Sound.
- Covington
- Des Moines
- Enumclaw
- Federal Way
- Kent A more equitable and proportionate approach to distributing the KCD funds is needed. The distribution must be consistent with the implementation strategies of the watershed forum habitat plans within King County and the regional salmon recovery plan.
- King County
- Maple Valley We strongly recommend that the distribution be based upon a policy that distributes the revenue from the special assessment in tandem with the amount of the increase to it. We, therefore, strongly recommend that the \$10 per year per parcel funds (which is a doubling over the existing \$5 special assessment) be allocated as follows:
- \$2.00 – King Conservation District Operations;
 - \$2.00 – 34 member cities and unincorporated King County for conservation projects; and
 - \$6.00 – Three watershed forums in King County for conservation projects, divided 20% to the Snoqualmie Forum (which is a subset of the WRIA 7 Recovery Forum), 40% to the Cedar/Lake Washington/Sammamish Forum (which is responsible for implementing the WRIA 8 Habitat Plan), and 40% to the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Forum (which is responsible for implementing the WRIA 9 Habitat Plan).
- Normandy Park
- Renton
- SeaTac
- Seattle Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the special assessment allocation. If you have any questions, please contact me at 206-433-1850.
- Tacoma
- Tukwila
- Sincerely,

Steve Mullet, Mayor of Tukwila
Chair, WRIA 9 Watershed Forum
- Cc: Ron Sims, King County Executive
Larry Phillips, Chair, King County Council
WRIA 9 Watershed Forum Representatives

Geoff Reed

From: WBNicolls [wbnicolls@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 12:04 PM
To: 'Fuzzy Fletcher'
Subject: the \$10 per parcel KCD assessment

Fuzzy,

Thanks for the E-mail. I now understand what you seek. I suggest that you call the King CD, (425) 277-5581.

Speak to either Brandy Reed (x-120) or Geoff Reed (x-103).

Max Princen is the board president.

I suggest that you begin with Geoff or Brandy who are quite up to speed on the issues.

- Nick

William B. Nicolls <> Seattle <> wbnicolls@msn.com <> T: 206-527-9645

modmax-otis@att.net (Max Princen)
chanwah@aol.com (Scott Wallace)
Brandy.Reed@kingcd.org
Geoff.Reed@kingcd.org (Geoff Reed)

-----Original Message-----

From: Fuzzy Fletcher [mailto:safestop@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2005 12:33 PM
To: wbnicolls@msn.com
Subject: KCD

Mr. Nicolls,

Thanks for playing phone tag with me for some many days.

The issue I was wishing to get input to you on was the distribution of the \$10 per parcel KCD assessment

As I understand it the distributions was to be:

\$3 to KCD

\$3 to Originating Jurisdiction

\$2.50 to the forums (equally split between the 3 forums

\$1.50 to the grants program for conservation orgs., run by KCD.

I like the equal split between the 3 forums but would respectfully request that you consider a position of sending \$4 to the forums and only \$1.50 to the originating jurisdictions.

I believe the money would do the most good in the forums as each City has a chance at a larger project for the good of the entire watershed, not just the individual jurisdiction.

I realize this may too late for a decision but I do appreciate all your effort to get in touch with me

Respectfully,

Fuzzy Fletcher

Mayor/Snoqualmie

"Everything the power does, it does in a circle"

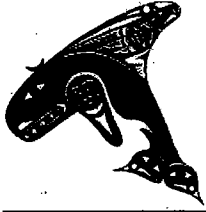
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No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG Anti-Virus.

Version: 7.0.323 / Virus Database: 267.8.10/43 - Release Date: 7/6/2005

**PUGET SOUND
NEARSHORE
PARTNERSHIP**



RESTORING OUR
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Executive Committee Co-Chairs:
Colonel Debra Lewis
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Jeff P. Koenings, Director
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife

Members:

Brad Ack, Chair
Puget Sound Action Team

Ken Berg, Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tom Eaton, Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mona Thomason, Branch Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Anne Kinsinger, Western Region
Biologist
U.S. Geological Survey

Francea McNair, Aquatics Steward
Washington Department
of Natural Resources

William Ruckelshaus, Chairman
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Ron Sims, Executive
King County

John Stein, Salmon Science Coordinator
NOAA Fisheries

Dick Wallace, Special Assistant
Washington Department of Ecology

Terry Williams, Commissioner
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

July 5, 2005

Public Comment
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, Washington 98055

Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, I would like to express our concern about a proposed reduction in the allocation of King Conservation District (KCD) special assessment funds to the watershed forums. It is our opinion that the proposed special assessment increase should be used to support an increase in the allocation for the watershed forums.

Our work on nearshore habitat restoration issues has benefited tremendously from our partnership with WRIA 9. Funding from WRIA 9 and KCD have been used to advance habitat restoration assessment activities, for the benefit of King County nearshore resources, and Puget Sound as a whole.

An increase in watershed forum funding will be essential to the implementation of Habitat Plan priority projects. The work of the watershed forum has advanced salmon recovery planning, and the need to provide support for watershed groups will increase, not decrease, in future years. Issues of Puget Sound health are gaining growing attention in our region and nationally, and our support for local initiatives must not waiver.

We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors reconsider the proposed reduction in watershed forum funding, and support an increase in this vital activity.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Tim Smith
Special Assistant to the Director

TS/CT:dr

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091
(360) 902-2223

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



KING COUNTY EXTENSION

July 8, 2005

King Conservation District
Attn: Board of Supervisors
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As Director of Washington State University King County Extension (KCE), I am writing to comment on how a dedicated funding source from the proposed special assessment would impact KCE. In this letter, I provide details on how one dollar from the District's proposed \$10 special assessment (approximately \$500,000 per year) would impact KCE financially and programmatically. But first I'll, briefly describe KCE's programming and relationship to King County.

Overview

WSU has Extension offices in all 39 counties of Washington as a result of the Land Grant University system. Each Extension office has a unique set of funding relationships between WSU and the Counties of Washington through Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) signed at the county level to cover Extension programming and funding. WSU generally pays about two thirds of the salaries and all of the benefits for the faculty and staff while the respective county pays the balance of the salaries and office operating dollars. Due to budget cuts over the last several years, KCE now acquires about one third of its overall funding from extramural funding sources (e.g. grants, sponsorships, and fees). These grants, sponsorships, and fees have been used both to backfill lost funding for our core business along with responding to local emerging issues.

King County Extension provides research-based education and outreach in two broad areas: 1) agriculture and natural resource stewardship which includes programs such as Master Gardeners, Extension Watershed Steward, Extension Livestock Advisors and much more and 2) youth and family stewardship which includes programs such as 4-H, Extension Family Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), and parenting and nutrition education. Our programs target urban, suburban, and rural residents. The KCE Water, Land, Forests, Farms, and Food, or WLFFF, team clearly supports the KCD mission of "promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship" by prioritizing local programming around:

- a) Land and water stewardship through programs like Master Gardeners and Extension Watershed Stewards along with individualized technical assistance;
- b) Sustainable forestry, farming and food systems through activities like coached forestry classes, hands-on workshops, farming education classes, the Annual Harvest Celebration Farm Tour, the Small Farm Expo, technical assistance to farmers, livestock management

919 SW Grady Way, Suite 120, Renton, WA 98055-2980
206-205-3100 or 1-800-325-6165 • Fax: 206-296-0952

Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and King County. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

and production classes and development and support of the Seattle/King County Food Policy Council; and

- c) Technical support to the 4-H program in educating our next generation of King County citizens.

The majority of our programs take shape in the form of informal community education; however, through technology we are beginning to offer classes for academic credit and we have expanded our outreach to youth. We also offer continuing education units and clock hours for professional audiences such as teachers.

Financial Impacts: Stability, Savings, and Leverage

A countywide funding source like the special assessment would primarily provide a stable funding source that comes from all components of the county we serve. KCE natural resource conservation-based programs target and benefit all citizens of King County regardless of where they live; yet King County government is the sole source of funding for our local, non-WSU support. A broad-based funding stream would provide a greater nexus between program funding and the political jurisdiction of our services (i.e. unincorporated King County or cities and other municipalities).

Secondly, if special assessment dollars were allocated directly to KCE through an MOA between KCE and KCD, WSU would agree to waive its overhead/F&A rate of approximately 26% charged to competitive grants. Further, there is a strong likelihood KCE could leverage the assessment funds by having WSU provide employee benefits for newly hired faculty, about a \$40,000 value, which normally would have to be paid from grant funds. Specifically, if funds were allocated directly to KCE it would save over \$143,000 of programming funds per year between the waived WSU F&A and potential WSU paid employee benefits (based on a one-dollar per parcel allocation).

King County Extension has a strong history and ability to leverage dedicated funding. Currently, KCE brings in approximately two and one-half dollars for each dollar provided by local funding sources (i.e. King County). These dollars represent actual dollars to the KCE office and are in addition to the nearly \$500,000 value of in-kind match from our program partners and the nearly \$1 million value of volunteer hours given back to King County by WSU trained volunteers each year. These resources total to just over \$3 million of programming resources leveraged from just over \$600,000 of local money dedicated to KCE. We further leverage in-kind resources through our access to the entire WSU system (four campuses, six Research and Extension Centers, 10 Learning Centers, and the other 38 County offices) for programming and research expertise. King County Extension collaborates with many WSU entities on numerous efforts including carrot and watermelon variety and tasting trials, new farmer education courses and apprenticeships, water quality research and programming, biological control of noxious weeds, along with partnerships with NOAA and Oregon State University.

Programmatic Impacts: Partnerships, Growth, Coordination, and Future Generations

Dedicated new funding from the assessment will strengthen the partnership between KCE and KCD by drawing from each organization's strengths to develop collaborative and complimentary programming. It will also allow both organizations to build on the positive relationships we each have with landowners. King County Extension has a long history of developing and delivering impact-driven, outcome-based programming that makes a difference in the lives of the individuals

we serve and in the natural resources we all depend upon. A recent study by V. Shandas, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington, highlights the positive association between conservation messaging and universities. Nearly 300 King County households responded to a survey about the sources of information they trusted the most to provide them with conservation information. Governmental organizations had the lowest “most-trusted source” respondent percentages (5% trusted county government the most, 1% trusted state government, and 2% trusted federal government) while university-based organizations had the highest “most-trusted source” percentages (20% for university scientists and 14% for university extension services). The Conservation District has a similar level of public trust and history of impacts with the community. By collaborating, we can build from our combined positive impacts and relationships with the public to develop even more effective programs – programs that neither agency could develop alone.

To keep our farmland productive and actively farmed, King County needs farm marketing opportunities and market development; experience-based training and education for new and existing farmers; and political support for farm business enterprises. New funding from the assessment would allow KCE to expand our coordinated approach toward sustainable agriculture, land and water stewardship and youth education. Currently, KCE has been using grant dollars to develop a suite of programming that addresses the economic and environmental sustainability of farming. These programs range from direct education of new and existing farmers, to developing market support for purchasing locally grown food, to improving the infrastructure to support local agriculture. However, grant funded projects are not sustainable. With dedicated funding, KCE could develop a durable, more comprehensive program to support new farmers in learning how to be economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable. Such programming would not only involve classroom education, but also would include hands-on activities, and even access to small plots of land for farming enterprise incubation. It is only through long-term dedicated funding that this vision could be realized; developing and delivering programs like these is extremely difficult with year-to-year competitive grant funding. Additionally, KCE is uniquely positioned to develop and deliver these types of county-wide programs through our existing infrastructure, eliminating the need for individual municipalities or WRIAs to develop similar programs or the delivery infrastructure, a duplication of effort.

Passage of the current Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) and the listing of numerous salmonid runs heightens the need for a broad based, coordinated, countywide approach to water and land stewardship. Over the years, KCE has developed programs to help individuals steward their land and resources, for example Master Gardeners for home landscaping, Extension Watershed Stewards for broad based conservation, and Extension Livestock Advisors for rural landowners with livestock. Master Gardeners alone reached 30,000 members of the public last year. Dedicated funding would allow us to continue these types of programs, but more importantly to develop and deliver the next generation of programming to cultivate the stewardship ethic in the community that will sustain conservation projects countywide. Through the reach of our existing volunteer programs, new programs directly targeting the public, and the relationships we have with KCD, King County DNRP, other partners and the public, KCE is uniquely positioned to coordinate the development and delivery of outcome based conservation education throughout the entire county. We have the experience, expertise and recognition to accomplish such goals.

One last impact of dedicating one dollar of the special assessment funds to KCE would be on the youth of King County. With expanded financial support, KCE would be able to expand our countywide agriculture and natural resource programming to future generations. Most people associate 4-H with the traditional agriculture programs they see at the fair, but 4-H is much more. 4-H is a youth development program that accomplishes its goals through hands-on, experiential learning in topics that interest and excite youth. With dedicated funding KCE could expand natural resource stewardship programs to audiences we have not yet been able to reach, especially underserved, urban populations. We would be able to share the environmental legacy of the Pacific Northwest with youth who have not yet had such an opportunity. The long-term impact of conservation practices rests with our youth, who will have to see the changes we put in place through to the end. Through 4-H programming, we can accomplish sustainable agriculture and land stewardship goals with the next generation of landowners, today. 4-H is the largest youth program in the United States and has been around for more than 100 years. It can deliver on these goals.

In short, if one dollar of the proposed special assessment were dedicated to KCE, the impacts for KCE and the citizens of King County would far exceed the approximate \$500,000 per year dollar value it would provide. Here is a summary of the key impacts of dedicating funds to KCE.

- Directing assessment dollars through an MOA with KCE will save a significant amount of program funding that would otherwise go towards employee benefits and overhead costs.
- We would be able to attract additional faculty and staff to develop the high quality, research-based, out-come oriented programming for which WSU is known.
- We would be able to maintain and grow our sustainable agriculture, forestry, land stewardship and youth-based resource stewardship programming to benefit of all citizens of King County through our existing county-wide infrastructure for program delivery.
- Stable funding would allow us to direct our energies toward developing and delivering production-based sustainable agricultural programming in King County rather than seeking year-to-year competitive funding in the face of declining resources and programming from King County DNRP.

Finally, this funding arrangement would enhance the partnership between KCD and KCE by capitalizing on the strengths and positive public relationships enjoyed by both organizations.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to discuss the great opportunities dedicated funding from the proposed assessment would have for KCE. I would be happy to provide details if you have any questions; so please contact me at 206 205 3110 or brad.gaolach@metrokc.gov. I look forward to continuing the relationship between our two organizations.

Sincerely,



Brad Gaolach
Director WSU King County Extension

919 SW Grady St, Suite 120
Renton, WA 98005

**King County**

May 27, 2005

Max Prinsen, Chair
King Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

Dear Mr. Prinsen:

We commend you and the King Conservation District (KCD) for your collaborative and successful efforts with the Watershed Forums, King County and the KCD's member cities to help conserve the abundant natural resources and agricultural assets in King County over the past eight years. You, your board and your staff deserve congratulations for your leadership and excellent work.

Since 1998, the KCD assessment has been a very important source of revenue for King County's regional agricultural programs and, through the watershed grants program, an important source of revenue for projects, planning, stewardship/education and scientific studies that conserve natural resources and help recover salmonids throughout King County. We believe that King County, the cities, and the Watershed Forums can craft an even stronger partnership with the KCD in the next 10 years. This is particularly true in view of the fact that Salmon Recovery Plans are nearing completion and have identified major capital project and programmatic needs to be completed throughout the watersheds.

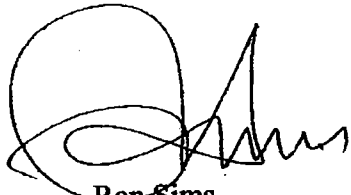
With this stronger partnership in mind, we invite you to enter into a conversation with us to discuss options for the renewal of this important assessment. King County and the KCD share many common goals for the conservation of natural resources in King County and for the implementation of the WRIA-based Salmon Recovery Plans. We have worked effectively together with the WRIA Forums to leverage KCD grant funds up to ten-fold over the past few years. The new state authority gives us the opportunity to sustain the buying power of this assessment and address the effects of inflation. It is too soon to lock into an allocation formula for a new assessment, but very much time to begin our conversation.

With this in mind, we have asked Mike Huddleston, Lead Legislative Analyst for the King County Council to schedule a meeting. We look forward to working with you to strengthen our shared conservation efforts in King County and to evaluate options for the renewal of this assessment. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Huddleston, at 206-296-1672.

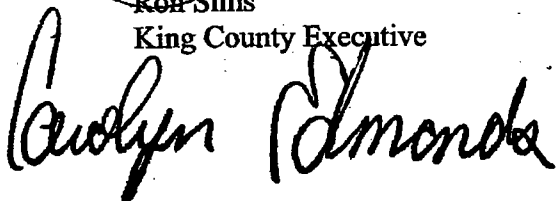
Max Prinsen
May 27, 2005
Page 2

Again, we thank the KCD for its leadership and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you, your board and staff in the future.

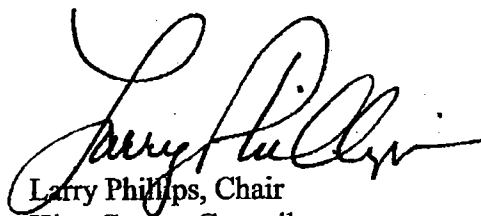
Sincerely,



Ron Sims
King County Executive



Carolyn Edmonds
King County Councilmember



Larry Phillips, Chair
King County Council



Dow Constantine
King County Councilmember

cc: King Conservation Board Members
Maura Brueger, Deputy Chief of Staff, King County Executive Office
Mike Huddleston, Lead Legislative Analyst, King County Council
Pam Bissonnette, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), DNRP
Joanna Richey, Manager, Strategic Initiatives Section, WLRD, DNRP

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 7:24 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: parcel assessment for conservation

-----Original Message-----

From: Neala Kendall [mailto:kendalln@u.washington.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 9:07 AM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: parcel assessment for conservation

Hello,

I am writing to let you know I am in favor of continuing, and better yet increasing to \$10, the yearly assessment on my property that goes to conservation projects.

Thank you very much!

Neala Kendall
Seattle, WA

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2005 10:34 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Proposed Special Assessment
Attachments: Blank Bkgrd.gif

-----Original Message-----

From: John Betrozoff [mailto:jwbetro@gte.net]
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2005 8:13 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Proposed Special Assessment

*TO: Board of Supervisors
King County Conservation District*

RE: Special Assessment Increase

I am very much opposed to you raising the conservation assessment from \$5 to \$10 on most King County parcels. You should try to get along with the \$5 which should do just fine for any critical activities you absolutely have to do. You should actually reduce it to \$3 for your own operations and skip the rest of the items. The \$2.50 for three watershed projects is not necessary, and taking another \$1.50 per parcel for a grant program is completely unnecessary. This \$1.50 per parcel is a large amount of money for a grant program that consumes time and effort for many projects that simply will use up the funds rather than leave the money with the land owners.

Your initial assessment of \$5 since 2000 seems more than enough to keep conservation in front of landowners. The King County Council should appropriate you money directly without an assessment if they consider this important. To now double the amount is really taking advantage of landowners who are placed at considerable disadvantage with your assessment process. Governmental agencies seem to just grow and grow once started.

This assessment represents one more reason why suburban and rural areas of present King County should be in a new county. Urban King County, through their special interest groups, is dictating what is good for us.

*I am against raising the rate. I would request that you decrease the amount to \$3.
John Betrozoff*

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2005 10:27 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Special Assessment on Land within KCD!!!!!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Dena Reiter [mailto:cowgirlup98092@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2005 9:32 AM
To: Geoff-Reed King-Conserv-Dist
Subject: Special Assessment on Land within KCD!!!!!!!

This is an increase of 100%! We, the people, must live within a budget--it is long overdue that all governmental agencies live within a budget and learn how to spend the first dollar effectively. We are retired folks on a fixed income. Do you have any clue how many increases are thrown at EVERYBODY--it comes from all sides! PSE, Water Dist., worst of all an increase of \$38,000 on our property tax bill for next year!! List goes on....groceries, medicare increases each year, gas/diesel, on and on. And, each of you out there SPENDING OUR MONEY seem not to have a clue that you ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES ASKING FOR INCREASES!!

This need to STOP. Just another example of government spending out of control. Pray tell, where did Ron Sims find \$53,000/year to hire Jan Burlingame, & provide her with a car and a secretary????? I see so many "For Sale" signs around our area here in S. E. Auburn. Don't blame them.....King County has become a very unfriendly place for retirees, and working folks with families, to live.

How much money do you have to work with when you assess \$5 per parcel per year? Considering how many new homes are going up you should need NO INCREASE. You will automatically have many more \$5 to work with!!! NO NEW INCREASE. Live with it. We have to live with our income.

Most sincerely,

**Dena & Allen Reiter
Disgruntled taxpayers**

Happy Trails to You,

Dena

June 29, 2005

Public comment, King Conservation District
935 Powell Ave SW
Renton, WA 98055

Dear Conservation District,

I don't know if you have already made up your mind to double the assessment on our property or not, but in case you are really interested in hearing what the people have to say, I'm going to submit the following.

I saved money by working two jobs for 12 years, and finally had to quit my second job because of health reasons. I bought a house through a private contract from a lady whose husband had died a year earlier, and she could not afford her taxes, heating oil, etc.

However, even though I make about \$32,000 per year with the Seattle Public Schools Head Start Program, I am finding that I cannot afford to keep my dream of home ownership alive. I could not pay my property taxes last April and I'm already worrying about October's taxes.

We have been taxed out of our homes and those who manage to stay, many have had to cut back on basics such as food, clothing, and medical care in order to survive. Please do not raise our assessment fees. We are over taxed as it is and just cannot afford it.

I've had to cut back, way back, on my household budget and it's about time that some cutbacks are made by the government agencies that are here to serve us. If you have the authority to keep the fees as they are please hear what I am saying. If the authority rests with somebody else, please let me know who I should be writing this letter to.

Thank you for you time and hopefully, for your care and feelings for the working poor.

Sincerely,



Timothy Ramsey
1403 North 160th Street
Shoreline, WA 98133

July 6, 2005

To: King Conservation District Board of Supervisors
From: Joan McGilton, Deputy Mayor, City of Burien
Subject: Public Hearing Testimony, King Conservation District Special Assessment

I am here this afternoon to personally support the proposal to renew the District's special assessment for 10 years and, in addition, to support the annual fee increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

My testimony this afternoon is directed to dedicating one dollar of the ten dollars to WSU's King County Extension (KCE) programs. These KCE dedicated funds could be used to generate income for enhanced and new conservation planning programs. I have been aware of the breadth of the WSU programs for many years. I, and my community have benefited greatly from the Master Gardner and Master Recycling programs as well as other offerings.


I, personally, have benefited from WSU's Land & Water Stewards 70-hour training program that I completed in 2003. Because of the excellent training and access to regional experts, I have been able to influence the City of Burien to adopt policy to consider stormwater management using low impact development strategies and green building practices. In addition, I bring the stewardship training to my volunteer participation with the Environmental Science Center, a non-profit group dedicated to bringing children and adults to the beach at Seahurst Park.

KCE benefits my community as well as King County residents in the following ways:

- Reaches and benefits all citizens in King County with WSU conservation programs
- Leverages additional program funding from WSU and other fund sources
- As an institution of higher learning, provides research-based studies to property owners and others who value conservation practices
- Directly puts citizen activists to work in their community

I hope you consider KCE programs for dedicated funding so that they can continue to provide effective programs throughout the King County area.

Thank you,



Joan McGilton
P.O. Box 1304
Seahurst, WA 98062

Geoff Reed

From: Jeff Wright [darcors@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 11:53 PM
To: geoff.reed@kingcd.org
Subject: Proposed special assessment

Dear Mr. Reed:

It has come to my attention that the King County Conservation District has proposed a 100% increase in it's assessment rate. While I do not agree with this increase in general, I have one specific point to make. I understand that \$1.50 of the assessment will be given to PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS. Sir, that is absurd! I pay taxes for government services and not for politicians or bureaucrats to give to their pet organizations. If passed in this form I will pay none of the assessment and King Co. will have to lien my property and foreclose to get it!

Sincerely,

Jeff Wright
14437 W. Lake Kathleen Dr. SE
Renton

July 6, 2005

To: King Conservation District Board of Supervisors
From: Joan McGilton; Deputy Mayor, City of Burien
Subject: Public Hearing Testimony, King Conservation District Special Assessment

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I hope you consider KCE programs for dedicated funding so that they can continue to provide effective programs throughout the King County area.

Thank you,



Joan McGilton
P.O. Box 1304
Seahurst, WA 98062

Geoff Reed

From: cindyalia@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 5:07 PM
To: geoff.reed@kingcd.org
Subject: property tax increase

Geoff.

No way on property tax increase. Someone got to my pocket book before you. So I will be unable to give any money to you this year. I just don't have any more to give. Why don't you contact Ron Sims, I think he got a big chunk of this years increase, maybe he will share with you.
Cindy Alia

Maxine Keesling
15241 NE 153rd Street
Woodinville, WA 98072
(425) 483-8523

July 6, 2005

TO: Board of Supervisors, King Conservation District

RE: "Special Assessment" on Lands within the King Conservation District,
Comment thereon for the Public Record.

The backs of our current King County tax statements call the KCD assessment a "Soil Conservation Fee", which currently is \$5 per parcel. That fee charge is listed alongside what is now called the Surface Water Management Charge - currently \$102 at my house - which was originally explained on the backs of our tax statements as:

"This is not a tax but a charge against certain property in unincorporated King County based on the amount of impervious surface on the parcel as of . . . The revenue from the charge is used by the SWM Division to control surface water runoff." (Ha! SWM doesn't even unplug culverts; ROADS does it.)

Just as the SWM fee/charge has graduated into substantially more than controlling water runoff, so has the KCD's funding/^{for} helping people use their land wisely/^{morphed} into locking people out of their land by assisting King County's DDES in implementing its Critical Areas lockup regulations.

Regarding both KCD and SWM fees, the Northwest Legal Foundation Winter 1997 newsletter had an in-depth article on fees/charges/assessments vs. taxes, which made the following points based on the Washington State Supreme Court case, Margola vs City of Seattle:

1. The service for which the fee is to be charged must be clearly and specifically identified.
2. Before imposing the fee, the government entity must undertake a study to reasonably determine the cost of the "service" for which the fee is to be charged.
3. The fee charged must be determined from the study data and not exceed an amount necessary to reimburse for the actual costs of the "service" provided.
4. Revenues from fees must be monitored and accounted for and the expenditures of those revenues must be tracked to the services actually provided.
5. Fees must be regularly adjusted to insure the fee amount and the services charged remain in balance.

The article also said that citizens have the right to get copies of said studies and that if the information does not exist then "it is likely the fee in question does not meet the standards set out by the State Supreme Court." Also, ". . . it is unlawful for those fees to exceed the cost of the service and/or to be used to fund other activities."

In looking at the funding allocations on the Notice for this hearing, with the Conservation District to retain only \$3 of the proposed \$10 assessment, and in looking at the requirements of RCW 89.08.400 as amended in 2005, it appears the KCD's proposed fee doubling does not comply with any of the above.

Maxine Keesling

Geoff Reed

From: Charles Strouss [owner@dealstudios.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 11:12 AM
To: geoff.reed@kingcd.org
Subject: Are you crazy????

Grants to "environmentalist" groups? Does government spend money on political causes, too?

The Citizen's Alliance for Property Rights has a much better plan for helping the environment than the so-called "environmentalist" groups... If you really want to do something for the environment, give THEM the money.

Can you say lawsuit???? Why doesn't government just put a tax on us and give it to the democratic party? These groups do not have the "public interest" at heart... Their only interest is in pushing their own agenda for our lives.

--Charles Strouss III

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 7:08 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: For your consideration

-----Original Message-----

From: Richmond-Grant, Lorinda [mailto:lorinda.richmond-grant@boeing.com]
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2005 10:51 AM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: For your consideration

Dear King Conservation District Committee Members,

I have been a resident of King County for almost 20 years. My daughter just recently graduated from Auburn Riverside High School and has been a member of the Auburn Valley Tailwaggers for nine years. Because I am a very involved parent, I also have volunteered for the King County 4-H program in various positions for the last eight years. I have found the WSU King County Extension's programs have been a vital part of my daughter's education as well as for hundreds of other youth living in both Seattle and the outlying rural areas of King County.

I wanted to take a moment and ask that you consider an allocation of the District special assessment to the WSU King County Extension organization which oversees all of the 4-H activities in King County. Most people think of "farm animals" when they hear "4-H" and that certainly is an important facet of the program. However, 4-H is focused on youth education and development and uses a variety of tools to involve youth and their families. In fact, many projects in the 4-H curriculum center specifically around environmental stewardship.

The vast majority of 4-H clubs whether they are dedicated to Family Living, Animal Science, Arts, or Technology often use community service as a learning tool. Club projects have included public education via presentations or posters regarding the importance of using our natural resources wisely. Clubs also plan activities that directly benefit our community such as litter retrieval, recycling events or the re-planting of trees. Both adult volunteers and youth members are strongly encouraged to participate and even find and coordinate these important events.

In my opinion the biggest benefit to our Earth and the sustainability of it's limited supply of resources is the education of our young people. They will be the caretakers of tomorrow and by exposing them to the environment issues facing our society we create a generation of knowledgeable stewards who will chose to preserve these gifts for the generations of the future. Your decision to dedicate a portion of this District Special Assessment to 4-H will reap untold benefits for all of us who live in King County, and in fact our entire State of Washington!

I truly appreciate your time and consideration of my request.

Most sincerely,

Lorinda Richmond-Grant

31600 126th SE #E26

Auburn, WA 98092

253-939-9206 (home)

425-234-2617 (work)

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 12:05 PM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: 100% increase in property taxes in the name of conservation

Ohhhh

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Taylor [mailto:Greg@IslandDisc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 11:52 AM
To: 'Jason Mirro'
Subject: RE: 100% increase in property taxes in the name of conservation

I know all about you guys. This was a bad idea..... bad move and bad timing.

Greg Taylor

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Mirro [mailto:jay.mirro@kingcd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 11:52 AM
To: 'Greg Taylor'
Subject: RE: 100% increase in property taxes in the name of conservation

Greg,

Thanks for commenting on the King Conservation District assessment. Please look at our website, www.kingcd.org, to find out more about our agency.

Jay

Jay Mirro
King Conservation District
Farm Planner
935 Powell Ave SW
Renton, WA 98055
425-277-5581 x 121
Note: new phone number

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Taylor [mailto:Greg@IslandDisc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 11:32 AM
To: district@kingcd.org; geoff.reed@kingcd.org
Cc: 'Jane Hague'; 'Kathy Lambert'; 'Dwight Pelz'; 'Ron Sims'; 'Julia Patterson'; district@kingcd.org; 'Bob Ferguson'; 'Larry Phillips'; 'David Irons'; 'Carolyn Edmonds'; 'Steve Hammond'; 'Rob McKenna'; 'Pete Vonreichbauer'; 'Dow Constantine'; 'Larry Gossett'
Subject: 100% increase in property taxes in the name of conservation

Unbelievable... I just hit send on an email to many of you about this very topic... and now you want to tax us more to pay for it??? NO, it must stop. These projects are an insult to us and now you want to double the tax to pay for it????

lets see if I can make this clear....

NO

Clear enough? We have had it. I will leave it to others to write elegant prose as to why this is a horrible idea. I will just stick to my simple....

NO

In the hope my idea will get through to some of you.

Greg Taylor

Woodinville, WA

-----Original Message-----

Cc: Jane Hague; Kathy Lambert; Dwight Pelz; Ron Sims; Julia Patterson; district@kingcd.org; Bob Ferguson; Larry Phillips; David Irons; Carolyn Edmonds; Steve Hammond; Rob McKenna; Pete Vonreichbauer; Dow Constantine; Larry Gossett

Subject: [Capr-discussion] 100% increase in property taxes in the name of conservation

Did anyone else get the mailer about the 100% increase in assessment on your property all in the name of conservation?

King Conservation District wants us to send all that extra money we have lying around so they can double their income from \$5.00 per parcel to \$10.00 per parcel through 2015.

\$3.00 for district operations

\$3.00 for 34 member cities and unincorporated King County conservation projects

\$2.50 for conservation projects within the three watershed forums (WRIA)

**\$1.50 GRANTS TO LOCAL CONSERVATION
(ENVIRONMENTALIST) ORGANIZATIONS**

A public hearing will be held at DDES 900 Oaksdale in Renton today at 4:00 P.M., a very convenient time indeed.

Public comment district@kingcd.org or geoff.reed@kingcd.org or 425.277.5581

Geoff Reed

From: Preston Drew [pgdrew@centurytel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 6:52 AM
To: geoff.reed@kingcd.org; 'Citizens' Alliance for Property Rights'
Cc: Steve Hammond; Bob Ferguson; Carolyn Edmonds; David Irons; Dow Constantine; Dwight Pelz; Jane Hague; Julia Patterson; Kathy Lambert; Larry Gossett; Larry Phillips; Pete Vonreichbauer; Rob McKenna; Ron Sims
Subject: You do this and we're going to watch you like a hawk

Geoff,

I want you to know that if you get this money you are not going to enjoy spending it.

We will watch everything you do with the money. It will be worse than a performance audit.

I don't know what mental giant thought they could get away with this increase at this time but if you are successful you will receive our full attention and scrutiny.

Preston Drew
VP-Citizens Alliance for Property Rights

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 7:20 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Special Assessment ~ King Conservation District

-----Original Message-----

From: JMilich133@aol.com [mailto:JMilich133@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2005 3:47 PM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Special Assessment ~ King Conservation District

Well, here again King County has been less than truthful. The first notice did not mention anything about an increase of 100% over the next 10 years. Our property taxes will increase +/- \$300.00 for 2006 and I am SURE it will continue past 2015 against my wishes. **The additional tax you are seeking should not be granted and the existing tax should not be continued.**

Personally I think the cities and watersheds involved should pay for their own, not the county tax payers.

I know this will fall on deaf ears but I thought I would send it any way.

John Milich, Jr.

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 6:52 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Special assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: Sharon Tiekamp [mailto:shadatie@foxinternet.net]
Sent: Monday, July 04, 2005 9:33 AM
To: District@kingcd.org
Subject: Special assessment

I am in favor of increasing the assessment to \$10 per parcel for the period of 2006 through 2015. I have received a lot of help from the King Conservation District in caring for my land.

Thank you,
Sharon Tiekamp

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 6:36 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Conservation District Special Assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: shelley@dahlgren.com [mailto:shelley@dahlgren.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2005 11:18 AM
To: district@kingcd.org
Cc: Diane Weinstein; Meg Pearson
Subject: Conservation District Special Assessment

The following are my public comments relative to the special assessment hearing to be held July 6, 2005 by the King Conservation District. My assessment leads me to overwhelmingly favor the increase of funds for conservation programs in King County:

My involvement in greenbelt restoration in my Eastside development over the past three years has made me realize the huge need for improvements in many areas of restoration.

First: The public has no idea how bad the invasive plant problem is, and a concerted effort to educate the public is needed.

Second: Our Association board does not even know what invasives must be controlled as Class B, and apparently King County is unable to enforce control. At this point it is being left up to volunteers to control these weeds.

Third: Laws to control common invasives such as non-native blackberry, Scotch Broom, ivy and holy, for examples, are either too weak to be helpful or non-existent. Ivy in particular is a huge problem and it is still sold at nurseries.

Fourth: Better tools and methods for environmentally safe removal of invasives is needed. It seems like both the universities and farm implement makers could come up with less expensive and safe methods for removing large areas of invasives

Fifth: Something needs to be done to ensure that developers leave newly developed property clean when they leave and ensure the new owners keep it clean after developers leave.

I hope these comments are helpful,

Mr. Shelley Dahlgren, PhD
Issaquah, WA

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 6:33 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: New Assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: lauradahlem@netscape.net [mailto:lauradahlem@netscape.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2005 12:06 PM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: New Assessment

To Whom It May Concern,

I support the inclusion of funding for the WSU King County Extension in the new assessment. This Extension plays an important role in supporting sustainable agriculture and promoting rural stewardship throughout the region. Please earmark at least one dollar of the new assessment for the Extension.

Sincerely,
Laura Dahlem
14500 Juanita Dr NE
Kenmore WA 98028

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Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 11:54 AM
To: Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Public Comments Requested for a new special assessment - need more information regarding metrics, goals, and accomplishments.

Geoff, Can you tell this person what we do in numbers..

Jay

-----Original Message-----

From: Arie van der Hoeven [mailto:ariev@winse.microsoft.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 11:38 AM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: Public Comments Requested for a new special assessment - need more information regarding metrics, goals, and accomplishments.

Going through your site at <http://www.kingcd.org/> it's very difficult to assess what benefits or services have been made available to rural landowners, many of whom are concerned about regulatory costs, permit fees, and difficulties in determining what they can do with their properties.

I see the following statements, but what is missing are actual cases of where KCD can help landowners like us. I would prefer to read an audit or report before supporting an increase in the special assessment.

Since 1949, the KCD has been helping the people of King County manage their natural resources. We educate landowners, schools, scientists, consultants and agencies in how to recognize problem situations and how to avoid creating them. We also provide technical assistance in solving their problems.

We promote conservation through demonstration projects, educational events, providing technical assistance, and, in some cases, providing or pointing the way to funds which may be available for projects. The KCD has no regulatory or enforcement authority. We only work with those who chose to work with us.

All landowners within the District boundaries are entitled to free information and technical assistance for water quality protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, farm management plans, soil and slope stability information, native plant products, manure exchange information, volunteer opportunities, stream restoration/enhancement assistance and many other natural resource topics.

This all sounds great but it lacks specific metrics, goals, and accomplishments.

Thank you,

Arie van der Hoeven
4519 288th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98053
425-880-6090

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2005 7:41 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Fee increase

-----Original Message-----

From: Jon W Nelson [mailto:jwnelson@drhorton.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2005 7:07 AM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: Fee increase

Why must I pay for rural landowners to get a farm plan done? Why don't you get out of the planning business and let those landowner's hire a consultant, just like I must do if I want to develop my land. If the CD wants to stay in the planning business, then let the user's pay the fee, not me. DON'T RAISE MY TAXES!

Jon W. Nelson
Land Acquisition
Project Manager
DR Horton, Seattle
425-821-3400 ext 305
206-793-5989 cell
425-636-3012 fax

Geoff Reed

From: hpvi [hpvi@joimail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2005 10:19 PM
To: district@kingcd.org; bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov; carolyn.edmonds@metrokc.gov; david.ironson@metrokc.gov; dow.constantine@metrokc.gov; dwight.pelz@metrokc.gov; jane.hague@metrokc.gov; julia.patterson@metrokc.gov; kathy.lambert@metrokc.gov; larry.gossett@metrokc.gov; larry.phillips@metrokc.gov; pete.vonreichbauer@metrokc.gov; steve.hammond@metrokc.gov; Reagan Dunn; geoff.reed@kingcd.org
Subject: Increase in property for King Conservation District
Importance: High

We are tired of more and more tax increases being levied against our property and our lives. We oppose this increase. We understand that there has been an 800% increase since 1996 with this new proposed increase. Wish we could get an 800% in wages!!!!

We also strongly oppose the funds for the \$2.50 for WRIA and the \$1.50 for local conservation organizations. We feel that these funds should be used for district operations.

We are very angry rural property owners in an urban developed neighborhood who are tired of the way this King County government is being run.

Howard & Patricia Van Laeken

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2005 6:45 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: I am Opposed to the 100% increase in King County Conservation District tax.

-----Original Message-----

From: Colleen Johnson [mailto:shanda61@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 8:02 PM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: I am Opposed to the 100% increase in King County Conservation District tax.

I am opposed to the increase as proposed for the King County Conservation District Tax. The Rural Homeowner is bleeding enough. If you wish to increase this tax, put it on the metropolitan Seattle area where they are paving over wetlands for emergency training centers without permission, and where decades long pollution has NOT been addressed by the King County CAO.
Thank you.

MICHAEL J. REYNOLDS
ENUMCLAW CATTLE COMPANY
21607 SE 400th
Enumclaw, Washington 98022

(253) 939-4556 Office

(360) 825-4353 Home

July 7, 2005

PUBLIC COMMENT
King County Conservation District
935 Powell Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055

RE: Public Hearing Regarding Special Assessment – July 6, 2005

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for a request for comment on modifications of the above special assessment. I am in opposition for the following reasons:

1. **Assessment on Per Parcel Basis:** To assess on a per parcel basis unfairly burdens farms such as mine which consists of six parcels. This occurred because originally King County allowed a prior owner to do a subdivision. I purchased the original farmstead and then starting purchasing the parcels back again to add back to the farm since they would not perc. The end result of the per parcel methodology would be to assess this farm six times the amount of a residential lot. This is totally inconsistent with the purposes for which you are organized since it is to protect watershed, among other things, and this farm has received numerous awards including being named as a conservation merit farm. In other words the farm, with the systems that it has, creates more to protect watersheds than an individual residential lot, yet pays six times the amount of money. Further, over half the assessment goes to the cities for their conservation projects. In other words, property owners in one jurisdiction are being used to subsidize another jurisdiction.
2. **Percent of Increase:** The assessment is being increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00 or doubling. Most units of government have been required to live within their budgets.
3. **Special Taxing Districts:** As a generality there should be more monitoring of the special taxing districts. A review of a property tax statement indicates numerous ones which essentially are not held in the same accountability standards as cities and counties. In fact, there are deductions for drainage districts which for years have not done anything.

Very truly yours,

ENUMCLAW CATTLE COMPANY

Michael J. Reynolds

MJR:slc

cc: Steve Hammond, King County Council, District #9

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 7:12 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Assessment

-----Original Message-----

From: kay mabry [mailto:kay_home@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2005 11:12 PM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: Assessment

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the huge increase in the assessment. The increase is too great. In addition, the money should not go to some of the other groups that work at odds with the farmers' interests.

Sincerely,

Kay Mabry
23317 SE 37th St
Sammamish WA 98075
206.940.1557

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 12:09 PM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Special assessment for King County Extension

-----Original Message-----

From: marilynrose.freeman@comcast.net [mailto:marilynrose.freeman@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 9:49 AM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: Special assessment for King County Extension

This comment is in response to the following announcement:

The King Conservation District Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to discuss the District's proposal for a new special assessment in King County on July 6th at 4 pm at the Department of Development and Environmental Services office in Renton. The Board of Supervisors has adopted a proposal to renew the District special assessment for 10 years at a rate of \$10/parcel/year. The District proposes to utilize the new assessment to fund the District and to implement natural resource conservation projects and address emerging natural resource management issues in King County.

As a retired King County Extension Educator and a resident of King County, I wish to express my support for **special funding to be earmarked for Extension** as well as the proposal to increase the assessment to \$10 per year.

In my career with Extension, I worked closely with King Conservation District and feel our two programs complement each other to provide excellent educational and technical assistance to our County's residents. As currently proposed, the new assessment does not include funding for WSU King County Extension. King County Extension currently provides a number of quality programs in support of sustainable agriculture and rural stewardship. **With a small portion of dedicated funding from the new assessment, King County Extension** could enhance and expand these programs throughout the County. With this funding, King County Extension would leverage additional dollars from state and federal funding sources and other competitive grants.

Thank you for including my comments in your deliberations.

Marilyn Freeman

14355 - 38th Ave NE

Seattle WA 98125

206-361-5187 or email: marilynrose.freeman@comcast.net

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 12:07 PM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: "Conservation Assessment"

-----Original Message-----

From: erick haakenson [mailto:jubileefarm@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 10:02 AM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: "Conservation Assessment"

July 8, 2005

To the Board of Supervisors:

I'm Erick Haakenson and along with my wife Wendy, own and manage Jubilee Farm in Carnation. Our farm is a 250 acre organic farm with a CSA (community supported agriculture) membership of nearly 300 families.

I am writing to support efforts to fund the WSU extension program in King County.

When we started our CSA, there was only one other such farm in King County; now there are many dozens. This is phenomenal growth in local agriculture! All this growth has taken place in the last ten years, and I've been uniquely situated to observe the change.

I can tell you unequivocally that the work of the WSU extension has been essential in the explosion of agricultural activity in King County. Extension agents have not only done the traditional work that extension agents do (helping farmers like me with problems related to fertility, insect control, crops, rotations, etc.) but has also been very active in helping new farmers to get started.

We are truly experiencing the "greening" of King County. The proliferation of farmer's markets (7 new markets in the Seattle area alone) is demonstrative evidence to the resurgence of local agriculture in our County. We need to keep WSU extension active and funded.

Many people of "supportive" of farmers, but I can tell you that it is only the WSU extension program that has the people, the communications, and the proven skills at fueling what the citizens of King County obviously want: local, organic produce from sustainable family farms. For me, they've been here from the beginning. I count of them when I have a problem; I have no one else to turn to.

Please increase the "Conservation Assessment" to fund their program.

Erick Haakenson
Owner, Jubilee Farm, Carnation WA
425-222-3738

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Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 12:04 PM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: Increased financing King Conservation District

-----Original Message-----

From: Marshall Brenden [mailto:marshbrenden@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 11:00 AM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: Increased financing King Conservation District

I am concerned about the subject increase particularly in respect to the contributions being made to the WIRA's. I don't believe any funds should be routed through the Conservation Districts to WIRA's. It negates the value of the Conservation District's in support of the Agricultural industry. There is no assurance that this support of the WIRA's will go the way of the SWM dynasty. It starts out with a few dollars annually from the homeowners and ends up with high dollars assessments without little or no oversight. Increases are needed for the Conservation District but not a penny more for the WIRA's.

Marshall M. Brenden, rural landowner.

Geoff Reed

From: Jason Mirro
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2005 7:40 AM
To: Brandy Reed; Geoff Reed
Subject: FW: public comment on additional fee and distributions to none cd agencies

-----Original Message-----

From: Tony Zraggen [mailto:t-zraggen@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 4:06 PM
To: district@kingcd.org
Subject: public comment on additional fee and distributions to none cd agencies

Dear Board members,

I am totally and absolutely against raising fees even one additional penny above the \$5.00

Based on the original fee of about 1.25 you had a 400% fee increase previously!!!!

With respect to the additional collection/transfer of funds to non CD items –

The urban Democrats are using your good name to collect money for their own friends and projects

We would support King CD keeping a much larger share of the \$5 dollars.
The WRIA documents are almost complete.

King County has wasted something in the range of \$200 million in SWM fees and are collecting 10's of millions more each year.

Why is your organization the first to be able to complete these simple watershed plans with only a small budget.

Maintain you reputation.

Tell them we only need \$5.00 dollars to make a real difference but King CD should receive the majority of these funds.

2 dollars for normal function
1 dollar for projects under your control

Let the cities and King County effectively use some of the SWM fees

Tony Zraggen
43014 212th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA