



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

February 28, 2017

Motion 14812

Proposed No. 2017-0037.3

Sponsors von Reichbauer

1 A MOTION providing direction to the conservation futures
2 citizen oversight committee on priorities for allocating
3 conservation futures tax levy funds.

4 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.010 declares that it is in the best interest of the state to
5 maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space
6 lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops and to ensure the use and
7 enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being
8 of the state and its citizens, and

9 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.210 authorizes the county to acquire property rights "to
10 protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or other otherwise
11 conserve, selected open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land," and

12 WHEREAS, property rights acquired under this authorization are defined as
13 conservation futures, and

14 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.230 authorizes the use of a property tax levy to fund the
15 acquisition of conservation futures and the maintenance and operation of acquired
16 properties, and

17 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.240 authorizes counties to establish a special
18 conservation futures fund to which the levy proceeds are credited, and

19 WHEREAS, King County has established a conservation futures tax levy and
20 fund, and

21 WHEREAS, King County is required to establish a process to help ensure, over
22 time, that the distribution of the tax levy is throughout the county, and

23 WHEREAS, K.C.C. chapter 26.12 establishes an annual process for distribution
24 of the tax levy to acquire open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife
25 habitat and trail rights-of-way, and

26 WHEREAS, the process includes a citizen oversight committee that makes
27 project and funding allocation recommendations for each project to the executive, and

28 WHEREAS, the executive makes project and funding recommendations as part of
29 the budget process, and

30 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.010 allows the council to adopt a motion providing
31 direction to the conservation futures citizen oversight committee on priorities for
32 evaluating project applications, and

33 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project
34 selection, which provides: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and
35 aquatic resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources;
36 urban passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park or open space system addition; and
37 transfer of development rights program implementation. Additional criteria may include:
38 passive recreation; education/interpretive opportunity; threat of loss of open space
39 resources; ownership complexity; partnerships; stewardship and maintenance; and any
40 other criteria consistent with RCW 84.34.020," and

41 WHEREAS, the North Lake-Hylebos watershed area and its surroundings in and
42 near the city of Federal Way provide discharge to Hylebos creek, and

43 WHEREAS, this area has been naturally revegetated with second growth timber,
44 which provides shade protection to North Lake and the East Hylebos Waterway, as well
45 as valuable habitat, and

46 WHEREAS, this area has provided a passive recreation and open space resource
47 for residents of King County for nearly fifty years, and

48 WHEREAS, the loss of open space in this area would have impacts on the North
49 Lake-Hylebos watershed and the habitat it provides, and

50 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property
51 rights in the North Lake-Hylebos watershed and surrounding areas for wildlife habitat,
52 urban passive-use natural area or open space system addition meets the criteria in K.C.C.
53 26.12.025 for project selection, and

54 WHEREAS, the Juanita and Inglewood-Finn Hill neighborhoods and their
55 surroundings in and near the city of Kirkland include a number of parks and open space
56 areas, including Saint Edward State Park, Big Finn Hill Park, O.O. Denny Park, Juanita
57 Woodlands Park, Juanita Beach Park and Juanita Heights Park, that would benefit from
58 additional trails and open space connections to provide habitat corridors as well as
59 pedestrian and bicycling connectivity between parks and neighborhoods; and

60 WHEREAS, the addition of trails and open space connections in this area would
61 provide for the preservation of tree canopy and indigenous vegetation in urban areas, as
62 well as the establishment of natural greenways through developed areas that will support
63 local wildlife migration and open space linkages, and

64 WHEREAS, the loss of open space in this area would limit connectivity between
65 a network of state, county and local parks and open spaces and affect local vegetation and
66 wildlife, and

67 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property
68 rights for trails and open space connections in the Juanita and Inglewood-Finn Hill
69 neighborhoods and surrounding areas for wildlife habitat or open space system addition
70 meets the criteria in K.C.C. 26.12.025 for project selection, and

71 WHEREAS, the Woodinville Wine Country and its surroundings in and near the
72 Sammamish River valley include regional trails and multi-use corridors, including the
73 Sammamish River Trail and the Eastside Rail Corridor, protected farmland and open
74 space areas that would benefit from additional trails and open space connections to
75 provide habitat corridors as well as pedestrian and bicycling connectivity between parks,
76 trails and community destinations; and

77 WHEREAS, the addition of trails and open space connections in this area would
78 provide for the preservation of farmland and green spaces, as well as the protection of
79 natural wildlife corridors between existing open spaces and the Sammamish river, and

80 WHEREAS, the loss of open space in this area would limit connectivity between
81 a network of regional trails, protected farmland, riparian corridors and open spaces and
82 affect local vegetation and wildlife, and

83 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property
84 rights for trails and open space connections in the Woodinville Wine Country area for
85 wildlife habitat or open space system addition meets the criteria in K.C.C. 26.12.025 for
86 project selection;

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

88 A. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen
89 oversight committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding
90 recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase of property
91 rights for the purpose of wildlife habitat, urban passive-use natural area or open space
92 system addition in or near the North Lake-Hylebos watershed, to preserve the existing
93 open space and stands of trees.

94 B. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen
95 oversight committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding
96 recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase of property
97 rights for the purpose of trail or open space connections, wildlife habitat or open space
98 system addition in or near the Juanita and Inglewood-Finn Hill neighborhoods, to provide
99 connectivity between the network of state, county and local parks and open spaces.

100 C. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen
101 oversight committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding
102 recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase of property
103 rights for the purpose of trail or open space connections, wildlife habitat or open space
104 system addition in or near the Woodinville Wine Country area, to provide connectivity
105 between the Sammamish river, existing regional trails and multiuse corridors, open
106 spaces and neighborhood destinations.

107 D. The department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources
108 division, is requested to work with landowners and jurisdictions in which properties
109 reflecting these priorities are located, in submitting project proposals that meet this

110 priority, as part of the 2017 conservation futures tax levy funds selection process
111 provided for in K.C.C. 26.12.010.
112


Motion 14812 was introduced on 2/13/2017 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/27/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci

No: 0

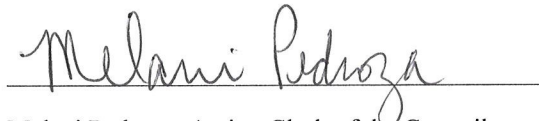
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None