



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**June 9, 2008**

**Ordinance 16129**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0217.2

**Sponsors** Constantine, Ferguson, Phillips,  
Patterson and Gossett

1 AN ORDINANCE restricting county purchase of bottled  
2 water.

3

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

5 1. In 2006 Americans bought a total of thirty-one and two tenths  
6 billion liters of water, sold in bottles mostly made of polyethylene  
7 terephthalate (PET); it takes nearly nine hundred thousand tons of  
8 PET bottles to contain this water. PET bottles are produced from  
9 fossil fuels.

10 2. In 2006, it is estimated that producing the bottles for American  
11 consumption required the equivalent of more than seventeen  
12 million barrels of oil, not including the energy for transportation,  
13 requiring three liters of water to produce each single liter of bottled  
14 water and producing more than two and one-half million tons of  
15 carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

16 3. The potable water throughout King County provides some of  
17 the highest quality water in the nation, equal to or exceeding the  
18 quality of bottled water.

19 4. While the average price for bottled water is approximately one  
20 dollar per pint bottle, or eight dollars per gallon, the average price  
21 for Seattle tap water is only one-third of one cent a gallon.

22 5. Bottled water is approximately two thousand four hundred times  
23 more expensive than tap water.

24 6. In 1989, the King County council adopted Ordinance 9240,  
25 which established the King County recycled product procurement  
26 policy. In 2007, on Ordinance 15912, the council adopted an  
27 environmental purchasing policy to incorporate environmentally  
28 preferable products. The county executive has developed policies  
29 and procedures that provide explicit direction and assigns  
30 responsibility for implementation to county agencies, departments  
31 and offices.

32 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

33 SECTION 1. A. After December 31, 2008, King County funds may no longer be  
34 used to purchase single serving bottled water, when potable water is available. To reduce  
35 the environmental impacts of bottled water, agencies, departments and offices should  
36 eliminate the purchase and use of single-serving bottled water bottles given the high-  
37 quality municipal water available.

38           B. The King County executive is directed to adopt policies and procedures for  
39 implementing this bottled water restriction in the King County environmental purchasing  
40 policy.

41           C. Exceptions may be made to this policy, in cases where there are no reasonable  
42 alternatives to access to safe drinking water; when there are hydration requirements for

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43 employees working outside of county facilities; or to comply with state or federal  
44 workplace rules or other contractual reasons.

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Ordinance 16129 was introduced on 4/14/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 6/9/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von  
Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague

No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

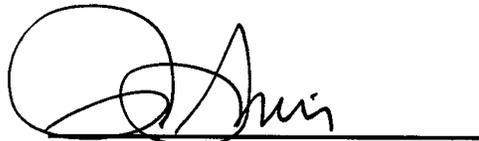
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 17 day of June, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL