

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE
METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources and Parks file no. **E21CT035**
Proposed ordinance no. **2022-0137**
Parcel no. **1422029091**

MICHAEL TRACY

Open Space Taxation Application (Public Benefit Rating System)

Location: 22930 Landers Road SW, Vashon

Applicant: **Michael L. Tracy**
22930 Landers Road SW
Vashon, WA 98070
Telephone: (917) 975-6459
Email: mltracy@me.com

King County: Department of Natural Resources and Parks
represented by **Bill Bernstein**
201 S. Jackson Street Suite 5600
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: (206) 477-4643
Email: bill.bernstein@kingcounty.gov

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department’s Recommendation: Approve 24.72 acres for 10% of assessed value

Examiner’s Recommendation: Approve 24.72 acres for 10% of assessed value

PRELIMINARY REPORT:

On April 8, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) submitted its report on file no. E21CT035 to the Examiner.

PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the preliminary report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a Zoom public hearing on the application on April 21, 2022.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner's Office.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. General Information:

Owner:	Michael L. Tracy 22930 Landers Road SW Vashon, WA 98070
Location:	22930 Landers Road SW, Vashon
STR:	NE-14-22-02
Zoning:	RA
Parcel no.:	1422029091
Total acreage:	26.98 acres

2. The Applicant timely filed an application to King County for the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS) program current use valuation of the property to begin in 2022. As required by law, notification of the application occurred.
3. The Applicant is currently participating in PBRS (file nos. E08CT019 and E94CT025), and has recently merged former parcel 142202-9007 into 142202-9091. This reapplication increases the PBRS scoring and combines all the open space land into a single enrollment. The new open space taxation agreement must supersede the existing agreements.
4. A summary of relevant PBRS categories follows below. (Plain text represents a category an applicant requested an award for and that DNRP agrees is warranted. Any ~~strikethrough~~ represents a category an applicant requested an award for but that DNRP disagrees is warranted. Any *italics* represents a category an applicant did not request an award for, but that DNRP nonetheless concludes is warranted. And any *asterisk* represents a category where DNRP finds an award is warranted, but only if certain contingencies or conditions are met.)

PBRS categories:	<u>Open Space Resources</u>	
	Aquifer protection area	5
	Buffer to public or current use classified land	3
	Active trail linkage	0
	<i>*Forest stewardship land</i>	*
	Rural open space	5
	Scenic resource, viewpoint, or view corridor	0
	Significant plant or ecological site	0
	Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat	5
	Special animal site	0
	Surface water quality buffer	5
	Watershed protection area	5
	<u>Bonus Categories</u>	
	<i>Additional surface water quality area</i>	3
<i>Conservation easement or historic easement</i>	15	
Total	46	

The DNRP-recommended score of 46 points results in a current use valuation of 10% of assessed value for the enrolled portion of the property.

5. Additional credit may be awarded administratively under the forest stewardship land category, subject to DNRP's approval of the Applicant's draft forest stewardship plan by **August 1, 2022**. Award of credit under this category will increase the point total by five. Because the property will already be at the maximum assessed value reduction, there will be no change to the current use valuation. However, award of this category may allow approved forestry activities to occur on the property.
6. As to the land area recommended for PBRS enrollment, the Applicant requested 23.90 acres and DNRP recommends 24.72 acres. (Enrollment acreage is the entire parcel less the excluded area, as calculated by DNRP. In the event the County Assessor's official parcel size is revised, the PBRS acreage shall be administratively adjusted to reflect that change.)
7. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in DNRP's preliminary report and testimony at the April 21, 2022, public hearing are correct and incorporated herein by reference. Copies of this report and DNRP's report will be provided to the Metropolitan King County Council for final approval.
8. Approval of 46 points and a current use valuation of 10% of assessed value for 24.72 acres, and conditional approval of 5 additional points for the same assessed value and acreage, are consistent with KCC Chapter 20.36 and with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve, and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. APPROVE a current use valuation of 10% of assessed value for the 24.72-acre enrolled portion of the property.
2. CONDITIONALLY APPROVE additional credit for the forest stewardship land category, subject to DNRP’s approval of the Applicant’s draft forest stewardship plan by **August 1, 2022**. Award of credit under this category will increase the point total by five but will not change the acreage or current use valuation.

DATED April 29, 2022.



David Spohr
Hearing Examiner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

A person appeals an Examiner recommendation by following the steps described in KCC 20.22.230, including filing with the Clerk of the Council a sufficient appeal statement and a \$250 appeal fee (check payable to the King County FBOD). Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal. KCC 20.22.230 also requires that the appellant provide copies of the appeal statement to the Examiner and to any named parties listed on the front page of the Examiner’s recommendation.

Prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on *May 23, 2022*, an electronic copy of the appeal statement must be sent to Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov and a paper copy of the appeal statement must be delivered to the Clerk of the Council's Office, Room 1200, King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. If the Office of the Clerk is not officially open on the specified closing date, delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

Unless both a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *May 23, 2022*, the Clerk of the Council shall place on the agenda of the next available Council meeting a proposed ordinance implementing the Examiner’s recommended action. At that meeting the Council may adopt the Examiner’s recommendation, defer action, refer the matter to a Council committee, or remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

If a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *May 23, 2022*, the Examiner will notify all parties and interested persons and provide information about “next steps.”

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2022, HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF
MICHAEL TRACY, FILE NO. E21CT035**

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Bill Bernstein and Michael Tracy participated in the hearing.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the hearing record:

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| Exhibit no. 1 | DNRP report to the Hearing Examiner |
| Exhibit no. 2 | <i>Reserved for future submission of the affidavit of hearing publication</i> |
| Exhibit no. 3 | Legal notice and introductory ordinance to the King County Council |
| Exhibit no. 4 | Arcview/orthophotograph and aerial map |
| Exhibit no. 5 | Application signed and notarized |