



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

August 5, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would authorize the execution of an interlocal agreement (ILA) among King County and the cities of Seattle and Tukwila and the Port of Seattle for the purposes of creating a strong partnership for collaboration to advance environmental initiatives in the Duwamish river basin.

This proposed legislation would enable the County's participation in the five-year, renewable Duwamish Basin Stewardship ILA with the cities of Seattle and Tukwila and the Port of Seattle. The ILA identifies expected cost sharing contributions from the cities, Port, and King County in support of a new basin steward position housed in the Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. The overall annual cost is estimated as \$210,000 for 2022. King County will be responsible for paying 38 percent of the annual cost of the position. King County's base 2022 contribution is to be \$79,000.

However, the ILA partners have secured external revenue to support the launch of the new position that will reduce King County's contribution to \$66,500 for 2022. The base contribution of each party shall be updated every year. Because the 2022 work program was funded in the 2021-2022 Mid-Biennial Budget, the proposed Ordinance has no fiscal impact.

Basin stewards are assigned to watershed areas and work in partnership with local residents and community groups to protect and restore clean water and healthy habitat. Several community and partner organizations were instrumental in advocating for the creation of this position, including the Green River Coalition, the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, and the Green-Duwamish Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WRIA 9).

The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan and Clean Water Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan goal of a healthy environment by supporting recovery actions for critically low numbers of threatened chinook salmon and contributing to a unified effort that crosses jurisdictional boundaries to achieve measurable environmental results at a watershed level. It also supports the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by bringing much needed organizational capacity to a historically underserved part of the county.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

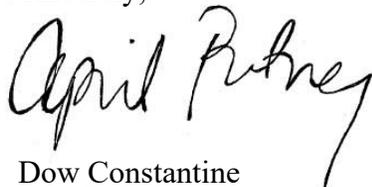
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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents recover chinook salmon and address open space disparities in the Duwamish River Basin.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director of the Water and Land Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP