

**King County****Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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July 25, 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 report from the King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (Committee) with recommended funding allocations for the coming year, as required by King County Code 26.12.010.C2. The Committee's funding recommendations will be incorporated into the upcoming 2023-2024 Executive Proposed Biennial Budget package. Attached is a letter from Mark Johnsen, Chair of the Committee.

The Committee has reviewed applications from cities, the County, and eligible nonprofit organizations for Conservation Futures Tax levy (CFT) funding, and applications from the County for Parks Levy open space acquisition funding. The report documents the Committee's recommendations for the allocations of these two funding sources. The recommendations include \$13.2 million in 2023 Conservation Futures annual revenue, \$23.6 million in Conservation Futures bond dollars, and \$14.9 million in 2023 Parks Levy county open space funding.

The report recommends funding for a wide variety of projects throughout King County, which provide benefits such as habitat protection, forest and farmland preservation, passive recreation opportunities, regional trail connections, and urban greenspaces, and match waiver projects in opportunity areas in under-served parts of the county. Many projects garnered community support letters and demonstrated community engagement. Six projects are recommended for match waiver awards as they provide open space in historically under-served areas.

The projects mentioned in the report support the King County Strategic Plan goal of healthy environment by preserving important open spaces throughout the county and its cities. The match waiver projects support the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by creating additional open spaces in areas of the county that experience hardships and lack open space. These acquisitions support the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Focus Area 6: Forest and Agriculture by preserving forests, farms, and open spaces throughout the county, providing opportunities to restore forest health and plant

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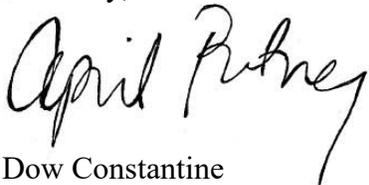
additional trees toward the three million trees goal, and potentially protecting lands in relation to the county's new carbon credit program.

It is estimated that the report required 180 hours of DNRP staff time to produce, costing approximately \$12,500.

I am pleased to transmit this recommendation report. I anticipate incorporating funding recommendations for these important open space acquisition projects in the upcoming 2023-2024 Executive Proposed Biennial Budget package.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, 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)

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP

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

Ingrid Lundin, Program Manager, WLRD, DNRP