

KING COUNTY

Signature Report

Ordinance 19690

Proposed No. 2023-0202.2 **Sponsors** Perry 1 AN ORDINANCE declaring a thirteen-month interim 2 zoning ordinance regulating residentially zoned land in the 3 Rural Town of Fall City; and amending Ordinance 10870, 4 Section 340, as amended, and K.C.C. 21A.12.030. 5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY: 6 **SECTION 1. Findings:** 7 A. It is in the public interest that any zoning and development regulations are 8 consistent with the Growth Management Act, the King County Comprehensive Plan, and 9 other environmental land use laws. 10 B. King County has the authority, under to constitutional police powers, home 11 rule authority, and the Washington state Growth Management Act, including chapter 12 36.70A RCW, to establish an interim zoning ordinance while the county studies related 13 land use issues. 14 C. In 1990, the Washington state Legislature adopted the Growth Management 15 Act in order to, in part, facilitate the preservation of rural character. Rural character, in 16 part, refers to patterns of land use and development in which open space, the natural 17 landscape and vegetation predominate over the built environment, that fosters traditional 18 rural lifestyles and rural-based economies, that provide visual landscapes that are 19 traditionally found in rural areas and communities, and that reduces the inappropriate 20 conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.

D. The Countywide Planning Policies state the following goal: "the Rural Area
Geography is stable and the level and pattern of growth within it provide for a variety of
landscapes and open space, maintains diverse low-density communities, and supports
rural economic activities based on sustainable stewardship of land." Although there are
no growth targets identified in the countywide planning policies for the rural area, King
County's rural area is anticipated to grow minimally, by one percent or less annually.
E. The King County Comprehensive Plan, as amended by Ordinance 19555,
defines "rural growth" as "growth that is scaled to be compatible with, and maintains the
traditional character of the Rural Area." King County Comprehensive Plan Policy R-301
states that a low growth rate is desirable for the Rural Area including Rural Towns to
comply with the Growth Management Act, continue preventing sprawl and the
overburdening of rural services, reduce need for capital expenditures, maintain rural
character, protect the environment, and reduce transportation-related gas emissions.
F. The King County Comprehensive Plan identifies three rural towns within the
Rural Area geography: Vashon, Fall City, and Snoqualmie Pass. The King County
Comprehensive Plan states the purposes of Rural Town designations are "to recognize
existing concentrations of higher density and economic activity in Rural Areas and to
allow modest growth of residential and economic uses to keep them economically viable
into the future." Rural towns are considered part of the rural area for the purposes of the
Growth Management Act, do not provide significant growth capacity, and are not subject
to the growth targets adopted for the Urban Growth Area.

G. Consistent with King County Comprehensive Plan Policy R-302, residential
development in Rural Towns should occur at a variety of densities and housing types that
are compatible with the maintenance of historic resources and community character.
H. King County is preparing the Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County
Subarea Plan as well as an update of the King County Comprehensive Plan, scheduled to
be adopted in December 2024. As part of those updates, King County is interested in
evaluating the size and scale of residential development in the Fall City Rural Town to
ensure that the range of development is compatible with the county's goals for the Rural
Area and is consistent with rural character.
I. King County is completing an environmental impact statement with the 2024
King County Comprehensive Plan update to identify and analyze environmental impacts,
alternatives, and potential mitigation associated with policy and code changes. The
environmental impact statement will evaluate options that address the issues necessitating
the interim zoning ordinance.
J. On May 16, 2023, the King County council enacted an emergency moratorium
on subdivisions in the residentially zoned area of the Rural Town of Fall City. That
moratorium will pause subdivision applications as King County evaluates development
standards in this interim zoning ordinance as well as potential changes associated with
the Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County Subarea Plan for consistency with rural
character.
K. King County is reviewing several applications for residential subdivisions in
the Rural Town of Fall City and has received notice that property owners seek to
subdivide additional acres into lots in the Rural Town of Fall City. Past land segregation

in the R-4 zone included lots that were distributed evenly across the project area with less
space devoted to common infrastructure. In contrast to past land segregations, those
subdivisions now rely on the use of large shared on-site sewage systems, which
necessitate administration by the state of Washington, and shared stormwater tracts,
which in those cases, is resulting in much smaller residential lots and houses tightly
clustered to one area of the subdivision. Those houses are also sited ten feet from the
street and five feet from interior lot lines, facing inwards towards themselves rather than
facing outward to community. Those developments place a great deal of pressure on the
intended rural character of the area, which is what the Growth Management Act was
established, in part, to protect.
L. King County finds that the provisions outlined in this ordinance, including a
ten-thousand-square-foot minimum lot size, twenty-foot minimum street setback and ten-
foot interior setback for the rural town of Fall City, represent the standards necessary to
assure the creation of new residential lots that are consistent with rural character on an
interim basis with minimal impacts to the surrounding rural town.
M. It is in the public interest to establish an interim zoning ordinance of
residentially zoned land in the Rural Town of Fall City for a thirteen-month period in
order to investigate whether additional regulation is necessary.
N. This ordinance will go into effect in order to address land segregation of
residentially zoned land in the Rural Town of Fall City.
SECTION 2. A thirteen-month interim zoning control commencing upon the
effective date of this ordinance is declared on residentially zoned land in the Rural Town
of Fall City.

- 88 <u>SECTION 3.</u> Ordinance 10870, Section 340, as amended, and K.C.C.
- 89 21A.12.030 are hereby amended to read as follows:
- A. Densities and dimensions residential and rural zones.

RURAL					RESIDENTIAL								
STANDARDS	RA-	RA-	RA-	RA-20	UR	R-1	R-4	R-6	R-8	R-	R-	R-	R-
	2.5	5	10			(17)				12	18	24	48
Base Density:	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.05	0.2	1	4	6	8	12	18	24	48
Dwelling	du/a	du/a	du/ac	du/ac	du/ac	du/	du/	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a
Unit/Acre	c	c			(21)	ac	ac	с	c	c	c	c	с
(15) (28)							(6)						
Maximum	0.4						6	9	12	18	27	36	72
Density:	du/a						du/	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a
Dwelling	c						ac	с	c	c	с	с	c
Unit/Acre	(20)						(22)	12	16	24	36	48	96
(1)							8	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a	du/a
							du/	с	с	с	c	с	c
							ac	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)
							(27)						
Minimum							85%	85%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%
Density:							(12)	(12)	(12)	(18)	(18)	(18)	(18)
(2)							(18)	(18)	(18)				
							(23)						
Minimum Lot	1.87	3.75	7.5 ac	15 ac									
Area (13)	5 ac	ac					10,00						
							<u>0 sf</u>						
							(30)						
Minimum Lot	135	135	135 ft	135 ft	35 ft	35 ft	30 ft	30 ft	30 ft	30 ft	30ft	30 ft	30 ft
Width	ft	ft			(7)	(7)							
(3)													
Minimum Street	30 ft	30 ft	30ft	30 ft	30 ft	20 ft	10 ft	10 ft	10 ft	10 ft	10 ft	10ft	10 ft
Setback	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)
(3)						(29)	<u>20 ft</u>						

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							(30)						
Minimum	5 ft	10ft	10 ft	10 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft
Interior	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(7)	(7)	<u>10 ft</u>			(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)
Setback						(29)	(30)						
(3) (16)													
Base Height	40 ft	40 ft	40 ft	40 ft	35 ft	35 ft	35 ft	35 ft	35 ft	60 ft	60 ft	60 ft	60 ft
						(29)	25 ft	25 ft	25 ft				
							(25a)	(25a	(25a				
))				
Maximum Height	75 ft	30 ft	45 ft	45 ft	75 ft	75 ft	75 ft	75 ft					
	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(25b)	(14)	(14)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
							75 ft	30 ft	30 ft		80 ft	80 ft	80 ft
							(4)	(25b	(25b		(14)	(14)	(14)
))				
								75 ft	75 ft				
								(4)	(4)				
Maximum	25%	20%	15%	12.5%	30%	30%	55%	70%	75%	85%	85%	85%	90%
Impervious	(11)	(11)	(11)	(11)	(11)	(11)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(26)
Surface:	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(26)	(26)							
Percentage (5)	(26)	(26)	(24)	(26)									
			(26)										

B. Development conditions.

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1. This maximum density may be achieved only through the application of:

a. residential density incentives in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 21A.34 or transfers of development rights in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 21A.37, or any combination of density incentive or density transfer; or

b. For properties within the Skyway-West Hill or North Highline community service area subarea geographies, only as provided in the inclusionary housing regulations in K.C.C. chapter 21A.48.

2. Also see K.C.C. 21A.12.060.

100	3. These standards may be modified under the provisions for zero-lot-line and
101	townhouse developments.
102	4.a. Portions of a structure may exceed the base height if one additional foot of
103	street and interior setback is provided for each foot above the base height limit. The
104	following restrictions apply:
105	(1) for netting or fencing and support structures for the netting or fencing used
106	to contain golf balls in the operation of golf courses or golf driving ranges, the maximum
107	height shall not exceed seventy-five feet, except for recreation or multiuse parks, where
108	the maximum height shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five feet, unless a golf ball
109	trajectory study requires a higher fence. All such netting, fencing and support structures
110	are exempt from the additional interior setback requirement, regardless of whether
111	located in a recreation or multiuse park;
112	(2) properties within the Skyway-West Hill or North Highline community
113	service area subarea geographies shall not increase height through this method; and
114	(3) for all other structures, the maximum height achieved through this method
115	shall not exceed seventy-five feet.
116	b. Accessory dwelling units and accessory living quarters shall not exceed base
117	heights, except that this requirement shall not apply to accessory dwelling units
118	constructed wholly within an existing dwelling unit.
119	5. Applies to each individual lot. Impervious surface area standards for:
120	a. Regional uses shall be established at the time of permit review;
121	b. Nonresidential uses in rural area and residential zones shall comply with
122	K.C.C. 21A.12.120 and 21A.12.220;

c. Individual lots in the R-4 through R-6 zones that are less than nine thousand
seventy-six square feet in area shall be subject to the applicable provisions of the nearest
comparable R-6 or R-8 zone; and
d. A lot may be increased beyond the total amount permitted in this chapter
subject to approval of a conditional use permit.
6. Mobile home parks shall be allowed a base density of six dwelling units per
acre.
7. The standards of the R-4 zone apply if a lot is less than fifteen thousand square
feet in area.
8. At least twenty linear feet of driveway shall be provided between any garage,
carport or other fenced parking area and the street property line. The linear distance shall
be measured along the center line of the driveway from the access point to such garage,
carport or fenced area to the street property line.
9.a. Residences shall have a setback of at least one hundred feet from any property
line adjoining A, M or F zones or existing extractive operations. However, residences on
lots less than one hundred fifty feet in width adjoining A, M or F zones or existing
extractive operations shall have a setback from the rear property line equal to fifty
percent of the lot width and a setback from the side property equal to twenty-five percent
of the lot width.
b. Except for residences along a property line adjoining A, M or F zones or
existing extractive operations, lots between one acre and two and one-half acres in size
shall conform to the requirements of the R-1 zone and lots under one acre shall conform
to the requirements of the R-4 zone.

10.a. For developments consisting of three or more single-detached dwellings
located on a single parcel, the setback shall be ten feet along any property line abutting
R-1 through R-8, RA and UR zones, except for structures in on-site play areas required in
K.C.C. 21A.14.190, which shall have a setback of five feet.
b. For townhouse and apartment development, the setback shall be twenty feet
along any property line abutting R-1 through R-8, RA and UR zones, except for
structures in on-site play areas required in K.C.C. 21A.14.190, which shall have a setback
of five feet, unless the townhouse or apartment development is adjacent to property upon
which an existing townhouse or apartment development is located.
11. Lots smaller than one-half acre in area shall comply with standards of the
nearest comparable R-4 through R-8 zone. For lots that are one-half acre in area or
larger, the maximum impervious surface area allowed shall be at least ten thousand
square feet. On any lot over one acre in area, an additional five percent of the lot area
may be used for buildings related to agricultural or forestry practices. For lots smaller
than two acres but larger than one-half acre, an additional ten percent of the lot area may
be used for structures that are determined to be medically necessary, if the applicant
submits with the permit application a notarized affidavit, conforming with K.C.C.
21A.32.170A.2.
12. For purposes of calculating minimum density, the applicant may request that
the minimum density factor be modified based upon the weighted average slope of the
net buildable area of the site in accordance with K.C.C. 21A.12.087.
13. The minimum lot area does not apply to lot clustering proposals as provided in
K.C.C. chapter 21A.14, except in the Rural Town of Fall City between the effective date

169 of this ordinance and thirteen months after the effective date of this ordinance. 170 14. This maximum height is only allowed as follows: 171 a. in R-6 and R-8 zones, for a building with a footprint built on slopes exceeding 172 a fifteen percent finished grade; and 173 b. in R-18, R-24 and R-48 zones: 174 (1) for properties within the Skyway-West Hill or North Highline community 175 service area subarea geographies, only if meeting the requirements of K.C.C. chapter 176 21A.48; or 177 (2) for all other properties, using residential density incentives and transfer of 178 density credits in accordance with this title. 179 15. Density applies only to dwelling units and not to sleeping units. 180 16. Vehicle access points from garages, carports or fenced parking areas shall be 181 set back from the property line on which a joint use driveway is located to provide a 182 straight line length of at least twenty-six feet as measured from the center line of the 183 garage, carport or fenced parking area, from the access point to the opposite side of the 184 joint use driveway. 185 17.a. All subdivisions and short subdivisions in the R-1 zone shall be required to 186 be clustered if the property is located within or contains: 187 (1) a floodplain; 188 (2) a critical aquifer recharge area; 189 (3) a regionally or locally significant resource area; 190 (4) existing or planned public parks or trails, or connections to such facilities; 191 (5) a category type S or F aquatic area or category I or II wetland;

- 192 (6) a steep slope; or
- (7) an urban separator or wildlife habitat network designated by theComprehensive Plan or a community plan.
 - b. The development shall be clustered away from critical areas or the axis of designated corridors such as urban separators or the wildlife habitat network to the extent possible and the open space shall be placed in a separate tract that includes at least fifty percent of the site. Open space tracts shall be permanent and shall be dedicated to a homeowner's association or other suitable organization, as determined by the director, and meet the requirements in K.C.C. 21A.14.040. On-site critical area and buffers and designated urban separators shall be placed within the open space tract to the extent possible. Passive recreation, with no development of recreational facilities, and natural-surface pedestrian and equestrian trails are acceptable uses within the open space tract.
- 204 18. See K.C.C. 21A.12.085.
 - 19. All subdivisions and short subdivisions in R-1 and RA zones within the North Fork and Upper Issaquah Creek subbasins of the Issaquah Creek Basin (the North Fork and Upper Issaquah Creek subbasins are identified in the Issaquah Creek Basin and Nonpoint Action Plan) and the portion of the Grand Ridge subarea of the East Sammamish Community Planning Area that drains to Patterson Creek shall have a maximum impervious surface area of eight percent of the gross acreage of the plat. Distribution of the allowable impervious area among the platted lots shall be recorded on the face of the plat. Impervious surface of roads need not be counted towards the allowable impervious area. Where both lot- and plat-specific impervious limits apply, the more restrictive shall be required.

215	20. This density may only be achieved on RA 2.5 zoned parcels receiving density
216	from rural forest focus areas through a transfer of density credit pursuant to K.C.C.
217	chapter 21A.37.
218	21. Base density may be exceeded, if the property is located in a designated rural
219	city urban growth area and each proposed lot contains an occupied legal residence that
220	predates 1959.
221	22.a. The maximum density is four dwelling units per acre for properties zoned R-
222	4 when located in the Rural Town of Fall City.
223	b. For properties within the Skyway-West Hill or North Highline community
224	service area subarea geographies, only as provided in the inclusionary housing
225	regulations in K.C.C. chapter 21A.48.
226	23. ((The minimum density requirement does not apply to properties located
227	within the Rural Town of Fall City.)) The subdivision or short subdivision of property
228	within the Rural Town of Fall City is not required to meet with the minimum density
229	requirements of this chapter.
230	24. The impervious surface standards for the county fairground facility are
231	established in the King County Fairgrounds Site Development Plan, Attachment A to
232	Ordinance 14808* on file at the department of natural resources and parks and the
233	department of local services, permitting division. Modifications to that standard may be
234	allowed provided the square footage does not exceed the approved impervious surface
235	square footage established in the King County Fairgrounds Site Development Plan
236	Environmental Checklist, dated September 21, 1999, Attachment B to Ordinance 14808*,
237	by more than ten percent.

238	25. For cottage housing developments only:
239	a. The base height is twenty-five feet.
240	b. Buildings that have pitched roofs with a minimum slope of six over twelve
241	may achieve a maximum height of thirty feet at the ridge of the roof.
242	26. Impervious surface does not include access easements serving neighboring
243	property and driveways to the extent that they extend beyond the street setback due to
244	location within an access panhandle or due to the application of King County Code
245	requirements to locate features over which the applicant does not have control.
246	27. a. For properties within the Skyway-West Hill or North Highline community
247	service area subarea geographies, only in accordance with the inclusionary housing
248	regulations in K.C.C. chapter 21A. 48.
249	b. For all other properties, only in accordance with K.C.C. 21A.34.040.F.1.g.,
250	F.6. or K.C.C. 21A.37.130.A.2.
251	28. On a site zoned RA with a building listed on the national register of historic
252	places, additional dwelling units in excess of the maximum density may be allowed under
253	K.C.C. 21A.12.042.
254	29. Height and setback requirements shall not apply to regional transit authority
255	facilities.
256	30. Applies only in the Rural Town of Fall City between the effective date of
257	this ordinance and thirteen months after the effective date of this ordinance.
258	SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to
259	any person or circumstance is held invalid or should any portion of this ordinance be
260	preempted by state or federal law or regulation, the remainder of the ordinance or the

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- 261 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- 262 SECTION 5. This ordinance expires thirteen months after the effective date of
- 263 this ordinance.

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by: Melani Hay -8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Ordinance 19690 was introduced on 5/23/2023 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/14/2023, by the following vote:

> Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON DocuSigned by: Dave Upthegrove, Chair APPROVED this _____ day of _____

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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King County Executive

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If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

Consequences of changing your mind

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

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How to contact King County-Department of 02:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov

To advise King County-Department of 02 of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

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To withdraw your consent with King County-Department of 02

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;

ii. send us an email to cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process.

Required hardware and software

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements.

Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures', you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify King County-Department of 02 as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by King County-Department of 02 during the course of your relationship with King County-Department of 02.