

Chapter 3 Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands
2/9/24

Policy	Type of Change	Executive's Rationale	Executive's Anticipated outcome	Consistent with other plans	Executive's Planned Implementation	Policy Staff Comments
c. Share the information and strategies with farmers through technical assistance programs and farm planning.						
R-669a Farmers conducting work on property on which King County owns a Farmland Preservation Program easement should use Agricultural Best Management Practices and other sustainable farming methods.	Policy Staff Flag					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy, R-680, and P-114 could be combined.
R-670 King County should provide incentives for soil management practices that reduce greenhouse emissions through its Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Sharing Program.	Policy Staff Flag					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy and R-680 could be combined.
Policy R-671						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy is being reviewed as part of the critical areas regulations changes that are being sent over on 3/1. This policy can be found in the Critical Areas Review Matrix
R-672 King County should work with federal, state and local jurisdictions to reduce flood impacts to agricultural operations. The ((e))County ((will)) shall continue to investigate the needs of agriculture before, during and after flood events, to determine if and how losses can be reduced, and ((will)) shall use this information in designing its floodplain policies and regulations.	Clarification of existing policy intent	"Will" is predictive but "shall" is directive; policies should be directive, not statements of what is anticipated to happen. Other edits for grammar.	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified.
R-673 In addition to enhancing the Farmland Preservation Program, the ((e))County should develop more innovative solutions and incentives to keep agricultural land affordable and profitable for active farming.	Technical	Grammar	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This concept is covered by R-661. This policy could be deleted.
R-675 King County ((should)) shall prioritize its programs to help build and support a sustainable, reliable, equitable, and resilient local food system. King County ((should)) shall strive to ((make)) strengthen the local food system, ((accessible)) increase accessibly to ((at)) to the local food supply, and strive to make access to the local food system culturally appropriate by: a. Expanding leadership and ownership of food production opportunities to low-income, historically underserved, and socially disadvantaged farmers; and b. Making locally grown, healthy, and culturally relevant foods available to and reflective of King County communities and low-income, historically underserved, and socially disadvantaged farmers.	Substantive change	Equity revisions made to strengthen and be more intentional about who increased food accessibility and land access will be available for, consistent with current program goals and practices	Increased accessibility and availability of local food to historically underserved communities and advanced ownership among historically underserved farmers in various aspects of the food production system.	Local Food Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: Programmatic Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: No Anticipated timeline: Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a policy choice to strengthen the policy by changing "should" to "shall." Sub a. and R-677c cover the same concept. One of them could be removed.
R-677 King County should promote and support local food production and local processing to strengthen a sustainable and climate resilient the local food system and reduce the distance that food must travel from farm to table.	Substantive change	Strengthening the connection between local food production and climate resilience, reflective of the current work being done around food access as outlined in the Local Food initiative and Strategic Climate Action Plan	Ensures actions to support the local food system take into account climate impacts and needs	Local Food Initiative Strategic Climate Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: Programmatic Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: No Anticipated timeline: Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could reword to state the policy goal of strengthening the food system and reducing farm to table distance.
R-677a King County should continue food waste programs for single ((family,)) detached and multifamily residences, businesses, and institutions, aimed at reducing generation, promoting donation and encouraging curbside collection for anaerobic digestion and composting.	Clarification of existing policy intent	Edits for clarity and to reflect current terminology	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified.
((R-677b King County should prioritize the economic development of the food and agriculture industries in order to build a more sustainable and resilient local food system.	Clarification of existing policy intent	Very broad policy without much clarity or specifics; objective is captured elsewhere.	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified.

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	
<u>R-677c King County should support low-income, historically underserved, and socially disadvantaged populations in efforts to improve equitable food access and food production goals, including support for alternative pathways for farmland access that meet their community's needs.</u>	New policy	To support equity outcomes and changing framework to a community-serving and community-supporting initiative. This is more reflective of the current work being done around food access as outlined in the Local Food initiative and Strategic Climate Action Plan	Increased accessibility and availability of local food to historically underserved communities and advanced ownership among historically underserved farmers in various aspects of the food production system.	2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan Action 5.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: Programmatic Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R-677c covers the same concept as R-675 sub a. They could be combined.
R-678 King County should support and collaborate with ((either organizations to further the development of)) food incentive program providers, with food providers, producers, and distributors, and with community-based organizations to further develop and expand programs that increase ((the ability of shoppers to)) access to affordable foods, increase the use of food assistance benefits, and increase the ability of farmers to accept electronic and other forms of payment at Farmers Markets and farm stands.	Substantive change	To support equity outcomes and changing framework to a community-serving and community-supporting initiative. This is more reflective of the current work being done around food access as outlined in the Local Food initiative and Strategic Climate Action Plan	Increased accessibility and availability of local food to historically underserved communities and advanced ownership among historically underserved farmers in various aspects of the food production system.	2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan Action 5.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: Programmatic Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language about electronic payments is no longer needed and could be removed.
R-679 King County shall identify existing and potential mineral extraction sites on the Mineral Resources Map ((in order)) to conserve mineral resources, promote compatibility with nearby land uses, protect environmental quality, maintain and enhance mineral resource industries, and serve to notify property owners of the potential for mineral extraction activities. The County shall identify(: a. _____ Sites with existing Mineral zoning as Designated Mineral Resource Sites; b. _____ Sites where the landowner or operator has indicated an interest in mineral extraction, sites that as of the date of adoption of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan had potential Quarrying/Mining zoning, or sites that the County determines might support future mineral extraction as Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites; and c. _____ Sites where mining operations predate zoning regulations but without zoning or other land use approvals as Nonconforming Mineral Resource Site sites consistent with Washington State Department of Natural Resources mineral resource mapping and in accordance with the mineral resource lands evaluation and designation criteria established in Chapter 36.70A Revised Code of Washington and applicable sections in Washington Administrative Code.	Clarification of existing policy intent	The existing language was the process used to first designate mineral lands in 1994 in compliance with the Growth Management Act. It is not current practice, does not have current applicability/use, and does not align with the evaluation requirements in state law. Other technical edit for grammar	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified.
R-681 King County may designate additional sites on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map as Mining only following a site-specific rezone to Mineral zoning. Upon approval of a rezone	Technical change	Grammar	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified.

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<p>to Mineral zoning, the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map shall be amended to designate the site as Mining during the next Comprehensive Plan update. King County should approve applications for site-specific rezones to Mineral zoning and applications for permits that would authorize mineral extraction and processing only following site-specific environmental study(,) and early and continuous public notice and comment opportunities, when:</p> <p>a. The proposed site contains rock, sand, gravel, or other mineral resources;</p> <p>b. The proposed site is large enough to confine or mitigate all operational impacts;</p> <p>c. The proposal will allow operation with limited conflicts with adjacent land uses when mitigating measures are applied;</p> <p>d. The proposal has been evaluated under the State Environmental Policy Act so that the County may approve, condition or deny applications consistent with the County's substantive State Environmental Policy Act authority, and ((in order)) to mitigate significant adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>e. Roads or rail facilities serving or proposed to serve the site can safely and adequately handle transport of products and are in close proximity to the site.</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated timeline: n/a 	
<p>R-683 King County may amend the Mineral Resources Map to identify additional Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites as part of the ((eight)) 10-year or midpoint update.</p>	<p>Technical change</p>	<p>Reflects new state 10-year comprehensive planning cycle</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planned implementation of proposal:</u> n/a • <u>Description of proposed regulations:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated resource need:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated timeline:</u> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified.
<p>R-686 ((in order))To comprehensively assess the environmental impacts associated with a zoning change, conditional use, or operating approval for a mineral extraction proposal, the range of environmental impacts, including short-term and long-term effects arising or existing over the lifetime of the proposal, shall be assessed at the earliest possible stage. This should include the potential for <u>phasing of</u> future proposals for structures and operations related to mineral extraction, such as asphalt and concrete batch plants.</p>	<p>Clarification of existing policy intent</p>	<p>To clarify that this environmental assessment should consider impacts of phasing of mining activities, rather than future permits for other uses.</p> <p>Other technical edit for grammar</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planned implementation of proposal:</u> n/a • <u>Description of proposed regulations:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated resource need:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated timeline:</u> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified.
<p>R-687 King County should prevent or minimize conflicts with mineral extraction when planning land uses adjacent to Designated Mineral Resource Sites and Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites. Subarea <u>plans or area zoning and land use</u> studies may indicate areas where Mining is an inappropriate land use designation. Designated Mineral Resource Sites and Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites and Nonconforming Mineral Resource Sites should be shown on the Mineral Resources Map ((and subarea study maps in order)) to notify nearby property owners and residents of existing and prospective mineral extraction activities.</p>	<p>Clarification of existing policy intent</p>	<p>"Subarea studies" is a term that has inconsistent definitions and usage throughout the Comp Plan and code. Upon review of the references to subarea studies, it was determined that the "subarea study" requirements could either be met via an area zoning and land use study and/or a subarea plan (depending on the case) in current practice or were not applicable in the instance it was being referenced. Subarea study references are replaced by area zoning and land use studies and/or subarea plans, or removed, to reflect existing</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planned implementation of proposal:</u> n/a • <u>Description of proposed regulations:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated resource need:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated timeline:</u> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified.

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		<p>intent. The subarea study definition will be removed, as it is no longer necessary.</p> <p>In this case, changes to mining designations could happen via either a subarea plan or an area zoning and land use study.</p> <p>The reference to subarea study maps is inappropriate, as the only place where mineral designations are reflected is the Mineral Resources Maps in the Comprehensive Plan; subarea plans and area zoning and land use studies do not do this, and thus should not be supplanted here.</p>				
<p>R-689 Conditions and mitigations for significant adverse environmental impacts associated with mineral extraction or mining operations and their associated structures or facilities should be required, especially in the following areas:</p> <p>a. Air quality, including greenhouse gas emissions from minerals extracted for energy production;</p> <p>b. Environmentally sensitive and critical areas, such as surface and groundwater quality and quantity, wetlands, fisheries and wildlife habitats, and aquatic habitats;</p> <p>c. Noise levels;</p> <p>d. Vibration;</p> <p>e. Light and glare;</p> <p>f. Vehicular access and safety;</p> <p>g. Land and shoreline uses;</p> <p>h. Traffic impacts;</p> <p>i. Visual impacts;</p> <p>j. Cultural and historic features and resources;</p> <p>k. Site security; and</p> <p>l. ((Climate change impacts from minerals extracted for energy production; and m.)) Others unique to specific sites and proposals.</p>	<p>Clarification of existing policy intent</p>	<p>Sub-l is moved up to the air quality item in sub-a, for clarity and consistency with State Environmental Policy Act review</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified.
<p>R-690 Where mineral extraction or mining are subject to state or federal regulations, King County should work with the state and federal governments to ensure that proposals are reviewed with consideration of local land use and environmental requirements, regional impacts from transport, and assessment of climate change impacts from end((-))use of minerals and mined materials.</p>	<p>Technical change</p>	<p>Grammar</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned implementation of proposal: n/a Description of proposed regulations: n/a Anticipated resource need: n/a Anticipated timeline: n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified.
<p>R-691 King County should work with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to ensure that mining areas are reclaimed in a timely and appropriate manner. Reclamation of mineral extraction or mining sites in the Forest Production District should return the land to forestry. Where mineral extraction is completed in phases, reclamation also should be completed in phases as the resource is depleted. When reclamation of mineral extraction sites located outside of the</p>	<p>Policy Staff Flag</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council may wish to consider whether the County's current policies and regulations regarding reclamation of mineral extraction sites meets the Council's policy goals.

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Forest Production District is completed, the site should be considered for redesignation to a land use designation and zoning classification compatible with the surrounding properties.						
R-692 King County shall encourage the removal of existing stockpiles of previously mined material ((in order)) to promote and achieve reclamation of land to its highest and best use.	Technical change	Grammar	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planned implementation of proposal:</u> n/a • <u>Description of proposed regulations:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated resource need:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated timeline:</u> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified.