



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19847

Proposed No. 2024-0301.1

Sponsors Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE regarding surface water management;
 2 revising surface water management service charges;
 3 amending Ordinance 7590, Section 8, as amended, and
 4 K.C.C. 9.08.070 and establishing an effective date.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. King County works in partnership with property owners and state and
 7 federal agencies to minimize the impacts of storm and surface runoff on
 8 the water quantity and quality of the waters of the state.
- 9 2. King County charges property owners within its surface water
 10 management service area, which is unincorporated King County, a
 11 graduated fee based on six nonresidential rate classes tied to relative
 12 amount of impervious surface and one uniform rate class for all residential
 13 parcels.
- 14 3. In 1986, Ordinance 7590 established the surface water management
 15 program to provide a comprehensive approach to surface and storm water
 16 problems including "basin planning, land use regulation, construction of
 17 facilities, maintenance and public education." In 1991, Ordinance 10187
 18 increased the services provided by the surface water management program
 19 and set a rate structure and service charges. In 2001, Ordinance 14261
 20 acknowledged that the costs to provide surface water management had

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21 increased due to the ordinary impacts of inflation and due to increased and
22 more stringent federal and state requirements for the proper management
23 of surface water quality and quantity. In 2006, Ordinance 15638
24 acknowledged that the then soon to be effective new National Pollutant
25 Discharge Elimination System permit would require King County's
26 compliance with more stringent requirements. In 2010, Ordinance 16958
27 acknowledged that costs had increased to comply with the stringent
28 requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
29 permit and to meet the ordinary impacts of inflation. In 2012, Ordinance
30 17451 acknowledged that the surface water management program had
31 increased capital construction needs, increased costs of National Pollutant
32 Discharge Elimination System permit compliance, and revenue losses
33 from annexations of unincorporated county areas to cities. It also
34 acknowledged that the King County road services program had identified
35 construction needs to mitigate stormwater impacts and that these capital
36 projects were necessary to protect life and property as well as to maintain
37 or restore water quality and ecological functions in receiving waters.
38 Ordinance 17451 also incorporated changes to the rate adjustment
39 program that provided incentives to property owners to improve on-site
40 control of stormwater through the granting of additional discounts. In
41 2016, Ordinance 18401 acknowledged the residential parcel fee charged
42 by King County was insufficient to meet the projected revenue
43 requirements needed to provide necessary surface water management

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44 services to protect public health and safety. In 2018, Ordinance 18836
45 acknowledged that the residential parcel fee charged by King County did
46 not provide an adequate level of funding to mitigate the impacts of
47 degrading stormwater infrastructure comprised of grey and green elements
48 and that the proposed increase would help continue improving stormwater
49 infrastructure to a higher level of service. In 2022, Ordinance 19543
50 acknowledged that the residential parcel fee was inadequate to cover
51 inflationary increases in the surface water management fund and it did not
52 provide an adequate level of funding to continue to build upon ongoing
53 efforts to mitigate the impacts of degrading stormwater infrastructure
54 comprised of grey, which are facilities and systems, and green, which are
55 natural lands, forests, bioswales, and rain gardens.

56 4. The current rate of three hundred and twenty-three dollar per single
57 family residential parcels is inadequate to cover inflationary increases in
58 the surface water management fund, and it does not provide an adequate
59 level of funding to implement the requirements of the new National
60 Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit or to address deferred
61 maintenance of existing stormwater facilities to prevent failures in the
62 system. The proposed increase of approximately eleven and seven
63 hundred sixty-five thousandths percent will help continued efforts to
64 improve the stormwater infrastructure to sustain existing level of service.

65 5. An increase in the base amount of the surface water management
66 charge from three hundred and twenty-three dollars to three hundred sixty-

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67 one dollars per residential parcel in 2025, a thirty-eight-dollar increase
68 over 2024, and corresponding adjustments in the rates for classes of
69 nonresidential property, are needed to provide necessary surface water
70 management services to protect public health and safety.

71 6. It is in the public interest, and is necessary for the protection of health,
72 safety, and welfare of the residents of King County, that the necessary
73 costs of providing surface water management services continue to be
74 funded and that such costs continue to be charged against those parcels
75 either benefitting from such services or contributing to the increase of
76 surface water runoff, or both, which the King County surface water
77 management program must address.

78 7. Parcels owned by federally recognized tribes or members of such tribes
79 that are located within the historical boundaries of a reservation are not
80 subject to the surface water management charges provided for in K.C.C.
81 chapter 9.08.

82 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

83 SECTION 1. Ordinance 7590, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 9.08.070 are
84 each hereby amended to read as follows:

85 A. The service charges shall be based on the relative contribution of increased
86 surface and storm water runoff from a given parcel to the surface and storm water
87 management system. The percentage of impervious surfaces on the parcel, the total
88 parcel acreage and any mitigating factors as provided in K.C.C. 9.08.080 shall be used to
89 indicate the relative contribution of increased surface and storm water runoff from the

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90 parcel to the surface and storm water management system. The relative contribution of
 91 increased surface and storm water runoff from each parcel determines that parcel's share
 92 of the service charge revenue needs. The service charge revenue needs of the program
 93 are based upon all or any part, as determined by the council, of the cost of meeting
 94 stormwater permit obligations of state and federal law and the cost of surface and storm
 95 water management services and to pay or secure the payment of all or any portion of any
 96 issue of general obligation or revenue bonds issued for that purpose.

97 B. The division shall determine the service charge for each parcel within the
 98 service area by the following methodology:

99 Residential and very lightly developed nonresidential parcels shall receive a flat
 100 rate service charge for the reasons in K.C.C 9.08.060. Light to very heavily developed
 101 parcels shall be classified into the appropriate rate category by their percentage of
 102 impervious surface coverage. Land use codes or data collected from parcel
 103 investigations, or both shall be used to determine each parcel's percentage of impervious
 104 surface coverage. After a parcel has been assigned to the appropriate rate category, the
 105 service charge for the parcel shall be calculated by multiplying the total acreage of the
 106 parcel times the rate for that category.

107 C. There is hereby imposed upon all developed properties in the service area
 108 annual service charges as follows:

109 SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGES

110 Class	Impervious Surface %	Rate
111 Residential	NA	(\$323.00) <u>\$361.00</u> /parcel/year
112 Very Light	0 to less than or equal to 10%	(\$323.00) <u>\$361.00</u> /parcel/year

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113	Light	greater than 10% to less than	((\\$898.04)) <u>\$1,003.69/acre/year</u>
114		or equal to 20%	
115	Moderate	greater than 20% to less than	((\\$1,680.99)) <u>\$1,878.75/acre/year</u>
116		or equal to 45%	
117	Moderately	greater than 45% to less than	((\\$2,868.55)) <u>\$3,206.03/acre/year</u>
118	Heavy	or equal to 65%	
119	Heavy	greater than 65% to less than or	((\\$3,996.00)) <u>\$4,466.12/acre/year</u>
120		or equal to 85%	
121	Very Heavy	greater than 85% to less than or	((\\$4,916.64)) <u>\$5,495.07/acre/year</u>
122		equal to 100%	

123 County Roads NA Set in accordance with RCW 90.03.525

124 State Highways NA Set in accordance with RCW 90.03.525

125 The minimum service charge in any class shall be ~~((three hundred and twenty-~~
 126 ~~three dollars))~~ three hundred sixty-one dollars per parcel per year. Mobile home parks'
 127 maximum annual service charges in any class shall be ~~((three hundred and twenty-three~~
 128 ~~dollars))~~ three hundred sixty-one dollars times the number of mobile home spaces.

129 D. The county council shall review the surface water management services
 130 charges biennially to ensure the long term fiscal viability of the program and to guarantee
 131 that debt covenants are met. The program shall use equitable and efficient methods to
 132 determine service charges.

133 E. When a parcel with impervious surface is divided by the boundary of the
 134 service area and a portion of the parcel's impervious surface drains into the service area,
 135 the parcel shall be charged as otherwise provided herein on the basis of the lands and

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136 impervious surfaces that drain into the service area. When the director has determined
137 that the impervious surface of a parcel, divided by the boundary of the service area,
138 completely drains outside of the service area, the parcel is exempt from the rates and
139 charges of this chapter.

140 F. The King County council by ordinance may supplement or alter charges within
141 specific basins and subbasins of the service area so as to charge properties or parcels of
142 one basin or subbasin for improvements, studies or maintenance that the council deems to

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143 provide service or benefit the property owners of one or more basins or subbasins.

144 SECTION 2. This ordinance takes effect January 1, 2025.


Ordinance 19847 was introduced on 10/1/2024 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/19/2024, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Mosqueda, Perry, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:

E76CE01F07B14EF...
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of 12/2/2024, _____.

Signed by:

4FBCAB8196AE4C6...
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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 Subject: Complete with Docusign: Ordinance 19847.docx
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 Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov
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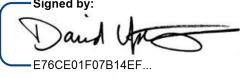
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Signer Events

Dave Upthegrove
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 Chair
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 Signed: 11/22/2024 8:43:11 AM

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Melani Hay
 melani.hay@kingcounty.gov
 Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Dow Constantine
 Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov
 King County Executive
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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