



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

**206-263-9600** Fax 206-296-0194  
TTY Relay: 711  
[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

August 25, 2020

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 the Alternative Uses for Levy Funds for the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail – North Segment A report as required by Ordinance 19021. Also enclosed is a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

In November 2019, the King County Council adopted and the Executive approved a proviso encumbering a total of \$100,000 from the parks, recreation trails and open space levy fund that required a report exploring alternative uses for the \$9 million of Parks Levy proceeds listed in Attachment C to Motion 15378 for the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail North Segment A. The report includes a summary of engagement, discussion of alternatives explored, and the joint recommendations of the City of Maple Valley and the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) for use of the funding. DNRP reached a joint recommendation with the City of Maple Valley for use of Levy funds to design and construct an interim gravel trail on Green to Cedar Rivers Trail South Segment A rather than fully developing North Segment A.

This proposed change in phasing of the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail development is strongly supported by the community as demonstrated by the survey conducted by DNRP in June 2020. Over 1,000 people answered the survey with 92 percent either strongly supporting or somewhat supporting the proposal to move the next phasing of the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail development to developing an interim gravel trail in South Segment A. Only 3 percent of respondents either somewhat opposed or strongly opposed the proposed change.

Development of the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail has been considered a part of the Parks and Recreation Division's Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) goals from the Plan's beginning in 2014. The current SCAP goals envision the completion of an additional 10 miles of new paved or interim regional trails by Parks by 2025. Green to Cedar Rivers Trail development during the current Parks Levy period will contribute to this effort.

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The development of the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail is a regionally collaborative effort consistent with the mobility and safety goals of King County's Strategic Plan. The trail's development is a collaborative partnership between King County and the Cities of Maple Valley and Black Diamond. Regional mobility enhancements have been an important consideration in trail development. Extending the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail through these cities will enhance travel alternatives and promote active transportation and integration of modes of travel for residents of these communities. As an alternative to the road network, the trail will reduce roadway congestion and enhance safety.

It is estimated that the report required 30 hours by DNRP staff to produce, costing approximately \$4,670 in staff hours. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. I look forward to continuing to work with the Council to assure that the many projects and programs supported by the Parks Levy are able to advance our common goals and align the distribution of these funds with needs countywide.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4525.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
            Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP