



King County

Department of Assessments
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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Lloyd Hara
Assessor

July 13, 2010

2010-400

The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Ferguson:

It is my pleasure to forward to you my department's response to Proviso 1 (Section 43) of the 2010 Assessments Budget. Assessments Proviso (#1, Section 43) requested that the Assessor's office describe its efforts to require that cities in King County transmit construction permit data electronically, and establish a work plan for achieving full implementation of electronic permit data submission.

Attached to this letter you will find the Assessor's final report. My office has also worked with the Cities of Bellevue, Federal Way and Tukwila, eGov, the Suburban Cities Association, City of Seattle, King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES), as well as starting preliminary discussions with outside vendors, in an effort to research and help us accomplish interim or permanent migration of permits in an electronic format.

As you can see from the information included in this report, our department has started the communication with cities to request the transmission of electronic data. I look for a collaborative approach with all our governments' agencies and departments to meet the needs of our constituents and work towards the development of an integrated County-wide approach to electronic permit data submission.

Upon assuming office last November, I immediately directed staff to survey local governments and other departments within King County to determine the status and feasibility of electronically transmitting permits to the Department of Assessments. The cities of Bellevue, Federal Way and most recently Tukwila are already sending permitting information to us electronically either individually or through the eGov consortium. King County DDES is working on electronic permitting. The City of Seattle and a number of other communities have expressed an interest but either lack funding or have no immediate plans to move to electronic permitting transmittal without King County's leadership and possible cost-share arrangement to help defray the cost of migration to electronic data transmission. We continue working on

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Page 2 of 2

developing a successful path forward. We will be meeting with various jurisdictions later this summer/fall and have submitted in our 2011 FY budget a recommended new revenue stream that would help us co-fund/cost share a county-wide electronic permitting initiative.

Should you have any questions, please contact John A. Wilson, Chief Deputy Assessor, Department of Assessments, at 206-296-5113, or Hoang Nguyen, IT Division Director at 206-296-0620.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Hara
King County Assessor

Encl: Department of Assessments Proviso Response and information
Draft Motion

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Tom Bristow, Chief of Staff
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Dow Constantine, King County Executive
Fred Jarrett, Deputy County Executive, Executive Office (EO)
Rhonda Berry, Assistant Deputy County Executive, EO
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Yiling Wong, Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget
Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services (DES)
Mike Alvine, Lead Staff, King County Council Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
Mark Melroy, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst, King County Council
Marilyn Cope, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst, King County Council
Wendy Soo Hoo, Senior Legislative Analyst, King County Council
John Starbard, Director, Department of Development and Environmental Services
John A. Wilson, Chief Deputy Assessor, Department of Assessments
Hoang Nguyen, IT Division Director, Department of Assessments
Richard Watson, Administrative Services Division Director, Department of Assessments



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Lloyd Hara
Assessor

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

An important new source of revenue to support your city is the property tax collected from new construction. I am requesting that each city submit their building permits and CAD drawings to the Department of Assessments in digital formats. With the exception of the Cities of Bellevue, Tukwila and Federal Way, your city submits paper copies of your building permits and architectural drawings to the Assessor.

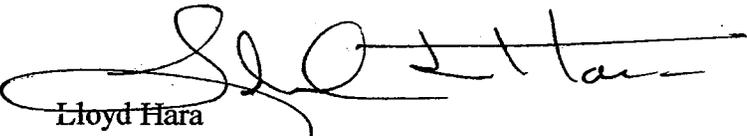
There are reasons why this change is important:

1. Cost savings
 - a. it eliminates multiple handling of data, labor costs
 - b. reduces errors
2. Eliminates copying and paper costs
3. Reduce postage costs
4. Reduce storage costs of originals
5. Help the environmental by reducing paper
6. Revenue enhancement by assuring that new construction data is captured early and quickly with a simple mouse click; data is updated in a more timely manner
7. Smart management-best practices

As Assessor, I would like to capture as much new construction for your city as soon as possible but, I need your help with our limited resource and additional budget cuts next year. Sending me electronic permit data will help my appraisers be more efficient and timely at picking up new construction. I would ultimately like to see you capture and share electronic building and site plans with me. As of right now, we have to redraw the building floor plan from paper copies which takes a lot of time; time that can be spent picking up new construction.

Please contact and work with my IT Director, Hoang Nguyen at 206-296-0260 on this important project.

Thanks for your cooperation


Lloyd Hara
King County Assessor