

WHEREAS, King County government is facing a structural budget gap in its general fund caused by increasing costs and declining revenues, threatening our government's ability to provide even basic mandated services including stormwater pollution cleanup, and

WHEREAS, local governments and residents statewide are struggling with the economic crisis, heightened unemployment, and the need to revive the economy and create jobs, and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act of 2010: Working for Clean Water, which is House Bill 3181 or Senate Bill 6851, as originally introduced would address these issues by creating a funding source for projects that clean up storm water, creating jobs in the construction industry and helping fund basic state services, and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act of 2010 as originally proposed would raise the existing voter-approved Hazardous Substance Tax from seven-tenths of one percent to two percent, raising \$225 million each year, allocating the bulk of the dollars to the state general fund in the near term and transitioning the funding back to clean water purposes over time, and

WHEREAS, because of the nexus between hazardous substances and the pollution they produce, the Hazardous Substance Tax seems to be an appropriate vehicle to pay for associated stormwater cleanup costs, and

WHEREAS, as originally proposed the Clean Water Act of 2010 would accomplish the important goals of avoiding immediate cuts to core services, funding local governments' obligations for stormwater pollution cleanup, creating construction jobs and providing a clean water legacy we will be proud of for generations, and

WHEREAS, the bill was introduced in the state Legislature this session with broad support locally and statewide from the Environmental Priorities Coalition, Washington Association of Cities, Washington Association of Counties and the Washington State Labor Council, as well as a coalition of education, health care and social services groups unified behind solutions to maintain core public services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

The metropolitan King County council urges the Washington state Legislature to enact The Clean Water Act of 2010, which is House Bill 3181 or Senate Bill 6851, as a means to fund needed projects to address stormwater pollution in King County and statewide.