



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**Motion 16437**

**Proposed No.** 2023-0316.2

**Sponsors** Upthegrove

1           A MOTION requesting the executive to identify and  
2           analyze mature forests in King County, and to transmit two  
3           reports.

4           WHEREAS, forests provide multiple benefits on both the local and global scale,  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that  
7 forest management activities play a key role in the mitigation of climate change, and the  
8 Washington state Legislature has found that forests are one of the most effective  
9 resources that can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and

10          WHEREAS, King County's 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan states that there  
11 are substantial carbon and climate benefits to maintaining, protecting, restoring, and  
12 expanding the more than 811,000 acres of forest land in King County, and that recent  
13 studies combining carbon sequestration potential and risk of loss due to wildfire, insects,  
14 and disease rank the coastal and Cascade forests of Oregon and Washington among the  
15 highest priority for protection, and

16          WHEREAS, in 2021, the executive developed a 30-Year Forest Plan, which lays  
17 out priorities and goals associated with King County's forests, as well as strategies for  
18 achieving those over the next thirty years, and

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19 WHEREAS, in addition to greenhouse gas mitigation benefits, the 30-Year Forest  
20 Plan states that King County's forests provide benefits to human health, salmon habitat,  
21 and water quality and quantity, in addition to the economic benefits of timber, and

22 WHEREAS, "mature forests" are forests that were logged in the first half of the  
23 twentieth century or earlier, that naturally regenerated rather than being replanted, and  
24 that retain biological, structural, functional, or genetic legacies of natural and old-growth  
25 forests, and

26 WHEREAS, mature forests, on their way to becoming old-growth habitats,  
27 embody the species diversity, genetic richness, and intricate structural complexity of their  
28 natural predecessors, and

29 WHEREAS, these older forests store more carbon in standing wood, downed  
30 woody debris and in the soil compared to younger ecosystems, and the conversion to  
31 younger plantation forests results in an immediate release of carbon when logged, as well  
32 as a reduction in the overall carbon store because of the current shorter harvest rotation  
33 age, and

34 WHEREAS, the significant historical logging impact on Western Washington's  
35 old-growth forests necessitates the preservation of the remaining, unprotected mature  
36 forests for safeguarding the essential biological, genetic, and ecological heritage that once  
37 characterized the Pacific Northwest's forests, as well as retaining all the benefits mature  
38 forests provide, and

39 WHEREAS, twenty-one counties, including King County, deeded roughly  
40 546,000 acres of forest lands to the state during the 1920s and 1930s and, in exchange,  
41 the state committed to managing the properties as trust lands and giving most of the

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42 revenue from timber sales and other revenue-producing activities back to the county and  
43 junior taxing districts, and

44 WHEREAS, the state has managed the state forest trust lands within King County  
45 to balance economic, environmental, and recreational interests for nearly one hundred  
46 years, and

47 WHEREAS, The Washington Supreme Court affirmed in *Conservation*  
48 *Northwest, et al. v. Commissioner of Public Lands, et al.* that... there are "myriad ways  
49 DNR could choose to generate revenue from the state and forest board lands or otherwise  
50 put them to use for the benefit of the enumerated beneficiaries," and

51 WHEREAS, King County has benefited from the state's responsible stewardship  
52 of state forest trust lands, which have provided a valuable source of revenue and  
53 economic support for the county and its people but, in light of the climate emergency and  
54 other benefits that forests provide, some of the state forest trust lands in King County  
55 may better serve the community if owned and managed by the county and protected from  
56 future timber harvesting;

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

58 A. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks  
59 undertake a study on mature forests in King County. The study should include, but not  
60 be limited to, the following:

61 1. A definition of mature forests using the Washington state Department of  
62 Natural Resources definition of Maturation I classification in Guide to Identifying Mature  
63 & Old-Growth Forests, Van Pelt 2007, or in any updated definition based on best  
64 available forest ecology science;

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- 65           2. An analysis of the total acreage and ownership of mature forests that are  
66 subject to timber harvesting;
- 67           3. A map showing the location of mature forests that are subject to timber  
68 harvesting;
- 69           4. An analysis of which mature forests are both subject to timber harvesting and  
70 either:
- 71           a. owned by King County; or  
72           b. managed by the state as any type of state forest trust lands;
- 73           5. Identification of tribal governments that, as comanagers of the mature forests,  
74 shall be consulted when considering county applications for the Trust Land Transfer  
75 program and the Natural Climate Solutions program or when considering reconveyance  
76 of state forest trust lands or substantial changes in management plans for county-owned  
77 forest lands;
- 78           6. An analysis of the revenue impacts to the trust beneficiaries, including King  
79 County, if timber harvesting were to be discontinued on the lands identified in section  
80 A.4. of this motion. The analysis should take into account opportunities to generate  
81 revenue from sale of carbon credits and through selective harvesting for forest health;
- 82           7. An analysis of the greenhouse gas impacts if timber harvesting were to be  
83 discontinued on the lands identified in section A.4. of this motion. For parcels where  
84 site-specific information is available, the analysis should make use of that information in  
85 analyzing greenhouse gas impacts. Where no such information exists, the department  
86 should estimate based on the best available information;

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87           8. Based on the greenhouse gas impacts identified in through the analysis in  
88 section A.7. of this motion, a calculation, using the United States Environmental  
89 Protection Agency methodology for calculating the social cost of carbon, of the  
90 socialized financial costs if timber harvesting were to be discontinued on the lands  
91 identified in section A.4. of this motion;

92           9. An analysis of how preservation of the forests identified in section A.4. of  
93 this motion would contribute to achievement of the greenhouse gas reduction targets  
94 identified in the county's Strategic Climate Action Plan;

95           10. For any mature forests that are managed by the state as state forest trust  
96 lands, an analysis of whether those lands are eligible for reconveyance or another type of  
97 transfer to county ownership; and

98           11. Identification of parcels that would be strong candidates for state funding  
99 through the Trust Land Transfer program or the Natural Climate Solutions program to  
100 mitigate fiscal impacts of preserving the parcels.

101           B. The executive should electronically file two reports. The first report should  
102 contain the information in section A.1. through 5. of this motion and section A.10. and  
103 11. of this motion, and the second report should contain the information in section A.6.  
104 through 9. of this motion. The executive should electronically file the first report and a  
105 proposed motion acknowledging receipt of the report no later than June 30, 2024, with  
106 the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic  
107 copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for  
108 transportation, economy and environment committee or its successor. The executive  
109 should electronically file the second report and a proposed motion acknowledging receipt

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110 of the report no later than September 30, 2024, with the clerk of the council, who shall  
111 retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the  
112 council chief of staff, and the lead staff for transportation, economy and environment  
113 committee or its successor.

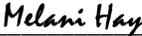
Motion 16437 was introduced on 9/12/2023 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/3/2023, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:  
  
E76CE01F07B14EF...  
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
8DE1BB375AD3422...  
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None

**Certificate Of Completion**

Envelope Id: 1531A4B376124BCA8325E4F888E7FB7D	Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with DocuSign: Motion 16437.docx	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 6	Signatures: 2
Certificate Pages: 5	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelope Stamping: Enabled	Cherie Camp
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	401 5TH AVE
	SEATTLE, WA 98104
	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov
	IP Address: 198.49.222.20

**Record Tracking**

Status: Original	Holder: Cherie Camp	Location: DocuSign
10/5/2023 11:35:01 AM	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov	
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: FedRamp	
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**Signer Events**

Dave Upthegrove  
dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov  
Chair  
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

**Signature**

DocuSigned by:  
  
E76CE01F07B14EF...  
Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image  
Using IP Address: 67.160.80.216

**Timestamp**

Sent: 10/5/2023 11:35:43 AM  
Viewed: 10/5/2023 12:21:43 PM  
Signed: 10/5/2023 12:21:58 PM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 10/5/2023 12:21:43 PM  
ID: 4b490e3a-a735-470e-9957-615719a377c8

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

DocuSigned by:  
  
8DE1BB375AD3422...  
Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style  
Using IP Address: 198.49.222.20

Sent: 10/5/2023 12:21:59 PM  
Viewed: 10/5/2023 12:36:37 PM  
Signed: 10/5/2023 12:36:41 PM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 9/30/2022 11:27:12 AM  
ID: 639a6b47-a4ff-458a-8ae8-c9251b7d1a1f

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps

<b>Envelope Summary Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	10/5/2023 11:35:43 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	10/5/2023 12:36:37 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	10/5/2023 12:36:41 PM
Completed	Security Checked	10/5/2023 12:36:41 PM

<b>Payment Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
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**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure**

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