



## King County

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August 19, 2024

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would amend King County Code 21A.37.150(I) to include affordable housing as an eligible use of funds shared to cities by King County's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Bank. This update would give cities more flexibility to meet local housing needs in areas experiencing growth associated with TDR use.

King County has a history of partnerships through which growth in cities conserves farms, forests, and open space in the county through the purchase of TDRs. In some cases, King County's TDR Bank shares a portion of the revenue from the sale of TDRs with cities as amenity funding to invest in public improvements that support growing neighborhoods.

County Code authorizes this revenue sharing to cities and unincorporated urban areas from the TDR Bank and defines eligible uses of this amenity funding. Code currently allows for investments in such public benefits as community facilities, parks, open space, public art, and mobility and transit improvements. Current and future partner cities, including the City of Sammamish, have identified affordable housing as an investment they would like to make with amenity funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance to expand options for cities to invest in growing neighborhoods and to shape land use patterns in more sustainable ways.

If your staff have questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director of the Water and Land Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

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Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Mo McBroom, Deputy Director, DNRP

Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP