

**KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-003**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO A SYSTEM OF RATES AND CHARGES; PROPOSING A SYSTEM OF RATES AND CHARGES TO KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO, ALL AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH HEREIN.

The Board of Supervisors of the King Conservation District, King County, Washington, hereby resolves as follows:

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS.** The Board of Supervisors ("Board") of the King Conservation District ("District") hereby makes and enters the following findings and determinations:

1.1. The District is a governmental subdivision of the State of Washington and a public body corporate and politic, created in King County and operating since 1949. As a requirement for District formation, the State Conservation Commission found that "the public health, safety, and welfare warrant the creation" of the District. RCW 89.08.100. In addition, the Legislature made express findings relating to conservation districts, stating that "the preservation of these lands is necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its people" and that "it is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of the renewable resources of the state ... and thereby ... to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state." RCW 89.08.010. Under chapter 89.08 RCW, the Legislature has provided that the services, improvements and programs of the District are necessary to the public health, safety and welfare of the District and the state. The District operates throughout King County, except within the boundaries of the incorporated cities of Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton, Pacific and Skykomish.

1.2. Improper land-use practices have caused and contributed to a progressively more serious erosion and degradation of the lands of the District. Therefore, it is necessary that land-use practices contributing to soil erosion be discouraged and discontinued, and that efforts to provide for appropriate soil-conserving land-use practices, works of improvement for flood prevention, and efforts furthering agricultural and nonagricultural phases of conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water, be adopted and carried out to preserve natural resources, protect public and private lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the District (the "Conservation Projects"). The District programs assist

in managing land for sustainable, profitable production of food and crops as a better alternative than leaving lands to become filled with noxious weeds or converted to polluting activities. Many District programs are designed to help private land managers and occupiers of land do a better job of protecting natural resources as they make a living from their land.

1.3 Pursuant to chapter 89.08 RCW, the District is responsible for and authorized to carry out Conservation Projects within the District, including but not limited to soil conservation; measures to address property compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, including Clean Water Act standards or Endangered Species Act requirements; aquatic and upland habitat protection and restoration, including technical assistance; NPDES support; educational and demonstration projects; water quality monitoring; rain garden programs; invasive species programs; and, assistance relating to stewardship of working lands, such as agriculture and forest land. District programs include, but are not limited to education, technical assistance, and financial incentives that promote the sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship, such as:

1.3.1 Conducting cooperative activities to protect and enhance high quality marine and freshwater aquatic resources upon urban, suburban and rural properties through coordination, design, and implementation of projects (e.g. stream enhancement and volunteer involvement); development of conservation plans; site visits with landowners and land managers who have direct control over management practices and activities on their lands for the benefit of aquatic habitat on those properties and the land and waters throughout the District; award of targeted financial assistance (District land manager cost-share, services to Jurisdictions, and Jurisdiction and Watershed focused grant funds); and community education workshops, trainings, and technical assistance.

1.3.2 Providing District-wide water quality improvement and water quantity conservation upon urban, suburban and rural properties through coordination, design and implementation of water quality and quantity best management practices; development of conservation plans; site visits with landowners and land managers who have direct control over water management practices and activities on their lands for the benefit of those properties and the land and waters throughout the District; recommendations for invasive/non-native weed eradication; award of targeted financial assistance (District land manager cost-share, services to Jurisdictions, and Jurisdiction and Watershed focused grant funds); community education workshops, trainings, and technical assistance, on topics such as shoreline protection and enhancement, water quality, salmon, native plants, stormwater, and stream ecology; and maintenance of water quality monitoring equipment and supplies. The District also partners with federal, state and local agencies on various water quality projects which help offset the cost of Clean Water Act compliance on other entities and ratepayers.

1.3.3 Conserving and protecting high quality agricultural and other working lands by providing landowner education and development of conservation plans to help farmers and livestock owners comply with mandated regulations, thereby offsetting the cost and burden of certain agricultural and other land use practices; increase capacity for urban agricultural production and stewardship by providing landowner education and development of conservation plans; serve as the hub for county-wide partnership of individuals, organizations and government agencies to

support the local agricultural economy; provide technical assistance and funding opportunities for market-based incentives which support stewardship of high quality soils; award targeted financial assistance (District land manager cost-share, services to Jurisdictions, and Jurisdiction, Watershed, and community focused grant funds); and provide community education workshops, trainings, and technical assistance.

1.3.4 Conducting cooperative activities to restore high-quality forest health management and upland wildlife habitat upon urban, suburban and rural properties through personal site visits with private land managers who have direct control over management practices and activities on their lands for the benefit of those properties and the land and waters throughout the District; community-based forest management education and project planning, training and implementation services; development of conservation plans; recommendations for invasive/non-native weed eradication; coordination and implementation of projects (e.g. forest health management and volunteer involvement); award of targeted financial assistance (District land manager cost-share, services to Jurisdictions, and Jurisdiction, Watershed, and community focused grant funds); and community education workshops, trainings, and technical assistance.

1.3.5 Supporting economic viability of local agricultural businesses and non profits that support stewardship of quality agricultural soils through prevention of land conversion to residential or commercial land use. Such activities include grants, loans, and technical assistance provided to local farms, and other working lands, and all market-based agricultural support organizations to the benefit of both the agricultural community and residents residing within the District who receive better and more regular access to local produce, agricultural products, and other working land products.

1.3.6 Other District conservation programs and activities are described in the 2025 Program of Work and Budget which was approved and adopted by the Board pursuant to Resolution No. 24-002 and is incorporated herein by reference. The District will consider and adopt additional Programs of Work on an annual basis covering any period for which a system of rates and charges is in effect, which Programs of Work will be take into account the needs and concerns of the District's constituents.

1.3.7 The District's constituents and partners have indicated a strong need and desire for continued and strengthened natural resource services as delivered by the District for an additional five-year period as evidenced by supportive feedback via the following outreach and engagement activities:

- A. Survey sent to over 5,000 cooperators, education participants, volunteers, grantees, and partners;
- B. District staff presentations to regional bodies including salmon recovery bodies, the King County Rural Forest Commission, King County Agriculture Commission, and Sound Cities Association PIC;
- C. Annual presentations to the Metropolitan King County Council, meetings with partners, cities, and King County Council members and their staff;
- D. Public listening sessions held on May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>;
- E. Engagement of online newsletter subscribers and social media readers; and
- F. Continued close collaboration with the King Conservation District Advisory Committee and King County DNRP; and

1.3.8 King County Ordinance 19032 and the current Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the District and King County empanels an Advisory Committee whose purpose is "to foster a greater understanding of the programs and services provided by the District and to identify conservation programs that may be undertaken by the District through the use of funds derived through the District's approved system of rates and charges."

1.3.9 The Advisory Committee has been apprised of all recommendations and evaluation results from these various stakeholder processes and has participated in all stages of the development and refinement of a proposed new five-year Program of Work, and the Advisory Committee expressed its support for a proposed Program of Work which was transmitted to the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

1.3.10 The District Board of Supervisors did, by unanimous vote, accept the recommended program of work from the Advisory Committee at the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting of the Board of Supervisors as reflected in District Resolution No. 24-002.

1.4 Part of the regulations and controls under both federal and state law regarding water pollution is the establishment and maintenance of appropriate measures for education and implementation of best management practices. See 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*; 40 CFR 122.26(d)(2)(iv) (required measures for State NPDES programs including education and planning to implement best management practices and control techniques to reduce pollutants). The District provides such service, both independently and together with King County and cities within the District.

1.5 Certain properties within the District receive direct or indirect benefit from the carrying out of Conservation Projects. Direct benefits are those benefits arising out of Conservation Projects conducted on property that benefits such property. Indirect benefits are

those benefits received by property (e.g., down stream or adjacent parcels), but arising out of Conservation Projects conducted on other property.

1.6 It is appropriate for property owners within the District that benefit either directly or indirectly from the District's Conservation Projects to pay for the cost of carrying out the Conservation Projects.

1.7 The District engaged FCS Group ("FCS"), an independent financial consulting firm that provides economic, public finance, management consulting, and financial (rates, charges, and fees) services to public sector entities throughout the country, including city and county governments, utilities, ports, special purpose districts, and state agencies. FCS has evaluated the services provided by the District and has developed a rate structure, as part of the King Conservation District Rate Study (FCS Group, July 2024) that allocates the costs of District services to various classes of property.

1.8 In determining a rate structure, the Board has considered the discretionary factors set forth by the Legislature in RCW 89.08.405, including:

1.8.1 Services furnished, to be furnished, or available to landowners in the District;

1.8.2 Benefits received, to be received, or available to property in the District;

1.8.3 The character and use of land in the District;

1.8.4 The nonprofit public benefit status of land users in the District;

1.8.5 The income level of persons served or provided benefits, including senior citizens and disabled persons; and

1.8.6 Other matters that present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction among properties.

1.9 The Board finds that seven classes or categories of property are appropriate: residential, commercial, agricultural, institutional/public; open space; vacant/undeveloped, and forested, as further defined in this Resolution. There is a rational basis for distinguishing land within the District into classes on the basis of property use and the variation of properties within these classes is found to reflect differences in services and/or benefits received, to be received or available from the Conservation Projects.

1.10 The Board finds that it is appropriate to assign weighting factors to each class of property that reflect distinctions among those properties relating to the services and/or benefits received, to be received or available from the District. The weighting factors include (1) services and/or benefits received, to be received or available that are insignificant or immeasurable to certain property; (2) services and/or benefits received, to be received or available to classes of property to a lesser degree; and, (3) services and/or benefits received, to be received or available

that more fully support property (compared to other classes of property). There is a rational basis for distinguishing services/benefits received or available from District services and Conservation Projects with the use of such weighting factors and the variation of services/benefits within these factors is found to be minor and to reflect only minor differences in services/benefit received or available from the Conservation Projects.

1.11 The administrative cost of calculating the charge for each individual property and maintaining accurate information would be very high. A flat charge for each parcel within each property class is less costly to administer than calculating a separate charge for each parcel and is equitable because of the similarities of the characteristics and uses within each property class. The District considered but determined a per acre charge may result in miscalculations and confusion among ratepayers and was not appropriate for use at the current time.

1.12 The rates proposed to King County by this Resolution were calculated within the parameters of a rate model from the FCS Rate Study. Under the rate model, the estimated annual costs of each Conservation Project were allocated to ratepayers as follows:

1.12.1 Number of parcels in each of the property categories;

1.12.2 Direct and indirect services/benefits received by or available to property within each property category, as generally described in this Resolution; and

1.12.3 A weighting factor reflecting the degree of services/benefits received by or available to each property class for each Conservation Project as described in Section 1.10, above.

1.13 The FCS Rate Study calculated rates per parcel per year for six of the classifications, as follows: residential (\$13.03), commercial (\$12.56), agricultural (\$13.31), institutional/public (\$13.06), vacant/undeveloped (\$12.40), open space (\$12.55). The rate model provides a reasonable basis for establishing the rates proposed by this Resolution. These rates are an allocable share of the costs of services/benefits received or available to the property owners in the District from District services, programs and Conservation Projects, all for the preservation of natural resources, protection of public lands and waters, and protection and promotion of the health, safety and general welfare of the lands and people of the District.

1.14 The rates proposed herein to pay the costs of carrying out the Conservation Projects are fees for which the federal government is liable under the Clean Water Act to the same extent as any other classification of land. 33 U.S.C. § 1323(a), and Pub.L. 111-378, § 1, 124 Stat. 4128 (2011); and, *United States of America v. City of Renton, et al.*, Western District of Washington Cause No. Cl 1-1156JLR (2012).

1.15 Land classified as forested as described in this Resolution provide benefits to the programs of the District, and are also served by District programs. However, the cost to administer a rate program regarding such land does not appear warranted as the cost to administer is believed to be in excess of likely revenues under the formula set out in RCW 89.08.405. Therefore, there is a reasonable basis to currently exempt such forested land from the rates proposed herein.

1.16 The consideration, development, adoption and implementation of the rates proposed herein follows the public hearings held by the District on July 9, 2024 pursuant to RCW 89.08.405(4) and RCW 89.08.400(2), public notice of which was properly provided by postings throughout the District and through publication.

1.17 By Resolution No. 24-003 the District has established a process providing for landowner appeals of the individual rates as may be applicable to a parcel or parcels.

## **SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2.1 "Agricultural land" means those parcels in the King County Assessor's property classifications of: Farm 130; Greenhse/Nrsry/Hort Srvc 137.

2.2 "Billing year" means the calendar year that bills are sent through the property tax statement.

2.3 "Commercial land" means those parcels in the King County Assessor's property classifications of: Hotel/Motel, 51; Rehabilitation Center, 55; Resort/Lodge/Retreat, 58; Nursing Home, 59; Shopping Ctr (Nghbrhood), 60; Shopping Ctr (Community), 61; Shopping Ctr (Regional), 62; Shopping Ctr (Maj Retail), 63; Shopping Ctr (Specialty), 64; Retail (Line/Strip), 96; Retail Store, 101; Retail (Big Box), 104; Retail (Discount), 105; Office Building, 106; Office Park, 118; Medical/Dental Office, 122; Condominium (Office), 126; Mining/Quarry/Ore Processing, 138; Bowling Alley, 140; Campground, 141; Driving Range, 142; Golf Course, 143; Health Club, 145; Marina, 146; Movie Theater, 147; Park, Private (Amuse Ctr), 150; Ski Area, 152; Skating Rink (Ice/Roller), 153; Sport Facility, 156; Art Gallery/Museum/Soc Srvc, 157; Parking (Assoc), 159; Auditorium//Assembly Bldg, 160; Auto Showroom and Lot, 161; Bank, 162; Car Wash, 163; Club, 166; Conv Store without Gas, 167; Conv Store with Gas, 168; Restaurant (Fast Food), 171; Hospital, 173; Mortuary/Cemetery/Crematory, 179; Parking (Commercial Lot), 180; Parking (Garage), 182; Restaurant/Lounge, 183; School (Private), 185; Service Station, 186; Tavern/Lounge, 188; Vet/Animal Control Srvc, 190; Grocery Store, 191; Daycare Center, 193; Mini Lube, 194; Warehouse, 195; High Tech/High Flex, 202; Industrial Park, 210; Service Building, 216; Industrial (Gen Purpose), 223; Industrial (Heavy), 245; Industrial (Light), 246; Air Terminal and Hangers, 247; Mini Warehouse, 252; Terminal (Rail), 261; Terminal (Marine/Comm Fish), 262; Terminal (Grain), 263; Terminal (Auto/Bus/Other), 264; Utility, Private (Radio/T.V.), 267; Terminal (Marine), 271; Historic Prop (Office), 273; Historic Prop (Retail), 274; Historic Prop (Eat/Drink), 275; Historic Prop (Loft/Warehse), 276; Historic Prop (Park/Billbrd), 277; Historic Prop (Rec/Entertain), 279; Historic Prop (Misc), 280; Shell Structure, 339; Bed & Breakfast, 340; Gas Station, 343.

2.4 "Forested land" means those parcels in the King County Assessor's property classifications of: Reforestation, 323; Forest Land (Class-RCW 84.33), 324; Forest Land (Desig-RCW 84.33), 325; Open Space Tmbr Land/Greenbelt, 328.

2.5 "Institutional/public land" means those parcels in the King County Assessor's property classifications of: Church/Welfare/Relig Srvc, 165; Governmental Service, 172; School (Public), 184; Post Office/Post Service, 189; Utility, Public, 266.

2.6 "Open space land" means those parcels in the King County Assessor's property classifications of: Park, Public (Zoo/Arbor), 149; Open Space (Curr Use-RCW 84.34), 326; Open Space (Agric-RCW 84.34), 327; Easement, 330; Reserve/Wilderness Area, 331; Right of Way/Utility, Road, 332; River/Creek/Stream, 333; Tideland, 1st Class, 334; Tideland, 2nd Class, 335, Water Body, Fresh, 337.

2.7 "Parcel" means the smallest separately segregated unit or plot of land having an identified owner(s), boundaries, and areas as defined by the King County Assessor and recorded in the King County Assessor real property file or maps, and assigned a separate property tax account number.

2.8 "Residential land" means those parcels in the King County Assessor's property classifications of: Single Family (Res Use/Zone), 2; Duplex, 3; Triplex, 4; 4-Plex, 5; Single Family (C/I Zone), 6; Houseboat, 7; Mobile Home, 8; Single Family (C/I Use), 9; Apartment, 11; Apartment (Mixed Use), 16; Apartment (Co-op), 17; Apartment (Subsidized), 18; Condominium (Residential), 20; Condominium (Mixed Use), 25; Townhouse Plat, 29; Mobile Home Park, 38; Condominium (M Home Pk), 48; Retirement Facility, 49; Residence Hall/Dorm, 56; Group Home, 57; Historic Prop (Residence), 272; Rooming House, 341; Fraternity/Sorority House, 342.

2.9 "Vacant/undeveloped land" means those parcels in the King County Assessor's property classifications of: (unknown), O; Historic Prop (Vacant Land), 299; Vacant (Single-family), 300; Vacant (Multi-family), 301; Vacant (Commercial), 309; Vacant (Industrial), 316; Transferable Dev Rights, 336.

2.10 It is the intent of the District that all parcels within the District fall within one of the land classifications defined in this Section. In the event any parcel is inadvertently excluded from any of the land use classifications defined in the Resolution, or King County adopts new land classifications or revises existing land use classifications after the effective date of this Resolution, or for any other reason, the omitted parcel shall be deemed to fall within the land use classification that is most similar to the omitted parcel.

**SECTION 3.** **RATE SCHEDULE.** The following rate schedule is proposed to King County for a term of one year, unless modified by subsequent District action and King County approval. The Board may recommend adjustment of these rates from time to time, to reflect the budgeted costs of carrying out the District's improvements, services and Conservation Projects and any changes in land categories. The rates are as follows.

- 3.1 The rate for residential land shall be \$13.03 per parcel per year
- 3.2 The rate for commercial land shall be \$12.56 per parcel per year
- 3.3 The rate for agricultural land shall be \$13.31 per parcel per year for parcels.
- 3.4 The rate for institutional/public land shall be \$13.06 per parcel per year.



- 3.5 The rate for vacant/undeveloped land shall be \$12.40 per parcel per year.
- 3.6 The rate for open space land shall be \$12.55 per parcel per year.
- 3.7 Forested land shall be exempt from the rates proposed in this Resolution.
- 3.8 Parcels owned by federally recognized Native American tribes or members of such tribes that are located within the historical boundaries of a reservation shall be exempt from the rates proposed in this Resolution.
- 3.9 Parcels owned by the federal government shall be exempt from the rates proposed in this Resolution.

Specific rates per parcel shall be shown on a spreadsheet provided by the District to the King County Assessor and/or Treasurer, consistent with Chapter 89.08 RCW.

#### **SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTATION.**

The Executive Director is authorized and directed to take all appropriate and necessary acts to implement this Resolution, including presentation of this Resolution to King County and coordination with King County, including the County Assessor and/or Treasurer, to implement this Resolution, including but not limited to the correction of any parcel's classification or classification referenced in Section 2.

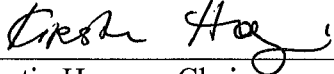
#### **SECTION 5. RATIFICATION AND CONFIRMATION.**

Any action taken consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

#### **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS of King Conservation District, King County, Washington, at a public meeting held on the 9th of July, 2024.

  
Kirstin Haugen, Chair

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Brittney Bush Bollay, Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors, King County, Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 24-003 of such Board, duly adopted at a meeting thereof held on July 9, 2024.

  
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Brittney Bush Bollay, Vice Chair



# King Conservation District

## Rates and Charges Update

DRAFT REPORT  
July 2024

### Washington

7525 166th Avenue NE, Ste. D215  
Redmond, WA 98052  
425.867.1802

### Oregon

5335 Meadows Road, Ste 330  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
503.841.6543

### Colorado

2755 Canyon Blvd  
Boulder, CO 80302  
719.284.9168

[www.fcsgroup.com](http://www.fcsgroup.com)

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Appendix A: Technical Analysis

## Section I. INTRODUCTION

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Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 89.08.405 authorizes conservation districts to impose rates and charges as an alternative to the previous and continuing assessment approach. A rate is a charge intended to recover the cost of public programs based on services received or negative impacts customers impose. In a “rate construct” the services received, and the impacts charged for may be indirect. Further, the rate may show consideration for “services furnished, to be furnished, or available to the landowner” or “benefits received, to be received, or available to the property” in addition to other factors. In 2015, RCW 89.08.405 (3)(a) was revised and now states:

The system of rates and charges may include an annual per acre amount, an annual per parcel amount, or an annual per parcel amount plus an annual per acre amount. If included in the system of rates and charges, the maximum annual per acre rate or charge shall not exceed ten cents per acre. The maximum annual per parcel rate shall not exceed five dollars, except that for counties with a population of over four hundred eighty thousand persons, the maximum annual per parcel rate shall not exceed ten dollars, and for counties with a population of over one million five hundred thousand persons, the maximum annual per parcel rate shall not exceed fifteen dollars.

The United States Census website estimates the King County population as 2,271,380 persons as of 2023, well above the one million five hundred thousand person tier. In consideration of the 2015 revision stated above, King Conservation District, operating in King County, must abide by the fifteen dollar per parcel cap.

The timber and forest land provision states that forest lands used solely for the planting, growing, or harvesting of trees may be subject to rates/special assessments if such lands are served by the activities of the conservation districts. However, the per acre rate/assessment shall not exceed one-tenth of the weighted average per acre rate or charge/assessment on all other lands, and in lieu of a per parcel charge, a charge of up to three dollars per forest landowner may be imposed on each owner whose forest lands are subject to a per acre rate/assessment.

To approve the rates and charges, RCW 89.08.405 references RCW 89.08.400, which states that “(t)he supervisors of a conservation district shall hold a public hearing on a proposed system of assessments...shall gather information and shall alter the proposed system of assessments when appropriate.”

The following section summarizes the rate analysis that has been developed for King Conservation District. The goal of the analysis is to develop a rate structure and supporting rate that equitably recovers natural resource program costs within the constraints defined by RCW 89.08.405.

One important result of the general approach is the recommendation that all costs be recovered in a per parcel, rather than per acre, rate. This determination recognizes that the direct and indirect benefits/services provided by the District are enjoyed by parcel owners with little or no relationship to the size of the parcel.

## Section II. RATE ANALYSIS

FCS GROUP and King Conservation District (KCD) staff have worked together to create a rate structure and supporting analysis that features distinct rates by land use, based on the benefits and services received from each District program. Each District service and associated cost is subject to an allocation process to establish unit costs – the building blocks of rate development. Each service cost is first allocated between direct and indirect service/benefit provided. Cost recovery is then allocated among customer classes based on the comparative amount of service/benefit enjoyed by each customer class from the service. The technical analysis in its entirety is provided in Appendix A.

### GENERAL APPROACH

In order to facilitate application of the rate approach KCD staff split services into six major headings: Farm Assistance and Working Lands Sustainability, Forest Health, Riparian Improvement, Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services, Administration, and C.O.R.E. Support. All of these programs include multiple services that aid in the development of the District's natural resources priorities. These programs and the benefits they provide are further defined below:

**Figure 1. King CD Program of Work**

<b>Farm Assistance and Working Lands Sustainability</b>
Help farmers steward and protect Farm & Ag lands for current and future use and manage protect and enhance water quality and quantity. Farm Assistance and Working Lands Sustainability includes technical assistance, cost share, and direct assistance to implement rural land stewardship, agricultural drainage, local food assistance, and community agriculture projects. KCD also engages with land managers to move them from awareness to action with outreach and education in urban, suburban, and rural spaces. Nexus with soil stabilization and health, water quality and quantity, critical areas stewardship, and flood control. Significant direct and indirect benefits.
<b>Forest Health</b>
Help forest landowners enhance ecosystem functions and values of forest cover. KCD provides technical assistance, cost share, and direct assistance to implement forest health projects throughout King County. KCD also engages with land managers to move them from awareness to action with outreach and education in urban, suburban, and rural spaces. Forest nexus with water and air quality, flood control, and soil stabilization. Significant direct and indirect benefits.
<b>Riparian Improvement</b>
Help landowners enhance ecosystem functions and values of upland habitat, protect, and enhance marine and freshwater aquatic resources. KCD provides technical assistance, cost share, and direct assistance to implement riparian improvement projects throughout King County. Nexus with biodiversity, air and water quality, flood control, soil stabilization, recreation, shorelines, shellfish, food web and water quality. Significant direct and indirect benefit.
<b>Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services</b>
KCD partners with cities and other jurisdictions to increase conservation impact. KCD will continue to award noncompetitive grants to local governments, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and other agencies to improve natural resources and increase regional conservation. These monies support high-impact projects in both urban and rural areas and are often matched with funding from state, federal, and other sources. KCD will also offer alternatives for member jurisdictions to use their allocations including services in lieu of grant funds, or direct technical

**Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services**

assistance to organizations and residents of those jurisdictions. Member Jurisdictions also have the option of pooling their resources for projects. Significant indirect benefit to all rate payers.

**Administration**

KCD will set aside not more than 19% of collected funds to continue effective administration including the Board of Supervisors elections. Significant indirect benefit to all rate payers.

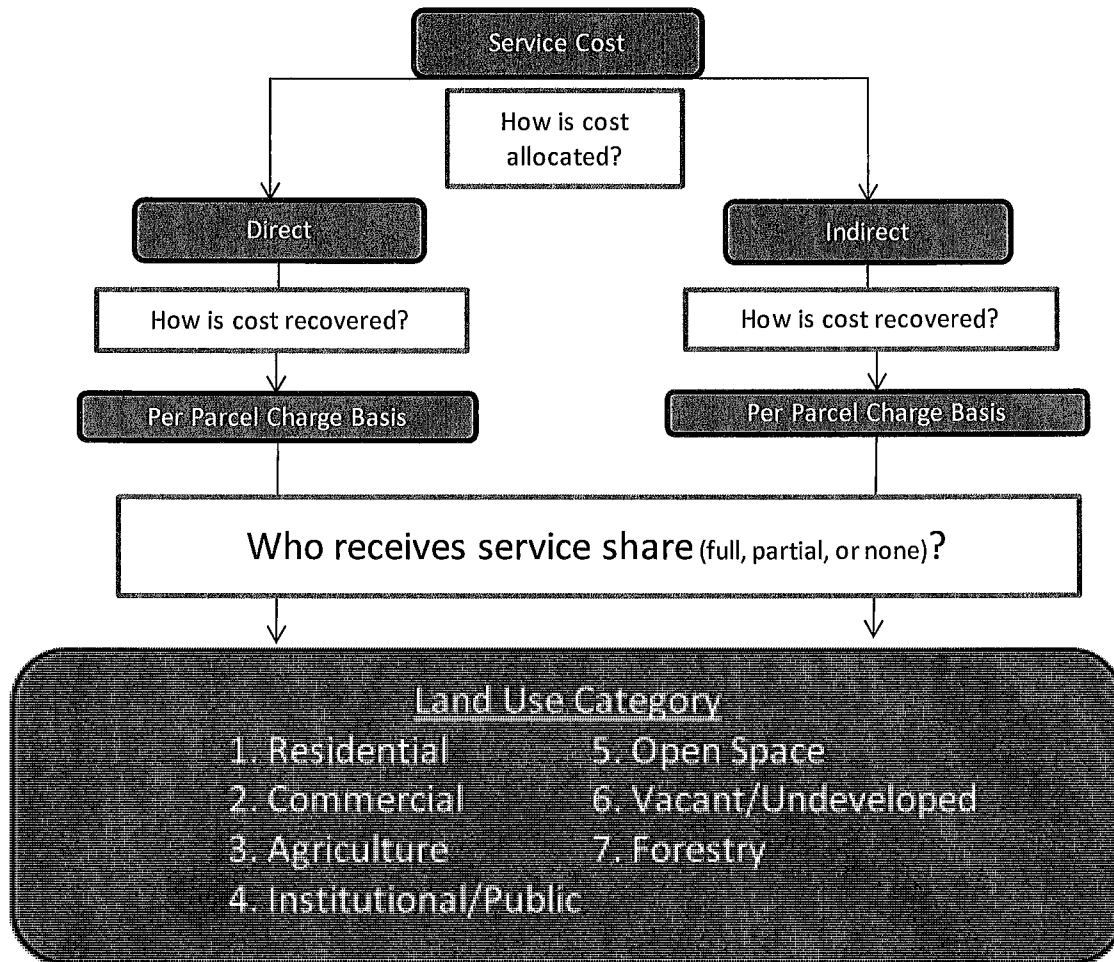
**C.O.R.E Support**

KCD's C.O.R.E Support (communication, outreach, resources, and education) encourages King County residents to take voluntary actions to conserve and improve natural resources. C.O.R.E efforts are varied but include site tours of land managers' property who have implemented KCD projects, education classes-both online and in person, as well as engaging youth in one of the largest S.T.E.M. events annually, Envirothon. Significant indirect benefits to all rate payers.

Using the collective expertise and judgment of KCD staff and the consultant team, each program cost was allocated first to their applicable natural resource priority and then further between direct and indirect benefits provided. These decisions were based on the specific benefits each service provides. Most services provided by the District are of indirect benefit as the entire county's population benefits when there is clean water, healthy soils, clean air, rich biodiversity, a strong agricultural economy and improved food access for all. Service costs assigned to direct benefit represent unique services that specifically target a subset of the customer base. The direct and indirect benefit costs of each service are then allocated to each land use category. Each customer class is evaluated for the level of benefit/service received: no benefit, partial benefit compared to other classes, or full proportional benefit received.

The chart below shows how these steps were followed for each service.

Figure 2. Allocation Process



The allocations for each service between direct and indirect benefits were informed by the Earth Economics Report *Special Benefit from Ecosystem Services: Economic Assessment of the King Conservation District*<sup>1</sup> which states that “approximately 1% of the total value provided by ecosystems is excludable benefit to the landowner.” The report also explains that “over 98% of the total economic value provided by healthy ecosystems is in the form of non-excludable services or special benefits that landowners share with others.”

Consistent with this analysis, most of the services and their associated costs were allocated heavily towards indirect benefits to the landowner. Exceptions to this include portions of farm assistance,

<sup>1</sup> Pittman, J. & Batker, D. (2006). *Special Benefit from Ecosystem Services: Economic Assessment of the King Conservation District*. Tacoma, WA: Earth Economics. Retrieved July 11, 2012 from [http://www.eartheconomics.org/FileLibrary/file/Reports/KCD\\_Special\\_Benefit\\_Analysis.pdf](http://www.eartheconomics.org/FileLibrary/file/Reports/KCD_Special_Benefit_Analysis.pdf)



forest health, riparian improvement and local food assistance which were weighted 25% direct to 75% indirect. The heavier direct allocation is meant to identify that the benefit received from these activities was deemed to be more directly recognized by specific land use categories, however, still significantly benefiting all others indirectly. In total, 9.8% of District expenses were allocated as directly benefiting a subset of land uses.

## BUDGET

The detailed 2025 KCD program budget, developed by KCD staff, was split and allocated as shown in the following table.

**Figure 3. 2025 KCD Unfunded Budget**

Natural Resource Priorities (NRPs)	Total Cost	Allocation Basis	Natural Resource Priorities (NRPs)	Total Cost	Allocation Basis
<b>Farm &amp; Ag Lands</b>			<b>Water Quality and Quantity</b>		
Local Food Assistance	\$405,000	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Local Food Assistance	\$90,000	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
Farm Assistance	653,442	25% Direct / 75% Indirect	Farm Assistance	653,442	25% Direct / 75% Indirect
Riparian Improvement	73,083	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Forest Health	138,416	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services	257,400	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Riparian Improvement	438,498	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
C.O.R.E. Support	138,578	All Indirect	Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services	257,400	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,527,503</b>		C.O.R.E. Support	173,222	All Indirect
<b>Healthy Forest</b>			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,750,979</b>	
Forest Health	\$ 830,498	25% Direct / 75% Indirect	<b>Open Space</b>		
Riparian Improvement	73,083	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Farm Assistance	81,680	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services	11,700	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Forest Health	138,416	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
C.O.R.E. Support	103,933	All Indirect	Riparian Improvement	73,083	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,019,214</b>		C.O.R.E. Support	34,644	All Indirect
<b>Upland Habitat</b>			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 327,824</b>	
Farm Assistance	\$ 81,680	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	<b>Economic Support to Working Lands</b>		
Forest Health	207,624	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Local Food Assistance	\$405,000	25% Direct / 75% Indirect
Riparian Improvement	73,083	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Farm Assistance	81,680	25% Direct / 75% Indirect
Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services	269,100	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services	11,700	1% Direct / 99% Indirect
C.O.R.E. Support	103,933	All Indirect	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 498,380</b>	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 735,421</b>		<b>Administration</b>		
<b>Aquatic Habitat</b>			Administration	\$1,690,387	All Indirect
Farm Assistance	\$ 81,680	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,690,387</b>	
Forest Health	69,208	1% Direct / 99% Indirect	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,932,706</b>	
Riparian Improvement	730,831	25% Direct / 75% Indirect			
Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services	362,700	1% Direct / 99% Indirect			
C.O.R.E. Support	138,578	All Indirect			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,382,997</b>				

## CUSTOMER BASE

King County parcel files have been used to determine the number of chargeable parcels available to King Conservation District. When charging a rate, it is recommended to charge all those who receive service/benefit. The only exceptions include timber and forest land, which are effectively precluded from per parcel rates under current statute language and have not been calculated otherwise for this rate study. Other exemptions are for split parcel account types (that would effectively be charged twice) and cities that have not opted in to KCD, which includes Enumclaw, Milton, Federal Way, Pacific and Skykomish.

The parcel data provided by King County identified dozens of current land uses. The project team of KCD staff and the consultant recognized that it was possible to create meaningful distinctions based on the level of service/benefit received by groups or general classes of customers. Customer types in this model were broken into seven land use categories: Residential, Commercial, Agricultural, Institutional/Public, Vacant/Undeveloped, Open Space and Forestry. These land use categories were based on the present use of each parcel, which is available in the King County Parcel data file. As described above, these land use categories were evaluated based on direct and indirect benefits

received and were allocated either no benefit, partial benefit compared to other classes, or full proportional benefit compared to other classes.

## RATE CALCULATION

As previously discussed, each line item in the budget is allocated based on the direct or indirect service/benefit provided then allocated among customer classes based on the comparative amount of benefit/service received. Initial per parcel rates range from a high of \$13.31 per parcel for Agriculture land uses to a low of \$12.40 per parcel for Vacant / Undeveloped land uses. All calculated rates can be seen in the following figure.

Figure 4. Calculated Rates and Revenue Reconciliation

### Calculated Rates and Revenue Reconciliation

Land Use Category	Calculated Rates	Number of Parcels	TOTAL
	Per Parcel		
Residential	\$ 13.03	604,237	\$ 7,873,208
Commercial	\$ 12.56	23,258	292,120
Agriculture	\$ 13.31	119	1,584
Institutional / Public	\$ 13.06	2,981	38,932
Vacant / Undeveloped	\$ 12.40	55,845	692,478
Open Space	\$ 12.55	2,656	33,333
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>689,096</b>	<b>\$ 8,931,655</b>

## RATE ADJUSTMENT

The calculated rates shown above would sustain the existing programs of KCD that have historically been funded through rates and charges taking into account the increase in expenses necessary to provide the same level of service. Because the highest calculated charge is still under the statutory cap of \$15.00 per parcel, no proportional rate reduction is needed.

## MULTI-YEAR RATE PROPOSAL

The District is seeking approval for a five-year rate term, from 2025 through 2029. After the initial 2025 rate implementation, rates would increase 2.6% annually from 2026 through 2029. Based on the increases proposed, the highest rate is forecast to remain under the fifteen dollar per parcel cap by 2029. The multi-year rate forecast can be seen in the following table.

**Figure 5. Multi-Year Rate Proposal**

Land Use Category	Proposed Rate Schedule				
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Residential	\$ 13.03	\$ 13.37	\$ 13.72	\$ 14.08	\$ 14.45
Commercial	\$ 12.56	\$ 12.89	\$ 13.23	\$ 13.57	\$ 13.92
Agriculture	\$ 13.31	\$ 13.66	\$ 14.02	\$ 14.38	\$ 14.75
Institutional / Public	\$ 13.06	\$ 13.40	\$ 13.75	\$ 14.11	\$ 14.48
Vacant / Undeveloped	\$ 12.40	\$ 12.72	\$ 13.05	\$ 13.39	\$ 13.74
Open Space	\$ 12.55	\$ 12.88	\$ 13.21	\$ 13.55	\$ 13.90

## USE OF FUNDS

Rates and charges and their associated revenues are meant to support a program of work that spans multiple years. The District is free to reallocate revenues based on the need at the present time within its broader mission. While costs are distributed to program activities for the purpose of developing unit costs and ultimately rates, there is not a requirement in the RCW that funds be spent in direct alignment with those assignments and reallocating revenues within different program areas will not affect the analysis in this rate study. Staff have committed to spending in alignment with the District’s budget while retaining the flexibility to re-direct program funding to make the most impact. This flexibility should also apply to any reserve funds held at the District that were generated during previous years. Those funds should be considered available for use in alignment with spending under guidelines of the existing, approved program of work.

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## APPENDIX A: TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

## Rate Renewal Public Comments Submitted by 6/30/2024

4/24/2024 1:21:11 PM

Shayna Kilburn  
Maple Valley 98038

KCD has been hugely supportive of the Greater Maple Valley Community Center and its community garden. The knowledge, advocacies and work they help with and offer is non wavering and irreplaceable. What their organization offers and does for this community and the whole of the county is hugely beneficial to not just us, but our recourses and environment.

---

4/24/2024 1:50:41 PM

Alex Knight  
Vashon 98070

We have worked with the KCD Forestry folks for the last 5+ years. They are smart, professional, and easy to work with. Their expertise, advice, and support have been essential to us being able to properly care for forest on our property.

---

4/24/2024 2:19:16 PM

Ingrid` Turner  
Kent 98030

I attended a native plant course at the facility in Renton and was very impressed with the garden and the restoration area. I learned so much in the session. I am assisting with a restoration in another project so this was valuable information. Please continue to fund these programs. We need their assistance to have clean water air and food to eat.

---

4/24/2024 2:21:01 PM

nancy purcell  
Renton 98058

the program has been very helpful to the master gardener demonstration garden at Soos Creek in Auburn, Wa



KCD has provided us with cover crop seed, compost, and training in gardening practices and soil management.

Our group supplied 3207 pounds of fresh produce to the Auburn food bank in 2023.

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4/24/2024 2:30:56 PM

Denise Michaels  
Kirkland 98034

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4/24/2024 2:38:26 PM

Matthew Penning  
Vashon 98070

The King County Conversation District is a great example of public/private collaboration and a way to get the most of out our tax dollars. By helping residents with planning, equipment rentals, etc we (Residents) are enabled to make positive changes to our properties that will benefit all of King County in the end.

---

4/24/2024 2:42:31 PM

David Dunphy  
Preston 98050

KCD is a critical partner in taking care of our property and enhance the environment along the ranging river. We would not be able to do this without their support.

---

4/24/2024 2:47:57 PM

Arn Thoreen  
Sammamish 98074

Kathleen and I purchased our 5acres a dozen years ago. Most of the land was former pasture land that was overgrown with reed-canary grass...no trees.

We designed and built our house and planted hundreds of seedlings, mostly obtained from the King County Conservation District, in hopes of attracting wildlife.

Now those seedlings have become trees and we have deer, raccoon, squirrels and the occasional bobcat, cougar and bear come by to visit and some stay.

We are happy the Conversation District was available to help us and we strongly support their efforts.

Cheers,

Arn Thoreen

---

4/24/2024 3:02:58 PM

Cynthia Lingel  
Vashon 98070

I sent in soil samples from my small vineyard, and received very valuable information about my soil, which was targeted specifically to the cultivation of grapes.

Thank you!

---

4/24/2024 3:16:26 PM

gary fung  
issaquah 98029

Great program, I hope we continue to support ongoing efforts to fund it.

---

4/24/2024 3:17:43 PM

Gabriela Trevino  
Issaquah 98027

I supporting continue the KCD

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4/24/2024 3:18:18 PM

Carrie McCrindle  
Issaquah 98027

I am in support of King Conservation Districts environmental services and program offerings. As a homeowner in unincorporated King County KCD's services have allowed me to understand the

health of the soil on my property and provided economical options to purchase and plant native plants on my property. Because of these services, my property is now benefiting and supporting the wildlife ecosystem like bugs, birds and the salmon that swim in the creeks next to my property. We must take care of our local environment for future generations and KCDs rate renewal and their expertise and offerings are an important factor in this.

---

4/24/2024 3:24:52 PM

Jan von Lehe  
98117

Really appreciated getting soil analysis to guide my gardening - - Support this organization!

---

4/24/2024 3:26:33 PM

John Cleary  
Sammamish 98075

The 2.6% annual rate increase is ok by me.

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4/24/2024 3:46:49 PM

Michelle Morey  
Port Orchard 98366

I am offering a letter of support for KCD's hard work, support, and awesome webinars.

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4/24/2024 4:03:56 PM

janet quimby  
vashon 998070

The Conservation District is a valuable resource. It has advocated for native plantings for years and we see that effort really taking off and paying off. The soil testing program is excellent, easy to understand and results in better soil health.

---

4/24/2024 4:06:56 PM

Carey Beckham  
98074

I am a full supporter in the programs offered by KCD and have often referred others to utilize the services offered. Personally, I have utilized the soil sampling for my home garden, and I have purchased native plants through the KCD native plant sales for several years. As an employee of a tree nursery and small herb farm, I have also recently attended the workshop on cover crops. These have been excellent programs for our community and strongly support this organization in the future. Thank you!

---

4/24/2024 4:19:50 PM

Constance Winter  
Kirkland 98034

How is it you are able to raise your rate more than 1%, but other government entities are not able to do so? Is it that this is considered a levy?

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4/24/2024 4:24:23 PM

Eric Adman  
Kenmore 98028

I completely support KCD's Rate Renewal effort. Thank you for the information.

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4/24/2024 4:25:39 PM

Patricia J Borden  
Auburn 98092

We are in full support of KCD programs and funding increases to continue.

We did a project with KCD on Bowman Creek.

The services were awesome. Staff were thoughtful in their approach; professional in their service and completed the project with a superb outcome.

We have identified over 50 different birds on the creek now!

Staff inspired us to plant trees and have planted over 500 trees since 2020!

---

4/24/2024 4:35:58 PM

Donna Dziak  
Seattle 98177

KCD has been a wonderful resource for me to better understand my vegetable garden's needs. I have found the service invaluable and have recommended many to the program to have their soil tested. My yields have improved due to the information received from the organization. I feel it's a tremendous service for our county.

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4/24/2024 4:50:48 PM

Saphire Blue  
Vashon 98070

I feel the programs offered are extremely important and useful to the residents of King county and I hope that these programs will continue to be funded.

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4/24/2024 4:52:07 PM

Paul Wehrle  
98029

I found this program to be very helpful. Thank you very much for providing it. It was the first time I ever did soil testing for my lawn.

---

4/24/2024 5:04:46 PM

Colin Danby  
Seattle 98115

I'm writing to express my support for KCD as a happy user of the Soil Nutrient Testing Program

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4/24/2024 5:14:26 PM

Kathleen Coghlan  
Seattle 98119

The KCD program is vital to anyone who cares about the natural world in King County. There is no comparable program for the hundreds of thousands of people who live in this area. King County would be doing a true service to these people by continuing to support KCD.

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4/24/2024 6:15:22 PM

Bruce McQuistan  
Redmond 98053

We have a 5+ acre piece we're trying to reforest and restore to a PNW canopy environment. We've planted over 50 sitka spruces, over 20 red cedars and a few hemlocks, all obtained via KCD. We've gotten advice on tree health from KCD. With all the concern about global warming and the heat from all the development parking lots, we're grateful for the resources KCD provides and hope that King County understands this kind of critical support for indigenous species.

Please do not publish my name.

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4/24/2024 6:15:34 PM

Annie Magnuson  
Seattle 98125

I had not heard of this service until this year. Learning that my soil is EXTREMELY deficient in nitrogen has been transformational in my approach this year. I am able to target the needs of the soil/garden rather than a shotgun approach to plant/garden needs.

I believe there should be a larger effort to notify King County residents of this service.

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4/24/2024 6:35:13 PM

Phil Bussey  
Fall City 98024

I have been involved with this program for several years and I can't say enough good about the program, its staff and the support they have provided me in trying to reestablish forest on my property.

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4/24/2024 6:46:00 PM

Rebecca McIntyre  
Clyde hill 98004

Support!

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4/24/2024 6:57:50 PM

Anna Lowe  
Seattle 98178

I am most grateful for the information, soil testing and support King CD provides. "The soil reports I received is an important tool to correctly amendment soils I work with. The educational materials provided were easy to understand but a friend and I chose to speak with a rep and learned new options, environmental impacts, guidelines, calculating fertilizer needs and other areas. Thank you for this valuable service.

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4/24/2024 7:15:11 PM

Diana Simonsen  
Carnation 98014

I fully support the funding for KCD. They have provided valuable education and plants to help us on our forested property. Well worth the investment!

---

4/24/2024 8:59:00 PM

Nancy Way  
Sammamish 98074

I participated in a Zoom presentation on soils and sent a soil sample in to the KCD this year. The knowledge that I gained helped me grow a much more productive garden while protecting water quality. I realized that just a little adjustment to my garden's chemistry would make a huge difference. I live on Lake Sammamish and each spring after a rainstorm we can see the impacts of over fertilization on the lake by plateau homeowners. I don't think that they realize they are indeed fertilizing algae blooms in the lake. I see all the chemicals in the Home Depot parking lot and know that they are eventually headed our way. One of your farm and garden specialists is going to make a presentation to a Sammamish garden group in May. This kind of outreach will make a big difference. Keep up the good work!

---

4/24/2024 9:05:19 PM

Sarah Castoriano  
Redmond 98052

Support

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4/24/2024 9:39:38 PM

Juliette Larmier  
Seattle 98118

KCD fills a much needed niche in bridging urban safety and environmental stewardship. I had my soil tested with them, which went leagues in helping me feel safe about feeding my family off of our land. Please fulfill their rate renewal!

---

4/24/2024 10:45:07 PM

Kali Dickerson  
Woodinville 98072

I support the work KCD is doing for our community and the local environment. They provide valuable resources such as the soil nutrient testing program, which helps local growers test their soil and make amendments for optimal crop conditions. Please support the proposed KCD rate renewal to keep this valuable program functioning within our community.

---

4/24/2024 11:53:24 PM

Lea Bachman  
Sammamish 98074

I found the soil testing service invaluable. I knew the soil in one large part of my yard was awful- no worms, it was pure dust, a variety of plants died in spite of sufficient watering, etc. I had already done some soil amendment using compost, soaked peat moss, etc. When I got the results of the soil test analysis, the results told me exactly what nutrients to add.

---

4/25/2024 7:38:38 AM



Liz Crain  
Duvall 98019

King Conservation District has worked with me to establish a healthy landscape and improved my stream through a CREP program with FSA and USDA, as well as free consulting and cost share support to help bring back native forest. This program is crucial in getting proper buffers along small salmon streams and protecting clean soil and water for all.

I would love to see the farm of merit system brought back to add more measurements of success and sustainability in our community. I'd also like to see the staff of KCD- especially the farm team, receive more education in alternative, small (under 10 acre) farming, livestock guardian dogs and their crucial place on livestock farms to prevent wildlife conflicts, and how there are many other ways to manage manure besides an Eco-block tractor required turning system. Small farms don't make enough manure to require such large infrastructure, yet we are still told to do things like a horse or cattle farm. Alternatives involving chickens turning the manure compost, and the cold nitrogen composition of sheep manure, were unknown to my farm consult agent, who kept talking about my operation like a horse farm or dairy, and that's one of many missed opportunities to connect and better support small farmsteads.

---

4/25/2024 7:40:18 AM

Kyle Czeh  
Seattle 98118

Dear KCD,

I jumped at the opportunity to share my appreciation- I've used your soil testing program and bought a bunch of native plants back in March and both services were fast, well organized, and full of helpful, detailed information. Please keep up the excellent work! I look forward to learning more from y'all in the future.

Thanks and best,

Kyle

---

4/25/2024 7:59:22 AM

Dickson Njeri  
98032

---

4/25/2024 9:28:40 AM

Patrick Phelan  
98070

I have used free soil samples and purchased additional samples at two properties. The soil sample program has helped my partner and I give back to our land, and it's helped us grow our love of gardening. We recently purchased a property with more land on Vashon, because of this! Thanks to your program so much! Everyone has been so kind and helpful.

---

4/25/2024 9:31:14 AM

Benjamin Peterson  
Seattle 98177

I support whatever reasonable KCD rate increase is necessary to continue and expand the great services that KCD provides.

---

4/25/2024 9:36:03 AM

Pamela Erstad  
Seattle 98119

I fully support extending funding for this valuable public service. Thank you.

---

4/25/2024 9:37:57 AM

Brian Rulifson  
Seattle 98107

KCD is an effective organization that makes our county and communities therein a better place to live!

---

4/25/2024 10:13:53 AM

Tom Amorose  
Vashon, WA 98070

I heartily support this rate increase for KCD. I've seen the good work they've done in my community out here on Vashon, working with landowners and providing educational opportunities open to all. KCD staff are consistently professional and kind. Increasingly, KCD initiatives, like those related to

wildfire, are proving indispensable in helping communities like mine prepare for the challenges climate change is bringing to the region.

---

4/25/2024 10:28:26 AM

David Mohr  
Vashon 98070

I have had excellent support provided by the KCD soil analysis program. I have a modest garden that contributes a bit to some farmers market vendors and community businesses, but I could not have done it without a soil analysis program. Our soil here on Vashon is very poor and the analyses have guided me to make the appropriate organic amendments to have a reasonably successful crop. Please continue it! Thanks!

---

4/25/2024 10:31:39 AM

Kari Olson  
issaquah 98027

Your consultant came to my home to provide suggestions for wildfire suppression and was very helpful! Please continue this service.

---

4/25/2024 10:33:54 AM

nan wilson  
Vashon 98070

KCD provided a critical assessment of my property for fire safety which was informative, easy to understand and actionable. The representative even pointed me to funding sources to help make improvements. I am really grateful for KCD

---

4/25/2024 10:36:46 AM

Mary Jo Dugaw  
Fall City 98024

KCD has been a huge help to us over the last 15 years. From our farm plan, to matching funds for good stewardship projects, to rental of the compost spreader, to multiple consultations with their

excellent staff, our property is much better due to KCD's assistance. We are a proud Farm of Merit and are good stewards of our land. We have KCD to thank. This is money WELL-SPENT.

---

4/25/2024 10:37:45 AM

J. Alex Wentworth  
Seattle 98144

I utilized the program KCD has to have my soil tested for free. I live in an urban part of Seattle, and am trying to grow as much edible produce organically as I can on my small property. This program allowed me to see exactly what my soil needed, so I am not amending too much, adding runoff to our water system. The program makes growing your own food in the middle of food price surging more accessible.

---

4/25/2024 10:39:21 AM

William Rosolowsky  
98117

I am writing to strongly support KCD's request for rate renewal for 2025 and beyond. KCD directly provides me with the invaluable service of soil testing so that I can grow plants to consume to as part of a healthy diet and to mitigate the effects of global warming and industrial agriculture. I appreciate having this service provided to me as a senior in a household on fixed income. Thank you ever so much.

---

4/25/2024 10:48:33 AM

Tara Grafwallner-Walbrun  
Renton 98059

I've taken advantage of the KCD classes and love their handouts and other educational materials. Its such a great resource for the betterment of the environment.

---

4/25/2024 12:17:18 PM

Daniel Schirmer  
Kent 98030

The work that KCD does is very important, and they definitely deserve the money that they get. Native planting and restoration is a small step to repair some of the damage that we do to the environment, but it's an important one, and I strongly believe we need to continue doing it.

---

4/25/2024 12:44:55 PM

Andrew Mitzel  
Burien 98146

Hello I'd like to voice my support of the rate increase and am so grateful for the services KCD provides the community. From Forest Steward training, local park events, and greater community plant sales, to programs like the Green Burien Partnership with local cities, KCD has shown it's value. Look at Hilltop Park in Burien. Look at Salmon Creek Park in Burien. Professionally, Maya Klem as the Green Burien Partnership Coordinator for Tukwila and Burien has re-framed the discussion around parks maintenance and what it means to fully commit to being a Green City Partner. Personally, the improvements to my local parks on my daily dog walks has been something to look forward to, and the opportunity to attend these restoration events has given me the chance to interact with other members of my community for a common cause I wouldn't have otherwise. I think KCD and organizations like it are essential to the modernization of cities, society, and culture in regards to our relationship with the environment around us.

Thank you.

---

4/25/2024 12:59:52 PM

Jake Wimberger  
Seattle 98109

KCD has been a very useful resource for native plant restoration in my area. I know they do a lot of work in rural areas also, but I'm speaking to the assistance they provide in urban areas. I've gotten plants and good information from them on a number of occasions.

---

4/25/2024 1:14:28 PM

Fiona Cheung  
Seattle 98125

Love the native plant sale! Native plants are not always easy to find so I am so glad we have this program available in king county.

---

4/25/2024 1:21:47 PM

christine clark  
Seattle 98106

I have been shopping the KCD plant sale for a number of years now for both myself and for the Seattle Park I am a Forest Steward for. Every year I get so much joy picking out, picking up, and planting my barrooms. I have told so many friends, family members, and people in general about the sale. Your crew is always so nice and helpful and make things run smoothly. Thank you again for continuing to host the event! I will continue to be a KCD supporter for many years to come.

---

4/25/2024 1:30:05 PM

Marc Bauman  
Renton 98056

We value the services of KCD. We have been purchasing native plants such as ferns and salal for a few years. We are trying to stabilize a hill and reduce erosion with native plants. It is helpful that they are deer resistant. We wish there was more availability. Sometimes by the time we go to place our order we encounter out of stock scenarios.

---

4/25/2024 1:30:18 PM

Melanie Jordan  
Renton 98058

Ok to raise prices as you are significantly below prices elsewhere.

You offer a terrific service and I will order more to continue with my own native plant propagating along the banks of the Cedar River at our ancestral home since 1945 🌱

Also...thank you for teaching/helping us with noxious plant eradication.

Melanie

---

4/25/2024 1:34:25 PM

Amanda Vail  
Auburn 98092

I have very much appreciated and utilized the work of the King County Conservation District. I am thankful for their presence and the outreach they do to local landowners to help us combat invasive species and plant native species on our land. It's such important for our region!

---

4/25/2024 1:39:18 PM

Russell E Shaw  
Redmond 98053

This renewal is needed now more than ever. The unique services have an impact far beyond the obvious in our increasingly stressed county.

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4/25/2024 1:55:49 PM

juana Mangaoang  
Seattle 98118

I favor continuation of KingCo support for the KCD's efforts.

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4/25/2024 1:58:14 PM

Richard Deglman  
Snoqualmie 98065

Program is great and employees are helpful and knowledgeable. On the downside reimbursements are terribly slow - sometimes 2 months+

---

4/25/2024 2:03:04 PM

Tyler Harvey  
Kenmore 98028

I fully support KCD's proposal for rate renewal. The services KCD provides are invaluable and the rate is extremely reasonable.

---

4/25/2024 2:03:50 PM

Rebecca Alldritt  
Woodinville 98072

I bought most of my plants for this year through the native plant bare root sale. The sale helped me learn more about what native plants would thrive in my yard and provided a cost effective way for me to start converting barren parts of my yard into green spaces.

Additionally I have been using the KCD online resources to learn more about identifying and controlling invasive weeds. My house is on about an acre of land, half of which is forested, and it has been extremely valuable to have the resources to help preserve the health of the forested section

---

4/25/2024 2:04:31 PM

Kyle Jenkins  
98146

The KCD Native Plant Sale is such a terrific resource, which I hope to continue to use for years to come. Please maintain public support for this going forward.

Many thanks,

Kyle Jenkins

---

4/25/2024 2:11:15 PM

carol porter  
renton 98058

I look forward each year to the Native Plant Sale. It is so well run. I am going to be using the soil testing this year as well.

---

4/25/2024 2:14:52 PM

Maren Nelson  
Kirkland 98033

I purchased plants from KCD for the first time this year, and it was a great experience! I am happy to have native plants available to purchase for my yard and everything is growing well this spring. The ordering and pickup process was very easy and I would be happy to participate again next year.

---



4/25/2024 2:25:24 PM

Mary Norton  
Snoqualmie 98065

We fully support the King Conservation District's efforts to renew a work program and related rate increase with King County. We have taken advantage of a number of the KCD's programs over the years, and have planned our gardens, pastures, stream-side plantings, and use of native plants based on their guidance. We have attended classes, utilized a site planner, gone on guided farm tours to other sites, used their shared manure spreader, utilized printed materials from KCD, and purchased native plants at their yearly plant sales. The KCD has been an ongoing source of information, advice, and resource for us as we continue to make our place as environmentally friendly as possible. We hope you will continue these programs with the KCD in the future, as we believe they do work which is increasingly valuable as the area grows. Thank you!

---

4/25/2024 4:18:38 PM

Teanna Kordel  
Redmond 98052

I am in support of the King Conservation District (KCD) program. I am writing to request you renew their funding for 3 years for critical conservation services. I have purchased native plants from KCD for my garden and with very little effort they are thriving. They require less water and provide habitat for our native fauna and provide beauty to the neighborhood. Thank you for considering my request.

---

4/25/2024 5:15:19 PM

Jamie Dulfer  
Vashon 98070

Yes, please! KCD does so much important work, e.g. education, stewardship tools/assistance/grants, food security, noxious weed control, native plant sales, for such a small cost to each land owner.

---

4/25/2024 5:36:24 PM

Cindy Pfeifer  
Issaquah 98027

SUPPORT

I support the rate renewal including the cost of living increases. This is a very small cost for a very big gain.

---

4/25/2024 5:36:41 PM

Craig Roberts  
Seattle 98144

Municipal regulations and projects to increase native species are vital to restoring ecosystems in the Puget Sound. Many of us are interested in doing even more to increase biodiversity in our neighborhoods. The KCD plant sale enables our community to come together- planting native species at four sites this past year. KCD programming and materials also helped us identify which species would work best in our local environment. I plan to utilize KCD soil testing for a project this coming Fall. I strongly support the renewal, and expansion of funding for the King County Conservation District.

---

4/25/2024 6:00:13 PM

Linda Schwartz  
Seattle 98107

I used your soil testing service once and it was super easy, and more important, quite helpful. I would use your service again, regardless of the cost

---

4/25/2024 7:23:53 PM

Fred Wemer  
Sattle 98105

As a KC master gardener I recommend you frequently. Your soil testing is a great service.

---

4/25/2024 7:40:29 PM

Amber Mikluscak Champoux  
Seattle 98136

When I first moved to Washington State in 2012, KCD's community outreach and education programs were a critical resource for building my local environmental knowledge. They helped me to become a steward in my new state and succeed in an environmentally-focused career. Through

KCD, I learned about local ecosystems and ecological issues. In the past 12 years, I have attended many programs, used countless online resources, and referred many people to KCD for high-quality local knowledge and assistance. I'm also a regular supporter of the annual plant sale. The availability of locally grown, high-quality native plants at reasonable prices makes gardening with natives possible for many people. I would love to see KCD continue and grow for generations to come!

---

4/25/2024 10:33:46 PM

Jim Fox  
Seattle 98122

I have for years attempted a small garden in my backyard. It grew a few vegetables, but was never really successful. A couple of years ago I read of King County's soil testing program and sent some soil to be tested. The results, an over abundance of phosphorus, a dearth of most every other nutrient, and acidic soil. Your program encouraged me to pay attentions to these soil conditions and to correct them. I'm still working on that, but my garden is already much more productive and, more importantly, a much more enjoyable pastime. I am in your debt.

---

4/26/2024 6:26:11 AM

Catherine Fox-Bibby  
Redmond 98053

I have used KCD several times to regenerate a back lot of our property with native plants. The plant sale provides me with an excellent way to obtain native plants cost effectively and in bulk. I support the KCD!

---

4/26/2024 8:20:49 AM

Amy Marquez  
Carnation 98014

I'm not getting raises to keep up with inflation. Its not fair for King County to keep taking more just because of inflation. Make do with what you have like the rest of us. More taxes on the struggling homeowners isn't going to address the root of the inflation problem.

---

4/26/2024 8:44:23 AM

Bob Weeks  
Seattle 98136-1306

Your rate renewal sounds reasonable. I hope it is enough. With as you've mentioned the added emphasis on climate change and equity, both very important, I wonder whether a higher budget number would be important.

---

4/26/2024 10:10:16 AM

Teresa Sparling  
Bellevue 98006

I am in full support. The services provided are important.

---

4/26/2024 11:00:35 AM

Kris Freeman  
Seattle 98107

I pay property taxes and I enthusiastically support the KCD rate renewal

---

4/26/2024 11:13:21 AM

Steven Richmond  
Seattle 98070

I support a specific rate increase for invasive species control, rates for each high-impact invasive plant like English ivy, English holly, and knotweed.

This money could go to invasive species control. Then when an entire district gets rid of its knotweed, holly, or fruiting ivy (on trees), then each of the rate increases could be rescinded.

---

4/26/2024 12:17:17 PM

Mallory Kremer  
Seattle 98115

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to purchase affordable native bare root plants. I've planted trees shrubs and ferns all along the forested hill beside my house. KCD is a valuable partner in supporting the creek by my home!!

---

4/26/2024 1:25:00 PM

Ruth Williams  
Seattle 98125

I strongly support renewing the rate and increasing funding for the KCD. Even as a city-dweller I have appreciated their services, including classes and the native plant sale. Please fund a better supply of plants for the sale, as some species sell out the first day or soon thereafter.

---

4/26/2024 2:19:57 PM

Robert Pepka  
Duvall 98019

Without the KCD, my pasture would have been stuck in an unhealthy state. They made it possible for me to run a productive farm that can have healthy animals and healthy land in the many years to come. This is vital, valuable work and an important public service. I fully support this rate renewal plan.

---

4/26/2024 3:19:31 PM

George Blume  
Kirkland 98034-1153

I used the KCD soil analysis service 4 years ago. It saved me from using an expensive fertilizer which would have made my soil more acidic and run off into the Sammamish River. Please continue to fund this service.

---

4/26/2024 4:26:09 PM

Angie Kelly  
Vashon 98070

As a life long resident of KC. I absolutely support the work they do to keep our natural areas healthy. The plant sales helps everyone to rewild their property at an incredible price. Please continue to fund an invaluable service to our county.

---

4/26/2024 7:11:15 PM

Lin Sierra  
Seattle 98106

I support the funding of the King County conversation program that provides educational services to the community, and that supports growing native plants and healthy food that is donated to community members / food banks in the area. It is a valuable service that should continue.

---

4/26/2024 7:28:40 PM

Kyle Moore  
Enumclaw 98022

Helped me set up my farm plan and open space continuance when I bought my 10acre farm just over 2 years ago. I have no idea if I'd have been able to get this done without the programs help.

---

4/27/2024 5:22:26 PM

Naomi Rimbos  
Maple Valley 98038

I used the soil analysis for improving the soil in my vegetable garden. This service is very good. With all the effort that goes into growing vegetables, at least we can rest with the knowledge that we provide the plants with the nutrients they need to thrive.

---

4/27/2024 5:59:05 PM

Lisa Chiappinelli Sutherland  
Kirkland 98033

The free soil testing offered by King County is a huge and much appreciated service - it's amazing! It helps all gardeners make educated decisions to improve the quality of their soil, whether it's in their

backyard, pea patch or local farm. Better soil equals better food for all residents and better educated citizens - soil impacts all of us!

---

4/27/2024 6:04:48 PM

Ann Caughey  
Federal Way 98023

I have purchased native plants from the annual sale for many years. I have about an acre of hillside above the beach and have used the plants to help stabilize it as well as to re-introduce native species to clear cut spaces. The vine maple and flowering currant have been a great success.

---

4/28/2024 7:20:30 AM

Heidi Watters  
Tukwila 98168

KCD is a powerhouse of public good, benefiting both residents and the environment by providing crucial links between science, resources and the public on environmental topics we all care about large and small. KCD uses novel and responsive techniques to deliver assistance and is very well loved!

---

4/28/2024 11:56:18 AM

Vinh Tat  
Renton 98058

KCD provides a great community service. My most recent experience with KCD is soil testing. Their soil helps us make the right soil amendment and kept weed killers/chemical off our soil & runoff that I would have otherwise used.

---

4/28/2024 5:01:57 PM

Alan Chun  
Seattle 98144

With climate warming clean water will become more precious and less reliable than the past. It is important that we continue all efforts not just to save water but also to ensure that our water supply is safe and of high quality. KCD helps support that goal and needs our ongoing support

---

4/28/2024 6:00:35 PM

Muriel Lawty  
Seattle 98125

This is a great program that helps us restore and protect our natural environment. Please renew it!

---

4/28/2024 9:09:22 PM

Lisa Delrey  
98031

I greatly value the programs and educational content KCD provides! I was a former volunteer for the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, and often feel the value of information and support at KCD surpasses my expectations.

---

4/29/2024 12:24:49 PM

Mariana Lassalle  
Kenmore 98028

To whom it may concern:

As a Kenmore resident and a non profit/community volunteer, I have witnessed firsthand the excellent services that King Conservation District provides to private residents and local organizations.

Local environmental stewardship initiatives (in my backyard and some of my neighbor's, at Wallace Swamp Creek Park, and city-wide with native tree planting events) have all benefited from KCD's action in various ways, such as technical support, free soil testing, their amazing native plant sale, or grants.

Their action with local growers and urban agriculture initiatives is also a valuable tool to increase sustainable food access for all.

Continuity of funding for KCD is of the utmost priority to ensure that our local interconnected ecosystems are supported by all stakeholders. As we witness local governments throughout King County setting up policies and action to alleviate climate change effects, appropriate financial support to King County Conservation District is decisive to help everyone to do their part.

---



4/29/2024 1:06:06 PM

seth pedersen  
ravensdale 98051

Huge support !!! Love this team and the work they provide for the community. We had them measure a soil sample and got extremely valuable information that helped us make decisions at our house. Please continue supporting this valuable team and function for the community.

---

4/29/2024 1:36:53 PM

Susan MacLaren  
Seattle 98108

I wholly support the foundational work of King Conservation District. Their work has had a substantial impact on my understanding of native plants and environments and has contributed to the sustainability and native landscaping in my own yard. Beyond that, they are a trove of accessible information regarding protecting and preserving the health of our surrounding community - whether through offering grants and starts to small community garden projects or through teaching and community resources related to managing local streams, forests, and other habitats. I encourage King County to continue funding this vital community resource to highlight to those of us in King County that this project is exemplary and provides direct community engagement to improve the environments around us in sustainable ways. We need projects like this now more than ever. Continue your funding support of King Conservation District.

---

4/30/2024 9:15:47 AM

Chris Marshall  
Seattle 98115

The soil analysis that KCD did for us was really helpful. I appreciated it !

---

4/30/2024 11:19:10 AM

Zoe Stephenson  
Seattle 98144

I moved to the area recently and wanted to plant some new trees and other plants in a yard completely overgrown. I was delighted to hear of KCD's free soil sample testing! I used it for myself

and helped my neighbor use it too, and I think the trees we planted via Seattle's Trees for Neighborhoods program will do better because of the knowledge we now have of the soil.

---

4/30/2024 11:40:35 AM

Tom Robertson  
Mercer Island 98040

Our garden was producing poor yields even of zucchini, and the KCD soil analysis service was very helpful in telling us what needed to be corrected

---

4/30/2024 12:09:15 PM

Beth Lang  
Carnation 98014

Our experience with our King Conservation District Farm Planner has been fantastic.

---

4/30/2024 5:51:15 PM

Michael McNutt  
Seattle 98109

With so much focus on increasing density of housing, we cannot forget that people need open space in order to maintain proper mental health. KCD has had great success protecting both urban and rural open space. This program needs to have our continued support.

---

5/1/2024 4:10:19 PM

Debbie Shuster  
Seattle 98115

The King Conservation District (KCD) program is great! I really appreciated being able to get a high quality soil analysis for free. It helped me to improve my soil and grow more abundant crops for my family. Thank you

---

5/1/2024 11:30:57 PM

L Lin  
98125

This type of program and funding is vital. Protecting our natural environment is of utmost importance, especially as climate events and impacts worsen and become more frequent. Water and air quality, biodiversity, food...it's all interconnected, and we sacrifice our future if we choose to nickel and dime about programs like this now. Please, please retain this programming - indeed, given the state of our climate, we should expand it (and all others like it).

---

5/2/2024 7:19:06 PM

Laurie Watson  
Tukwila 98168

I'm fairly sure that the work that the crew did will save my house in time. I'm extremely grateful, and they all worked so hard on my riverbank, which was a vertical drop covered in blackberries.

They all were amazing. This old woman is very grateful.

---

5/3/2024 10:57:23 AM

Colleen Hinton  
Burien 98166

I strongly support the rate renewal for KCD. This organization does incredibly important work for our environment. A few years ago, KCD helped our family remove the bulkhead on our shoreline property and replace it with a shoreline friendly alternative, which was a pilot project and has been very successful. They have continued to provide assistance with managing our new native vegetation that supports the natural beach. Please renew, and increase their funding if possible.

---

5/3/2024 11:10:20 AM

Chloe Lewis  
Seattle 98102

The soil tests and explanatory material are useful to me twice over as a business owner and citizen in the Seattle area. I value having the soil tests for my small organic farm, not just to make my crops the best they can be but to \*not\* over-fertilize and risk the waters around us. And I often recommend soil tests to home gardeners who are also at risk of over-fertilizing. The free starter tests are a great way to get people to try it. Staff and write-ups have been friendly and clear throughout.

If all the results together can be used to give us a better understanding of nutrient flow through the Sound area, better still.

---

5/3/2024 5:09:02 PM

wendy jordan  
shoreline 98177

As a small farmer and home gardener, I can't tell you how helpful and supportive this service has been. It is crucial to understand what's in the soil in order to grow products with the highest amount of nutritive value. The KCD staff are knowledgeable, kind, patient, and answer every question until I understand my soil test results and their comments. Praise, praise. Keep up the good work. Thank you, thank you. SO. MUCH.

---

5/5/2024 10:52:16 PM

Valerie King  
98045

I am absolutely against a rate increase. There is no reason to fund equity and climate resilience.

---

5/6/2024 12:44:55 PM

dee tole  
redmond 98052

No rate increases, the people are having trouble paying for the basics, my husband has been unemployed from the tech industry for over a year now, we cannot take more increases

---

5/6/2024 1:12:46 PM

Michael Washburn  
Carnation 98014

No new taxes. We are taxed out. Please try and live within your means, like the citizens you supposedly represent are trying to do.

---

5/6/2024 7:13:16 PM

Jim Keeeffe  
Fall City 98024

I strongly OPPOSE the KCD Rate Renewal for two reasons:

1. I cannot afford another penny increase in my property or other state/county taxes - period. As a retired person on a fixed social security income, King Co property and other taxes/fess are oppressive.
2. I want none of my money going for 'equity and climate resilience' nonsense. 'Equity' and 'climate resilience' are political terms for social reforms which I disagree with emphatically.

---

5/6/2024 8:47:10 PM

Philip Cassady  
Snoqualmie 98065

Statement Against KCD Rate Increase

We do not need an increase in property taxes that are already so high that property owners are being forced to move out of King County.

---

5/6/2024 11:10:30 PM

Jeri Taylor  
North Bend 98045

NO increase in rates! People of WA can NOT afford another rate increase!

---

5/7/2024 11:06:52 AM

Joy Matsuura  
98040

If this were the ONLY tax, then it wouldn't be too bad (assuming that there is accountability and transparency in how the money is allocated), but the 2.6 percent annual increase is more than double the 1 percent cap that other taxes have --so it should be put on the ballot in November. Also, \$13 per parcel isn't right. An apartment building shouldn't have the same charge as a single-family home. And a single-family home shouldn't have the same charge as a multi-family home. So, to be fair the cost should be divided up NOT by parcel, but by housing unit.

In short: I am opposed to this tax.

---

5/7/2024 4:15:24 PM

samantha zistatsis  
ISSAQUAH 98027

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5/7/2024 5:48:30 PM

Jeffrey King  
98045

I oppose any rate increase. You are pricing me out of King County.

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5/7/2024 6:19:21 PM

Heather Kelly  
Seattle 98117

I am a grateful user of KCD's soil sampling services and a huge proponent of the rate renewal.  
Thanks for all you do!

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5/8/2024 10:46:21 AM

Stephanie Lofquist  
Snoqualmie 98065

I do not support a rate increase. King County citizens are taxed enough. It's a matter of how much we are being taxed on everything. Rate increase on gas, property, sales, inflation and it all trickles back to the individual. We need a break from increases until the economy can stabilize. People are being stretched to make ends meet.

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5/8/2024 7:47:10 PM

Stephen Theodore  
North Bend 98045

I have had enough with rate hikes as inflation has crippled all of us so badly in recent years. You need to work smarter to fund projects and not continually look to pass costs along to tax payers. We are over-burdened as it is, and this nonsense needs to stop with accountable government that wisely manages its funds.

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5/9/2024 9:51:45 AM

Michael Zlatkovsky  
Carnation 98014

The evaluation provided by KCD -- and particularly by Michael Lasecki -- was superbly helpful to us in helping fireproof our yard. Based on his recommendations, we moved our firewood stash and aggressively cut down the vegetation and trees that were too close to the house. I am also planning to put some fine mesh wiring under our decks and in the crawlspace vents per Mike's recommendation. I think this program is super valuable to the community, and will help save property and potentially lives as the fire threat continues to increase with climate change and hotter/dryer summers.

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5/10/2024 4:17:15 PM

Tina Miller  
Maple Valley 98038

I just want to express my support for continuing the KCD funding. I have worked with the KCD on a number of issues and been involved in a number of programs. I have farm and forest stewardship plans for my property and participate in a firewise district. The KCD staff have been wonderful to work with for all of these actions. I hope they will be able to continue to help my king county neighborhood.

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5/10/2024 4:20:13 PM

Jennifer Soames  
Maple Valley 98038

The King Conversation District (KCD) has been tremendously helpful to our family this year in the preparation of our organic vegetable gardens, of which we have three.

We've been growing organic produce and keeping honeybees for over a decade at our urban home, maximizing our growing space by getting rid of our front lawn, and continually learning how to better care for our soil: to optimize our yield while reducing potentially negative effects on both our immediate and greater environment.

This year we did soil testing through King Conservation District. I didn't even know they offered this service free of charge to King County residents, and was thrilled to participate. Soil science is complex, to say the least, and Jay of KCD answered my many questions and walked me through calculations, planning, and recommendations on numerous occasions. Without his guidance I would have been lost and unsure of even where to start with amending our soil in one garden area, let alone three with different needs.

As increasing numbers of King County residents see the value and need for sustainable land management and conservation, from their own back yards, to parks and local, family-run farms, King Conservation District is needed now more than ever. What the over two-million King County residents put on and in their gardens and yards matters to both our local and global ecosystems. Having a resource like King Conservation District to educate and empower residents to make environmentally conscious choices makes a difference not only to residents and their families, but to the health of the planet for today and generations to come.

Please support continued funding for King Conservation District and their critical conservation services.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Soames

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5/13/2024 8:34:40 AM

Marth Christensen  
Redmond 98053

I spent 6 years on the Forest Stewardship Committee at Trilogy at Redmond Ridge. KCD supported our individual residents with Wildfire Preparedness cost-share projects that have made a real difference in home fire vulnerability. And we have had development-level Wildfire Preparedness projects in 2017 and 2023. In the 2023 project, Mike Lasecki of KCD did an excellent job of coordinating with the 30 affected homeowners to make sure that they felt listened to and the job contractor performed quality work.

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5/13/2024 2:05:29 PM

Audrey Jones  
Burien 98168

Given the steady increase in cost of living expenses, it seems reasonable that some amount of rate increase would be necessary to allow KCD to continue providing the same level of services.

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5/13/2024 4:23:56 PM

Cris Yoshimi  
Mountlake Terrace 98043

The King Conservation District has assisted me in large part as a landowner in seeing the value in restocking our family acreage with a variety of conifers and other native plants to help other living creatures such as deer, beaver, black bears, cougars and a variety of songbirds and scavenger birds thrive. KCD has given advice to promote the growth of seedlings, now young trees (over 12 feet high) and aided in input on equipment to use while clearing brush and evasive species. The LIP (Landowners Incentive Program) allowed me to access funds and resources to clear land, resow the clearing with native trees, which I would have found a daunting task otherwise. It has been an adventure and a journey coming up to ten years working with KCD and another five I look forward to their continued support for our family project to upgrade the health of our forest and bring added value to our land. The King Conservation District is a vital and essential part of landownership in King County, to assist landowners on being land stewards and not just land owners to not only preserve land, but to improve the quality of the environment for everyone; to lessen our carbon footprint, so future generations can enjoy our native environs.

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5/14/2024 4:27:17 PM

Scott Haase  
Redmond 98053

I am a strong supporter of KCD and its mission. I am currently on the Trilogy at Redmond Ridge Board of Directors, and was previously the chair of our Forest Stewardship Committee. For many years, KCD has been a critical partner for the Trilogy Community, helping define and assist with contracting major projects to reduce wildfire risk and control invasive forest species, offering plant sales, and also providing needed technical expertise as we manage our open forests and wetlands. This continues to provide invaluable resource for our community - and since our forests are enjoyed has been a resource for the greater King County public, too!

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5/15/2024 6:01:26 PM

James Cade  
Seattle 98199

I commend KCD for inclusion of urban homeowners and gardeners in their outreach and programs. I have made use of two of these programs, both which are of particular importance to all of Puget Sound citizens.

The Native Plant Sale has been very useful to me and many others that have property abutting ravines, bluffs and steep slopes to establish new plantings of native plants in these areas. This will further protect these areas and increase their stability as well as establishing more native habitat areas within urban locales.

The availability of modestly priced soil analysis through KCD provides important information to all that garden, allowing them to select the proper plants for the soil conditions at hand. This is a huge factor in determining the success of home vegetable gardens as well as native plantings.

Both of these programs should be continued and as funds are available expanded.

James Cade

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5/16/2024 8:57:29 AM

Michael Schuler  
Seattle 98103

I have used KCD to analyze P-patch soil samples via its Soil Nutrient Testing Program a number of times and found this service invaluable. The proposed adjustment to rates seems appropriate, and I look forward to using the testing program again soon.

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5/16/2024 11:23:04 AM

Matt Warning  
Seattle 98122

The soil testing service is extremely useful to gardeners like me and I was extremely impressed with the customer service I received when I called in. The person with whom I spoke was very polite and efficient and quickly sorted out what the issue was that had led to me not receiving my sample results. I received those results less than 15 minutes after my phone call.

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5/17/2024 10:08:11 AM

Dolly Mauter  
Snoqualmie 98065

I do not support this increase. We are on a fixed income and trying to get basic bills, gas prices that include too many taxes and groceries that are sky high.

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5/25/2024 9:45:49 PM

Patrick Pressentin  
Normandy Park 98166

I wonder if the priority for invasive plants removal can be changed to accelerate ivy from trees removal. The whole county's trees scream for relief along green corridors. A new policy on all fronts is needed in addition to funding. Pat Pressentin

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6/2/2024 11:45:54 AM

susa Graham  
Kent 98042

Yes, I support the proposed KCD rate increase of 2.6% each of the next 3 years beginning in 2025 and renewal to fund KCD programs. They are valuable to the community.

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6/6/2024 9:16:23 AM

Robert Shull  
Vashon 98070

We are strongly opposed to the proposed annual rate increase of 2.6%! This is greater than the target rate of inflation. There is no reason that government should be adding to our housing costs at a guaranteed greater rate of inflation. This is simply wrong. Shame on the Conservation District for even asking for this increase! We must all work together to keep costs down and not be constantly increasing them.

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6/9/2024 11:40:58 AM

Becky Porter  
Seattle 98178

While I feel the conservation district is very important to our future please consider how a rate increase will affect your constituents. Our water and sewer rates go up significantly every year as does our energy rates and other utilities. Already these increases use up any cost of living adjustments that I get from my job. Plus some. And if the economy is bad I don't get a cost of living increase at all, especially if Republicans have control of Congress. Can you think of another way to get the money, such as applying for Federal grants, selling water drums for saving rainwater, etc? I

am a single person caring for my adult child who has special needs. Just paying my mortgage is difficult. My taxes have increased more than 100% since I refinanced my house 20 years ago. Thank you for considering my words.

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6/17/2024 8:40:49 AM

Harini Shandar  
Bellevue 98004

I support the rate renewal

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6/27/2024 12:19:13 PM

Julian Garcia  
Seattle 98102

KCD rocks! Keep the rates & charges coming.

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## 2024-05-16 Rate Renewal Listening Session Feedback

### Attendance

21 Registrants, 10 Participants, 5 KCD Attendees, and 5 Non-KCD Attendees

### Presentation

Presentation ended at 6:25pm

### Feedback

Chad McClung – Trilogy Redmond Ridge Chairman. Priorities are forest health. Formerly citizen advisory committee Kent. Climate Change is front of mind in Redmond due to heat and invasive species.

John Rodgers – No comment, but expressed pleasure in learning more about KCD and our programming.

Marth Christensen – Trilogy. Sent in a public comment in support of KCD.

### Summary

Similar to last year's strategic plan listening sessions, KCD generally hears from people who appreciate our services and encourage us to keep providing our community resources.

## 2024-05-21 Rate Renewal Listening Session Feedback

### Attendance

17 Registrants, 11 Participants, 7 KCD Attendees, 4 Non-KCD Attendees

### Presentation

Presentation ended at 12:25pm

### Feedback

Josh Monaghan – Thanks for the update on KCD's recent accomplishments and sharing this presentation on your upcoming rate renewal. Keep up all this great work!!!

Jennifer Prekeges – Complimented Ashley Allan and the riparian team on their Thornton Creek project at her property. Appears to be holding back the reed canary grass that was taking over her section of stream.

### Summary

Similar to the prior listening sessions, KCD sees a modest sign-up and attendance with typically positive feedback from those that do participate.