

KING COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 8, 2023

The Honorable Dow Constantine
King County Executive
Chinook Building
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, Washington 98104-1818

Dear Executive Constantine,

On behalf of the King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (Committee), enclosed for your review is our annual recommendation report for the allocation of 2023 King County Conservation Futures tax levy (CFT) and King County Parks Levy County open space acquisition funds.

The Committee received requests for \$100 million in funding across 53 projects: 16 projects located within cities and 37 projects located in unincorporated King County. As requested by the Executive Office, the committee has prepared two sets of recommendations: at the status quo 50% match level; and at the reduced 25% match level, should the proposed legislation pass.

At the status quo 50% match level, the Committee recommended \$51.5 million in CFT and \$15.7 million in Parks Levy funding awards. At the reduced 25% match level, the committee recommended \$93.6 million in CFT funding awards; Parks Levy recommendations remain the same.

This year's funding recommendations include a range of projects that help advance Land Conservation Initiative, Local Food Initiative, and Strategic Climate Action Plan goals. Projects range from urban greenspace to rural forests, farmland to trails, opportunity area parks to salmon habitat. The committee was pleased with three exciting new applications from nonprofits focused on farmland access, which all received match waivers. In this fifth year of implementing a match waiver program for opportunity area projects, the Committee recommended funding for seven match waiver projects.

I invite you to see the full report for highlights and detailed descriptions of each of the committee's recommendations for individual projects. Tables on the final pages provide summaries of our funding recommendations. We would like to express appreciation for the hard work of King County Conservation Futures program staff in support of our committee review process. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know and I will be happy to discuss them with you or your staff. I may be reached by e-mail at catherinekilbane@gmail.com.

We would again like to thank you for giving us the chance to contribute to this important work for our region, and for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Catherine Kilbane Gockel, Chair
King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee