

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2008 Special Assessment Program of Work

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to RCW 89.08.400, special assessments to finance the activities of a conservation district may be proposed by a local conservation district and imposed by the legislative authority of the county in which the conservation district operates. The King County Council approved KC Ordinance No. 15661 on December 11, 2006, authorizing a King Conservation District (District) special assessment for three years effective January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009. The rate of this assessment is \$9.98 per parcel plus \$0.01 per parcel for parcels between 1 and 5 acres and \$0.02 per parcel for parcels over 5 acres.

Consistent with the Interlocal Agreement between King County and the District relating to the special assessment authorized by Ordinance No. 15661, the District has developed a 2008 Special Assessment Program of Work (Program of Work), which documents the District plan for expenditure of 2008 special assessment collections. The 2008 Program of Work was developed in collaboration with the District Advisory Committee and was approved by the District Board of Supervisors on July 9, 2007.

The collections received from the calendar year 2008 special assessment will be administered to fund District services and programs for the benefit of lands throughout the boundary of the District pursuant to RCW 89.08.220. District services and programs will focus on four priority areas of work which include *Salmon Recovery, Landowner Assistance & Best Management Practices, Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Economies, and Natural Resources Conditions Monitoring & Evaluation*. District services and programs include supporting partnerships with 35 member jurisdictions and three watershed forums in King County. These partnerships will be supported in part by grants awarded through the District Member Jurisdiction & WRIA Forum Grant Program and through conservation services contracts negotiated on a case by case basis.

All special assessment collections remitted to the District during calendar year 2008 will be utilized consistent with the Program of Work outlined in the following section.

2008 Assessment Program of Work

District Operations, Programs and Services

The Board of Supervisors will guide, oversee, and support the development and delivery of a wide variety of work to be performed by the District pursuant to Chapter 89.08 RCW. The following section broadly outlines activities associated with 4 priority areas of work the District will support with 2008 special assessment collections.

1. Salmon Recovery

The District will provide services and programs to landowners, member jurisdictions, WRIA Forums, and other agencies and organizations on the planning and implementation of practices, projects, and other initiatives that support the recovery of Puget Sound salmon populations. Services, programs and activities related to this *Salmon Recovery* initiative include grants to member jurisdictions and/or their designees and the designees of the three King County Watershed Forums to implement WRIA Forum salmon recovery plan capital projects, regulatory programs, and stewardship and incentive programs; grants to member jurisdictions and/or their designees to implement local jurisdiction priorities; implementation of salmon habitat enhancement projects that are congruent with the WRIA Forum salmon recovery plans; implementation of nearshore and marine riparian enhancement projects on private property; implementation of stormwater management practices; implementation of non-point source pollution reduction practices on urban, suburban, and rural properties; and implementation of other water quality improvement measures.

2. Landowner Assistance & Best Management Practices

The District will provide services and programs to assist agricultural operations as well as other rural, suburban, and urban landowners with the planning and implementation of natural resource conservation practices that protect and enhance water quality, improve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce stormwater runoff, and control noxious weeds. Services, programs and activities related to this *Landowner Assistance & BMP* initiative include planning and implementing farm/agricultural management practices; assisting agricultural operations with improving food and fiber productions; assisting landowners and agricultural operations with meeting local regulations and associated permitting requirements; assisting landowners and agricultural operations referred to the District by local and/or state regulatory authorities; planning and implementing stream and wetland buffer enhancement projects; planning and assisting with the implementation of drainage ditch maintenance projects; and assisting with backyard wildlife habitat enhancement.

3. Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Economies

The District will provide services and programs to enhance the sustainability and economic viability of working farms within the District through direct producer assistance and through partnerships with other organizations and agencies working on sustainable agriculture. Services, programs and activities related to this *Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Economies* initiative include supporting direct marketing of agricultural products through community supported agriculture systems and community farmers markets; supporting the implementation of local bio-diesel projects; implementing innovative nutrient management systems; supporting educational programs such as *The Harvest Celebration* and the *King County Small Farm Expo*; supporting local initiatives through the King County Agricultural Commission, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, Farming and the

Environment and the Cascade Harvest Coalition; and supporting a *Salmon Safe* food labeling program in King County.

4. Natural Resources Conditions Monitoring & Evaluation

The District will provide services and programs to support the development of natural resource monitoring and evaluation projects that improve our collective understanding of trends in natural resource conditions and improve the efficacy and efficiency of meeting the goals and objectives of local natural resource conservation initiatives. Services, programs and activities related to this *Natural Resource Monitoring & Evaluation* initiative include continuing to implement the King Conservation District Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Project and supporting the implementation of other local natural resource conservation assessment and mapping projects that improve modeling of current and future trends in natural resource conditions; and supporting effectiveness evaluations of King County WRIA Forum salmon recovery plans.

Assessment Revenue

Revenue generated from 2008 assessments will be remitted by the King County Assessor to the District after deducting up to 1% for an assessor's fee*. Interest accrued on assessment collections will be utilized by the District to fund District operations.

Estimated 2008 Assessment Collections	\$ 6,067,540.00
Estimated King County Assessor's Fee (1%)	\$ 60,675.40
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Estimated Assessment Collections Remitted to the District	\$ 6,006,864.60
Estimated District Administration Fee (1%)	\$ 60,068.65
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Estimated Amount Available for District Operations, Programs and Services	\$ 5,946,795.95

Assessment Budget

The District will allocate 2008 assessments to fund, as detailed below, all aspects of District operations, programs and services, which include partnerships with member jurisdictions and WRIA Forums, the *Conservation Partnerships Grant Program*, and the KCD-WRIA Opportunity Funds.

WRIA Forum Partnerships

* Pursuant to RCW 89.08.400(4), the assessor's fee shall not exceed the actual cost of spreading and collecting the special assessment.

Estimated allocation (less Assessor & KCD Fee) \$2, 973,398.00

Member Jurisdiction Partnerships

Estimated allocation (less Assessor & KCD Fee) \$1, 189,359.20

Other District Services & Programs

Estimated allocation (less Assessor & plus KCD Fee) \$1, 844,107.45

Assessment Accountability

1. District Services and Programs

The District will file an annual report with the Clerk of the Council describing the services and programs provided by the District. This report will provide information on work associated with all three assessment budget categories described in this document, and will include a summary of services and programs provided by the District and a summary of work supported by grants awarded through the District Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grant Program.

2. Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grants and Inter-Local Contracts

Member jurisdiction and WRIA forum grants will be awarded consistent with policies and procedures established by the District Board of Supervisors. These policies and procedures are detailed in the *Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grant Application Packet* (attached). Grant recipients will submit biannual financial and project progress reports to the District by June 30 and November 30 of each year. This information along with District conducted site visits of grant projects will be the basis of the District's efforts to effectively and efficiently administer the Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grant Program.

3. Reconciliation of District Special Assessment Collections

District special assessment collections allocated for partnership with member jurisdictions and WRIA Forums will be held in restricted accounts and will be reconciled three times per year (by March 31, July 31, and November 30). The first reconciliation will provide estimated assessment collection information for the current calendar year, the second reconciliation will provide assessment collection information on actual receipts for the first half of the current calendar year, and the third reconciliation will provide assessment collection information on additional receipts for the second half of the current calendar year. Reconciled assessment collections allocated for partnerships with member jurisdictions and WRIA Forums will be transmitted to the appropriate contacts and leadership of those entities.