



King County

Department of Local Services

John Taylor, *Director*

KSC-LS-0815

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<https://kingcounty.gov/localservices>

April 12, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

Ordinance 19550 calls on the Executive, in collaboration with the Council, to develop a winery, brewery, distillery environmental evaluation report by June 1, 2023. The Ordinance specifies the criteria of the report, including "...impacts of lot line setbacks, impervious area limits, surface water management related to the operation, function and events associated with winery, brewery, and distillery facilities." The Ordinance further requires a qualitative analysis of the likely impacts of winery, brewery, and distillery uses on the County's obligation to protect threatened and endangered salmonid species.

In testimony provided by Department of Local Services Permitting Director Jim Chan at the King County Council's meeting on June 14, 2022, it was stated the science and data for such a report does not exist. Notably, King County Code standards for critical area buffer widths, setbacks, impact mitigations, and allowed alterations are based on use categories such as residential, commercial, industrial, etc., and not a specific use like winery, brewery, and distillery facilities. At the same June 14, 2022 meeting, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks provided testimony that uses such as winery, brewery, and distillery facilities would not impact the County's efforts to protect threatened and endangered salmonid species. A copy of that determination is enclosed.

While we appreciate the Council's interest in identifying these potential impacts, the Department of Local Services has neither the capacity nor resources to produce the science to generate an environmental evaluation report as called for by Ordinance 19550. Consequently, we are unable to provide the report.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

April 12, 2023

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jim Chan at (206) 477-0385 or jim.chan@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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John Taylor, Director

Department of Local Services

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Jim Chan, Director, Permitting Division, Department of Local Services