



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 11, 2007**

**Motion 12645**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0622.3

**Sponsors** Phillips and Lambert

1                   A MOTION requiring development of procedural and design  
2                   standards addressing public safety and health concerns in the  
3                   placement of large woody debris in the waterways of the  
4                   county.

5  
6                   WHEREAS, regional efforts to control flooding and to develop habitat for  
7                   waterborne species have involved the placement of large woody debris in the waterways  
8                   of the region, and

9                   WHEREAS, while the placement of large woody debris has been undertaken in  
10                  support of important and appropriate regional values, the waterways of the region are also  
11                  used extensively and increasingly for boating and other water-oriented recreation, and

12                  WHEREAS, much of such water use involves untrained and casual water  
13                  recreationists of all ages, utilizing a wide variety of floatation devices, who may not be  
14                  aware of, or prepared to respond to, potential hazards associated with large woody debris  
15                  placements, and

16 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to consider, in the placement of such large woody  
17 debris, the need to minimize the likelihood of accidental encounter by recreational  
18 boaters and other recreational water users, with potential public safety implications, and

19 WHEREAS, with the implementation of the Flood Hazard Management Plan, and  
20 the approval of revenues to support the plan, the region might see an increase in the  
21 numbers of river structure rehabilitation projects that might include placement of such  
22 woody debris, and

23 WHEREAS, continuing regional efforts to encourage the enhancement of  
24 fisheries habitat, might additionally result in such woody debris placement, and

25 WHEREAS, these developments create a context appropriate for a more clear,  
26 transparent and accessible procedural approach towards large woody debris placement,  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the council may want to retain the option to adopt standards in  
29 county code, or to seek their adoption as rules;

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

31 A. The water and land resources division of the department of natural resources  
32 and parks be directed to develop proposed procedural and design standards regarding  
33 placement of large woody debris, which standards should give full consideration to  
34 impacts to public safety and health, and to minimizing hazards to recreational water  
35 users;

36 B. The procedural and design standards, at a minimum, should address:

37 1. How such woody debris can be placed so as to minimize hazards to  
38 recreational water users;

39           2. Avoiding placement of such woody debris in narrow channels or canyons  
40 where opportunity for egress by recreational water users is limited;

41           3. Minimizing the chances that recreational water users may be swept into  
42 overhanging roots or limbs of woody debris;

43           4. Minimizing the opportunity for entrapment of recreational water users in  
44 large woody debris, through entanglement of arms or legs, or through the action of the  
45 debris as a sieve against which a water user can be caught;

46           5. Minimizing placement of such woody debris where the action of the water  
47 current may push a water recreationist into the debris, such as on the outside edge of a  
48 bend in a river; and

49           6. How interested recreational water safety groups can be involved in  
50 commenting upon division plans for projects involving the placement of such woody  
51 debris;

52           C. A draft version of proposed procedural and design standards will be prepared  
53 and presented to the growth management and natural resources committee, or its  
54 successor, by March 1, 2008; and

55           D. The water and land resources division of the department of natural resources  
56 and parks will prepare a summary, to the level of its current understanding, of:

57           1. An inventory of the groups, persons, agencies or interests involved in the  
58 placement of large woody debris in the waterways within King County; and

59           2. A description of the permitting, procedural or regulatory requirements those  
60 entities must meet in placement of large woody debris.

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Motion 12645 was introduced on 11/19/2007 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/10/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Phillips

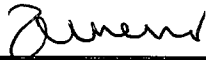
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Excused: 2 - Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments      None