



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

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January 26, 2009

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

Dear Councilmember Constantine:

This letter transmits the final report of the Parks Levy Citizen Oversight Board with respect to the 2004 – 2007 Parks Levy proceeds. Highlights of the report include the following:

1. That the Parks and Recreation Division is in compliance with the requirements of the Levy Ordinance;
2. That the Parks and Recreation Division is to be commended on its continued exceptional accomplishments in generating revenue through entrepreneurial activity;
3. That the Board is impressed with the transparency with which the Division operates; and
4. That the Board is pleased to learn that the Division has significantly expanded efforts to remove noxious weeds from county parks in 2008.

Ordinance 14586 authorized submittal of the 4-year, 4.9 cent parks operation and maintenance levy (the "Parks Levy") to King County voters at a special election held May 20, 2003. Section 5 of that Ordinance provided in pertinent part as follows:

"...all levy proceeds shall be used to pay the costs associated with: the continued and increased operation and maintenance of King County's regional and rural parks; and up to three hundred thousand dollars of annual funding for recreation grant programs. Eligible expenditures shall include all costs and charges to the parks and recreation division or the county associated with or attributable to the purposes listed in this section."

Ordinance 14586 and Ordinance 15465 further provided for the creation of the Parks Levy Citizen Oversight Board ("Citizen Oversight Board"), whose mission was to "review and report to the King County Executive and the King County Council on the Parks and Recreation

The Honorable Dow Constantine

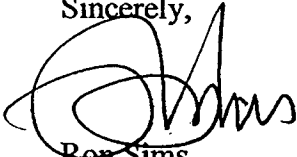
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Division's expenditure of levy proceeds." Membership of this committee consisted of one representative for each of the nine council districts, and was confirmed by action of the County Council.

The attached report from the Citizen Oversight Board outlines its findings. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kevin Brown, Director of the Parks and Recreation Division in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-296-8631.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Tom Bristow, Interim Chief of Staff

Saroja Reddy, Policy Staff Director

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Frank Abe, Communications Director

Bob Cowan, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Theresa Jennings, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Kevin Brown, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP