



**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

ATTACHMENT 1  
1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Ordinance**

**Proposed No.** 2023-0053.1

**Sponsors** McDermott and Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE related to environment, health, climate  
2 and community impacts of activities at King County  
3 International Airport/Boeing Field; amending Ordinance  
4 12785, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 15.94.010 and  
5 Ordinance 12785, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C.  
6 15.94.030, adding new sections to K.C.C. chapter 15.08  
7 and adding new sections to K.C.C. chapter 15.94.

8 **PREAMBLE:**

9 King County International Airport ("the airport") was established when  
10 voters approved its initial funding in 1928.

11 The airport sits within the Duwamish valley and runs parallel to the  
12 Duwamish river. It is located mostly within the city of Seattle with the  
13 northern boundary just south of Seattle's Georgetown neighborhood and  
14 the airport's southern tip extending into the city of Tukwila.

15 The majority of residents in communities adjacent to the airport are people  
16 of color and people with low incomes. Of the 5,600 residents who live in  
17 South Park and Georgetown, 70 percent are people of color, 42 percent are  
18 foreign-born and 71 percent have an income 200 percent below the federal  
19 poverty line.

20 There are 12 playgrounds and play fields, 21 parks, 31 schools and 61  
21 places of worship within two miles of the airport.

22 The 2013 Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis published by Just Health  
23 Action and the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory  
24 Group characterizes the disproportionate exposure to air pollution, lack of  
25 greenspace, and high poverty rates contributing to life expectancy in South  
26 Park and Georgetown that is 13 years lower than wealthier communities in  
27 Seattle.

28 Residents of communities affected by the airport operations and business  
29 interests dependent on the airport have repeatedly expressed concerns  
30 about airport noise and environmental health impacts.

31 King County is committed to creating economic opportunity for all,  
32 stewarding our environment responsibly, partnering with communities,  
33 centering equity and social justice and being transparent and accountable.

34 King County has historic involvement in the Duwamish valley through the  
35 superfund cleanup and remediation as part of the Lower Duwamish  
36 Waterway Group along with the city of Seattle, Port of Seattle, and  
37 Boeing. The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group has collectively invested  
38 approximately 50,000,000 dollars in investigating contamination in the  
39 lower Duwamish waterway, developed approaches for cleanup of the  
40 waterway and means to prevent recontamination through source control.

41 On October 20, 2010, Ordinance 16948, also referred to as the "Equity and  
42 Social Justice Ordinance," was enacted, establishing equity and social

43 justice from an initiative to an integrated effort that intentionally applies  
44 the countywide strategic plan's principle of "fair and just" in all the county  
45 does in order to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and  
46 communities.

47 On July 24, 2020, with Motion 15655, the King County council declared  
48 racism a public health crisis and affirmed its commitment to maintain and  
49 incorporate into its work a public health approach to addressing  
50 institutional and system racism across King County government, and to  
51 rectify historic and current day trauma and disproportionality. The council  
52 also recognized that eliminating racist policies and practices and the  
53 conditions that result in disparate access to resources and opportunities  
54 based on race requires engaging and being responsive to communities and  
55 residents impacted by racism, especially Black and Indigenous  
56 communities, as partners in identifying and implementing antiracist  
57 solutions, policies and practices. The council committed to using its  
58 authority to enact antiracist policies and practices that will meet human  
59 needs, promote healthy and strong communities, reduce structural  
60 inequities and advance equity and justice by eliminating policies and  
61 practices designed to oppress marginalized people.

62 On May 4, 2021, with Motion 15866, the King County council recognized  
63 that the impacts of a changing climate do not affect all King County  
64 residents in the same way. Climate change is a threat multiplier and its  
65 impacts can magnify existing health issues and limited access to resources

66 that are already experienced disproportionately by Black, Indigenous and  
67 People of Color.

68 Consistent with its equity and social justice strategic plan and commitment  
69 to environmental justice called for in Ordinance 19041, King County is  
70 committed to strengthening engagement with communities facing the  
71 greatest impacts from climate change and create opportunities for shared  
72 leadership and decision-making to develop solutions and prioritize  
73 investments. The airport served as Seattle's passenger airport until it was  
74 condemned by the United States in 1941 and dedicated to aircraft  
75 production during World War II. The United States transferred the airport  
76 back to the county in 1948 through an Instrument of Transfer, which  
77 contained certain obligations and restrictions regarding the use of the  
78 airport real property.

79 The airport is one of the nation's busiest primary nonhub airports. The  
80 airport averages 180,000 takeoffs and landings each year, with an  
81 economic impact of over 5,000,000,000 dollars in our regional economy  
82 through labor income, business revenues and value added to the gross state  
83 and regional product.

84 As the sponsoring agency for the airport, the county has sought grant  
85 funding from the Federal Aviation Administration for, among other things,  
86 capital projects and planning. In consideration of the receipt of federal  
87 grant funding, the county assumed certain contractual obligations known  
88 as grant assurances. The grant assurances require the county to adhere to

89 federal regulations, administered by the Federal Aviation Administration,  
90 in operating the airport. Those regulations include restrictions on the use  
91 of airport revenue.

92 King County council believes it is imperative to understand the role that  
93 the airport plays in the region and how airport operations impact airport-  
94 adjacent communities. The county council is committed to working with  
95 airport-adjacent communities to address these impacts.

96 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

97 NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 15.08 a  
98 new section to read as follows:

99 "Federal obligations" means federal statutes and regulations pertaining to the  
100 ownership and operation of the airport, grant agreements between the county and the  
101 Federal Aviation Administration, including, but not limited to, the Airport Improvement  
102 Program as authorized by the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, as amended,  
103 codified as 49 U.S.C. § 47101 et seq, as amended, and the terms, conditions, reservations  
104 and restrictions prescribed in the Instrument of Transfer, dated May 26, 1948, between  
105 the United States of America and King County, as authorized by the Surplus Property Act  
106 of 1944 (58 Stat.765), codified as 49 U.S.C. §§ 47151-47153, as amended.

107 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 15.08 a  
108 new section to read as follows:

109 "Overburdened communities" means geographic areas where vulnerable  
110 populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts, and  
111 includes, but is not limited to, highly impacted communities as defined in RCW

112 19.405.020.

113 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 15.08 a  
114 new section to read as follows:

115 "Vulnerable populations" means population groups that are racial or ethnic  
116 minorities, low-income, disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and  
117 population groups likely to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes in response to  
118 environmental harms due to:

119 A. Adverse socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, high housing and  
120 transportation costs relative to income, limited access to nutritious food and adequate  
121 health care, linguistic isolation and other factors that negatively affect health outcomes  
122 and increase vulnerability to the effects of environmental harms; and

123 B. Sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of  
124 hospitalization.

125 SECTION 4. Ordinance 12785, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 15.94.010 are  
126 hereby amended to read as follows:

127 The King County Airport roundtable ((~~()~~), which, for the purposes of this chapter,  
128 is also known as "the roundtable"((~~+~~))<sub>1</sub>, is hereby established. It shall be comprised of  
129 ((~~sixteen~~)) eighteen regular voting members representing the following interests:  
130 ((~~eight~~)) ten representatives of communities directly affected by the airport, including one  
131 each from Georgetown, Magnolia or North Seattle, Tukwila, Renton/Kent/South King  
132 County, ((~~Beacon Hill/Rainier Valley~~)) Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley, West Seattle,  
133 unincorporated King County, South Park and one at-large; four airport tenant  
134 representatives, one each from a cargo operator or scheduled air carrier, small general

135 aviation and corporate tenants and one from Boeing; one representative from a pilots'  
136 association; one representative from a commercial enterprise (~~(which)~~) that is an off-site  
137 user or an off-site provider of airport-related services; and two labor representatives. In  
138 addition, the Federal Aviation Administration may designate one ex officio nonvoting  
139 member.

140 SECTION 5. Ordinance 12785, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 15.94.030 are  
141 hereby amended to read as follows:

142 A. Except for the ten representatives of communities directly affected by the  
143 airport, (~~(R)~~)regular members, as defined in K.C.C. 15.94.010, shall be appointed by the  
144 county executive subject to confirmation by the county council. The executive may  
145 appoint nonvoting ex officio members who shall serve at the executive's discretion.

146 B. The ten representatives of communities directly affected by the airport shall be  
147 nominated for appointment by the members of the county council and approved by  
148 motion of the county council and may be reappointed by the members of the county  
149 council to serve up to two full consecutive terms, subject to approval by motion of the  
150 county council.

151 C. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (~~(C)~~) B. of this section, members  
152 may be reappointed by the executive to serve up to two full consecutive terms, subject to  
153 confirmation by the council.

154 (~~(C)~~) D. Representatives of Boeing and labor are exempt from term limits.

155 (~~(D)~~) E. Members shall serve a term of three years or until their successor is  
156 appointed and confirmed as provided in this chapter. The terms of office shall be  
157 staggered consistent with K.C.C. chapter 2.28.

158           (~~E.~~) F. A vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term of the vacant  
159 position in the manner described in the initial appointment.

160           (~~F.~~) G. A majority of the committee shall elect one of its members as chair.  
161 The term of the chair shall be for one year and the chair shall not serve more than two  
162 consecutive terms as chair.

163           NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 15.94 a  
164 new section to read as follows:

165           The roundtable community advisory subcommittee is hereby established. It shall  
166 be comprised of the representatives of Georgetown, Tukwila, Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley  
167 and South Park, as designated as representatives of communities directly affected by the  
168 airport under K.C.C. 15.94.010, and up to five additional representatives recommended  
169 by the subcommittee to the county council for appointment in the manner outlined in  
170 subsection B. of K.C.C. 15.94.030. Candidates recommended by the subcommittee shall  
171 represent overburdened communities and vulnerable populations that are  
172 disproportionately impacted by activities at the airport and representatives from  
173 community-based organizations that serve residents of airport-adjacent Duwamish valley  
174 neighborhoods, including, but not limited to, Georgetown, South Park, Tukwila-  
175 Allentown and Beacon Hill, as well as representatives from climate and other  
176 organizations.

177           NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 15.94 a  
178 new section to read as follows:

179           A. The roundtable community advisory subcommittee shall advise and make  
180 recommendations to the airport management, county executive and county council ways



181 to strengthen the community-airport relationship, improve environmental health of highly  
182 impacted residents and livability of highly impacted neighborhoods and to increase  
183 access to workforce and economic development opportunities for residents of airport-  
184 adjacent Duwamish valley neighborhoods, including, but not limited to, Georgetown,  
185 South Park, Tukwila-Allentown and Beacon Hill communities. The subcommittee's  
186 duties shall include, but not be limited to: providing input on the airport's draft reports,  
187 including the studies required in section 12 of this ordinance; review and provide input on  
188 the airport's budget; advise on airport-related community engagement plans; and assisting  
189 with development of major airport plans, such as the airport master plan, to ensure the  
190 airport's consideration of adjacent overburdened communities and vulnerable  
191 populations. When transmitting a budget, plan or policy proposal to the King County  
192 council, the airport and county executive shall include a record of the subcommittee's  
193 feedback and recommendations. The subcommittee may present its recommendations  
194 directly to the executive or council.

195         B. The county, airport and subcommittee shall cocreate and maintain a  
196 community benefits agreement addressing the environmental, climate, health, economic  
197 and livability concerns of residents and workers in airport-adjacent Duwamish valley  
198 neighborhoods, including, but not limited to Georgetown, South Park, Tukwila-  
199 Allentown and Beacon Hill communities. The policy directives and actions outlined in  
200 the agreement shall strive to address the concerns of overburdened communities and  
201 vulnerable populations, especially residents and workers of color, immigrants, refugees,  
202 Native Americans, people with low incomes, people experiencing houselessness, youth,  
203 LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, and

204 women- and people of color-owned businesses and organizations. The agreement shall  
205 be transmitted for approval by motion of the King County council by December 31, 2024.

206 The agreement shall include the following:

207           1. A policy directive establishing scope, responsibilities, guiding principles,  
208 shared goals, a list of immediate and future actionable items, a strategy and timeline to  
209 accomplish goals and auditable reporting standards;

210           2. A sample work plan. Potential work plan items include may include, but not  
211 be limited to: ways to improve targeted local hire recruitment and targeted selection of  
212 Black, Indigenous and People of Color, immigrant and refugee, and LGBTQ  
213 communities for airport training apprenticeships, jobs, and contracts; an environmental,  
214 health and spill and incident prevention and mitigation plan for communities near the fuel  
215 storage farm; a written community engagement and consultation plan for proposed  
216 changes to Perimeter Road; ways in which the airport can engage with the community to  
217 provide cost-free event space for uses including meetings and engagement with city of  
218 Seattle, county and regional agencies; a list of green canopy options, with an emphasis on  
219 species native to the Duwamish river valley, or landscape options to address heat, air  
220 quality and noise concerns; community engagement guidelines related to airport  
221 assessment of a property acquisition; a study that defines opportunities within the  
222 county's legal authority to prevent and address displacement; and ways in which the  
223 airport can engage with community on emergency planning; and

224           3. A sample evaluation plan to determine whether the airport is meeting  
225 benchmarks and metrics related to goals in the sample work plan.

226           C. If approved by a majority of subcommittee members, the subcommittee may

227 appoint, and the county executive may hire, a third party to facilitate discussion between  
228 the county and the subcommittee.

229 D. If approved by a majority of subcommittee members, and in consultation with  
230 county representatives, the subcommittee may engage a liaison from the Federal Aviation  
231 Administration.

232 E. The subcommittee shall submit a report to the county council, no later than  
233 December 31 of each calendar year, that describes the activities, work and progress  
234 related to the duties outlined in subsection B. of this section.

235 F. The incorporation of county policies shall be in compliance with federal  
236 obligations.

237 NEW SECTION. SECTION 8. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 15.94 a  
238 new section to read as follows:

239 A. The county executive shall designate county representatives who shall  
240 participate in meetings of the roundtable community advisory subcommittee and provide  
241 policy support where needed. The county representatives shall be employees from the  
242 following agencies: the airport, office of equity and social justice, the Public Health  
243 Seattle-King County Climate Health Action Team, and county staff for the Climate  
244 Equity Community Task Force. An additional county representative shall be the  
245 councilmember representing the council district where the airport is located, or their  
246 representative. Representatives from relevant jurisdictions' Emergency Management  
247 departments or offices should be invited to participate.

248 B. Administrative support shall be provided as outlined in K.C.C. 15.94.040.

249 NEW SECTION. SECTION 9. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 15.94 a

250 new section to read as follows:

251           In accordance with K.C.C. 2.28.006, excepting advisory members, members of  
252 the subcommittee who are neither employees of King County nor employees of other  
253 municipal governments shall receive compensation of one hundred fifty dollars per  
254 meeting of the subcommittee. The maximum annual compensation that a subcommittee  
255 member may receive is two thousand five hundred dollars. The purpose of the  
256 compensation is to compensate those nongovernmental employees for their experience  
257 and expertise contribution to the subcommittee. Compensation may be adjusted based on  
258 future policies adopted by the county.

259           SECTION 10. Section 11 of this ordinance should constitute a new chapter in  
260 K.C.C. title 15.

261           NEW SECTION. SECTION 11. There is hereby added to the new chapter  
262 created in section 10 of this ordinance a new section to read as follows:

263           A. The airport shall incorporate into the airport master plan, capital program,  
264 budget, operations and environmental programs the applicable provisions of the policies  
265 in the following county documents and programs: Equity and Social Justice Strategic  
266 Plan; Strategic Climate Action Plan; King County Countywide Planning Policies; Real  
267 Property Asset Management Plan; Clean Water, Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan, Carbon  
268 Neutral Implementation Plan; King County Operational Cost of Carbon Report; and King  
269 County Priority Hire Program.

270           B. The airport shall consider the applicability of incorporating into the airport  
271 master plan, capital program, budget, operations and environmental programs the  
272 following county initiatives and programs: racism as a public health crisis, zero emission

273 fleet, urban heat island mitigation and one million trees.

274 C. The incorporation of county policies shall be in compliance with federal  
275 obligations.

276 SECTION 12. Section 13 of this ordinance should constitute a new chapter in  
277 K.C.C. title 15.

278 NEW SECTION. SECTION 13. There is hereby added to the new chapter  
279 created in section 12 of this ordinance a new section to read as follows:

280 A. The airport shall conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment  
281 of all aeronautical, land transportation and airport activities at the airport. The  
282 assessment shall at least include the environmental and cumulative impacts of airport  
283 infrastructure, ground traffic, deicing products, aircraft refueling, fuel storage, aircraft  
284 movement and waste produced by maintenance of the airport and facilities. For the  
285 purposes of this section, "environmental and cumulative impacts" means impacts to waste  
286 output, climate, noise, landscape, water quality, air quality, biodiversity and public  
287 health. The assessment shall also include a race, social and economic equity analysis to  
288 inform and support the consideration of overburdened communities and vulnerable  
289 populations when making decisions. The airport shall update the assessment every ten  
290 years.

291 B. Beginning March 1, 2022, the airport shall conduct studies related to the  
292 following:

293 1. Public health outcomes related to air, noise and heat emissions and ultrafine  
294 particles resulting from airport activities and strategies to reduce and mitigate those  
295 outcomes;

296           2. Measurement, reduction and mitigation of airport noise. The airport may use  
297 procedures in the federal Airport Noise Compatibility Planning Program, also known as  
298 the Part 150 Program, or any other procedure or method authorized by the Federal  
299 Aviation Administration;

300           3. Measurement, reduction and mitigation of emissions including, but not  
301 limited to, greenhouse gasses, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter, ultrafine particles,  
302 black carbon, fuel burn and carbon dioxide related to activity of the airport. To ensure  
303 best practices for measurement methodologies, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
304 and mitigation strategies, the airport shall adhere to recommendations adopted by the  
305 county council from the joint aircraft emission technical and community task force. The  
306 airport shall also work to achieve any county council adopted emissions reduction targets.  
307 The airport shall collaborate with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the University of  
308 Washington or another institution chosen in consultation with the roundtable community  
309 advisory subcommittee established in section 6 of this ordinance to conduct that work;  
310 and

311           4. Measurement, reduction and mitigation of increases in thermal air created by  
312 airport operations.

313           C. The airport shall update the studies required in subsection B. of this section  
314 every five years.

315           D. The airport shall transmit each study required in subsection B. of this section  
316 and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of each study to the King County council.  
317 Each study shall also be made accessible on the airport's website and distributed to  
318 members of the airport round table and the roundtable community advisory subcommittee

319 established in section 6 of this ordinance.

320 E. The airport shall engage with regional climate partners as described in the

321 King County 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan, section GHG 1.1.4.

322 F. The incorporation of the aforementioned county policies shall be in  
323 compliance with federal obligations.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None