

**King County****Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

May 19, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am pleased to transmit to you a proposed Ordinance that, if approved, would place a property tax levy to restore King County's Conservation Futures levy funding on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot. This proposition seeks approval by King County voters for lifting the Conservation Futures levy from \$0.0312 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation to \$0.0625, for collection in 2023. Voter approval of the proposed ballot measure will pay for the acquisition and preservation of urban green spaces, natural areas, wildlife and salmon habitat, trails, river corridors, and farmlands and forests, and provide funding for Conservation Futures Advisory Committee recommendations.

King County's long legacy of preserving natural lands has made our county one of the most livable areas in the country. King County is a sought-after place to live, work, and do business. Preserving natural lands supports wildlife, provides clean air, protects clean water, improves health, and promotes climate resilience. Protecting farmlands promotes sustainable local agriculture and a thriving agricultural economy. Conserving forests protects wildlife, enhances water quality, and promotes a sustainable local timber industry. Protecting river corridors provides salmon habitat, flood protection, and promotes the health of Puget Sound. Creating and preserving trail corridors provides access to recreation opportunities, increases non-motorized mobility, and improves air quality. Finding and preserving urban green spaces protects key lands in population centers to enhance public health and well-being and build community.

As our region continues to grow rapidly and real estate becomes more expensive, this proposed Ordinance will accelerate the pace of acquisitions, thereby reducing their ultimate cost and ensuring these lands are not lost forever. The estimated financial impact to the average homeowner in King County is approximately an additional \$22 per year.

This proposed Ordinance furthers the King County Strategic Plan health and human services goal to improve the health and well-being of people in our community by protecting clean water, improving air quality, and creating recreational opportunities. It aligns with the King

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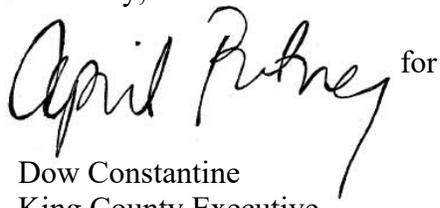
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County Equity and Social Justice Initiative and the County's pro-equity policy agenda through supporting food systems, parks and natural resources, and community economic development. This proposed legislation also supports the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of protecting agriculture and forest lands by creating the ability to acquire and protect more agriculture and forest lands.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will be an invaluable investment for all residents of King County.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Mo McBroom, Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4520.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Mo McBroom, Deputy Director, DNRP