



King County
Noxious Weed Control Board

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 500
 Seattle, WA 98104-3855
 206-477 9333

Mr Josh Baldi
 Manager, Water and Land Division, DNRP
 201 S Jackson Ave, Suite 500
 Seattle, WA 98104

Feb 4, 2022

Dear Mr Baldi,

On behalf of the King County Noxious Weed Control Board and pursuant to RCW 17.10 240, I request that you incorporate an increase in the noxious weed parcel assessment into Departmental and Executive proposals for the 2023/24 King County biennial budget. We recommend that this increase be set at a level to account for anticipated inflationary effects and other anticipated increased costs for another four years.

The Noxious Weed Program is essential for the effective implementation of key components of the King County Clean Water and Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan, in particular its Healthy Forests and more Green Space goals and the successful implementation of the Land Conservation Initiative. The program has also been a leader of the implementation of best practice performance management and customer service initiatives in the County, and the premier model for other WA County Noxious Weed Programs.

The last noxious weed assessment increase (in 2018) was determined using a 4-year planning horizon. I am advised by program staff that the program financial plan shows that the program's fund balance is projected to approach its target minimum in 2023 and become negative in 2024. Consequently, I strongly believe that the 2023/24 budget is the right time for the next parcel assessment increase. This position was discussed and unanimously recommended at the Noxious Weed Board Meeting on January 26, 2022. It was agreed to recommend a parcel assessment increase sufficient to 1) stabilize the program fund balance; 2) allow for anticipated inflation-based program cost increases over the next five-year period, and 3) consider new initiatives designed to enhance the implementation of the Clean Water Healthy Habitat Initiative.

I understand that this request will require further discussion with yourself, Executive and Departmental staff, and Council as appropriate as part of the 2023/24 biennium budget development process. Please contact Steve Burke, program manager if you require further information supporting this recommendation.

Thank you for your impressive work to date and continuing support for the expansion and maintenance of healthy and accessible open space lands for the benefit of all residents of King County.

Sincerely,

Grace Stiller

Grace Stiller, Chair
 King County Noxious Weed Control Board

cc: Eldon James, Rebecca Chaney, John Browne, Alaine Sommargren (Board Members),
 Steven Burke