



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

November 14, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would amend Ordinance 14214, Section 8 and King County Code 9.14.070 to extend the expiration date of the Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Committee (VMIGPC) from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2027; support expanded diversity of committee members; and update a provision related to inviting participation by the Puyallup Tribe.

The VMIGPC provides support and direction for environmental outreach and education programs on Vashon Island. The committee implements the Rural Economic Strategies Plan and its work impacts unincorporated area residents, businesses, and agriculture on Vashon-Maury Island which all rely on groundwater for their water supply. The VMIGPC is charged with reviewing county plans and policies as well as providing education and outreach to protect these water resources in perpetuity. Annually, the VMIGPC reviews monitoring data and looks for areas of concern to address in the following year.

Passage of this proposed legislation would allow the VMIGPC to continue its educational, monitoring and pollution prevention efforts to help protect water resources on Vashon-Maury Island. The proposed legislation will support county efforts to recruit community representatives that reflect the diversity of the community and community interests.

The proposed Ordinance addresses the King County Strategic Plan healthy environment goal by extending and strengthening the role of the VMIGPC in protecting and sustaining critical groundwater sources for people, businesses, plants, and wildlife. It also supports the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative goal of investing in community-based partnerships that will inform the County's decision making and foster full and equitable civic participation by community members to provide input, oversight and direction to monitor and protect Vashon's water resources. In addition, the proposed legislation enhances the Strategic Climate Action Plan focus area of sustainable and resilient frontline communities by extending VMIGPC's water resource monitoring and outreach programs and role in recommending funding for water quality monitoring programs. The proposed legislation also supports King

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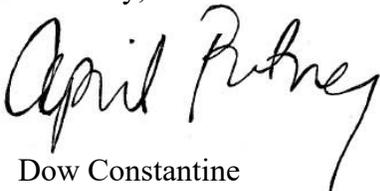
County's efforts to recruit and diversify the committee by broadening the potential representation of some positions to include more community members. Current committee members would continue until expiration of their terms; recruitment under the new position descriptions would occur once a position is vacated.

In developing the proposed legislation, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks sought and incorporated input from the VMIGPC which supports the proposed legislation. The fiscal impact of the proposed Ordinance is minimal, and no budget action is needed for implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance, which will help residents of Vashon-Maury Island have access to a clean reliable drinking water supply and a healthy environment.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director of the Water and Land Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

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)

Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP