



King County

**Memorandum
Metropolitan King County Council**

TO: Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee Members

From: Erin Auzins, Council Staff

RE: Proposed Ordinance 2013-0408, Rural Economic Strategies – Amendment 1.A

Amendment 1.A to Proposed Ordinance 2013-0408 would amend Amendment 1, and make changes to the attachment to the Ordinance.

Changes to the Ordinance:

None.

Proposed Changes to the Attachment

Changes to Attachment A, the RES plan, would include:

Introduction

1. Adding language to introduction – King County as local government provider

Mission

2. Adding language to Mission – "and lifestyle"

Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Goals

3. New Rural Economic Strategy Goal #5 – Identify roadway and other infrastructure needs

Foundation Strategies

4. Adding language to Foundation Strategy A – policy for local government impact statement
5. Adding language to Foundation Strategy B – partner with Rural Cities, remove "traditional"
6. Adding language to Foundation Strategy C – add "the" to rural residents, and Rural Cities
7. Removing language from Foundation Strategy D – remove "compatible"
8. Adding language to Foundation Strategy F – add home based businesses

Agriculture Strategies

9. Adding language to Agriculture Strategy #3 – review and update value-added goods regulations
10. Adding language to Agriculture Strategy #5 – preserve opportunity for farming
11. Adding language to Agriculture Strategy #6 – farming in rural area outside of Rural Cities
12. Adding language to Agriculture Strategy #11 – locate CSA drop offs in Rural Cities too

13. Adding language to Agriculture Strategy #12 – "consider funding" rather than Fund, and add "sustainability"
14. New Agriculture Strategy #14 – partner with King Conservation District and like organizations on technical assistance for conservation of agricultural lands
15. New Agriculture Strategy #15 – support programs targeted to operations and maintenance – such as barn again, mentoring, sub-leasing programs
16. New Agriculture Strategy #16 – encourage growing food and crops on most fertile land

Equestrian Strategies

17. Adding language to Equestrian Strategy #3 – add "where consistent with County policies"
18. Adding language to Equestrian Strategy #4 – change "needed" to "associated"

Home-Based Business Strategies

19. New Home-Based Business Strategy #4 – support information technology related home businesses and data infrastructure.

Recreation and Tourism Strategies

20. Adding language to Recreation and Tourism Strategy #2 – add example of local wine industry
21. Adding language to Recreation and Tourism Strategy #3 – safety considerations during harvest
22. Adding language to Recreation and Tourism Strategy #4 – add consistency with County's policies

Commercial and Industrial Strategies

23. Removing language in Commercial and Industrial Strategy #1 – remove "limited"
24. Adding language to Commercial and Industrial Strategy #5 – only current projects of statewide significance
25. New Commercial and Industrial Strategy #6 – support information technology related businesses

Rural Cities Strategies

26. Adding language to Rural Cities overall – Rural Cities as providers of urban services for surrounding rural area
27. Adding language to Rural Cities Strategy #1 – add "County plans, policies", add more general "rural city economic development", add "goods"
28. Adding language to Rural Cities Strategy #2 – add more general "Rural Cities" rather than businesses within UGA
29. Adding language to Rural Cities Strategy #3 – remove reference to small cities and remove "regional"

Attachments:

1. Strikethrough version of Attachment A
2. Amendment 1.A, with Attachment

Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Plan Update 2013

King County is the local government provider for people who live and work in the rural area, committed to providing and improving economic opportunities in this area. The County is updating the Rural Economic Strategies (RES) to meet both evolving economic conditions and to ensure implementation of policies relating to the rural economy within the 2012 King County Comprehensive Plan update. This RES update was directed by Ordinance 17485, which adopted the 2012 Comprehensive Plan update. This document is organized by the overall mission and goals of the RES, overarching foundational strategies, and a series of specific strategies that cover clusters of the rural economy identified in Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mission: Sustain and enhance the long-term economic viability of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands consistent with the unique character and lifestyle of rural King County.

Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Goals:

1. Implement the intent and policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan and the objectives of the King County Strategic Plan Economic Growth and Built Environment Goal to support a sustainable and vibrant rural economy, within existing resources.
2. Support the diversity and richness of the rural economy by effectively engaging farmers, foresters, rural business owners, rural communities, and rural related organizations in an on-going dialogue.
3. Advocate for and partner with projects and programs that promote the economic viability of existing and start-up businesses in the Rural Economic Clusters: Agriculture, Forestry, Equestrian, Home-Based Business, Tourism/Recreation, and Rural Commercial Neighborhood Centers/Rural Towns/Rural Cities.
4. Promote opportunities for rural residents to both live and work in the rural area and on natural resource lands.
5. Identify roadway and other technology infrastructure needs that support the rural economic strategies.

Foundation Strategies:

- A. County Department Application: County Departments recognize the importance of sustaining the rural economy and consider the applicable Rural Economic Strategies during development and implementation of their respective strategic plans and programs. Develop a policy for a local government impact statement as part of County Department plans and programs.
- B. Policy and Regulatory Support: County policy, regulations and programs should be reviewed and developed in partnership with appropriate community stakeholders, including Rural Cities, to support the preservation and enhancement of traditional rural economic activities and lifestyles, while supporting evolving compatible commercial uses and job opportunities.
- C. Communication: Solicit input, exchange ideas, inform and facilitate dialogue to address solutions to identified issues between the rural residents, rural business owners, Rural

Cities, organizations and the county. Coordinate evaluation of and updates to the RES with the Community Service Areas Work Plans.

- D. Partnerships: Participate and/or support collaborations that encourage economic development in rural areas of the County and the Puget Sound Region.
- E. Business and Technical Assistance: Partner with professional organizations and provide referrals to rural businesses regarding business and technical assistance, resources, training, and networking opportunities.
- F. Incentives: Identify and inform the public about grants, low-interest loans, tax, and other incentives that encourage agriculture, forest-based, home-based businesses, historic property redevelopment, and other rural business development consistent with ecological values and rural character.
- G. Performance Management: Identify and track rural indicators and trends to help direct policies, the rural economic strategies, and actions related to the rural economy.

Rural Economic Clusters Strategies

Agriculture: Strengthen and enhance the agricultural cluster-raising of crops and livestock and production of value-added goods in both the Rural Area and the Agriculture Production Districts.

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support agriculture and its infrastructure.
2. Assist implementation of the Agriculture Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain, conserve and expand agricultural lands and infrastructure.
3. Support and partner with programs that promote new and existing markets for agricultural products and value-added goods. Review and propose updates to streamline the regulations and policies regarding value-added goods to ease business operations and practices.
4. Support and partner with programs that provide business, marketing and technical assistance to businesses within the agricultural cluster.
5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the agriculture cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable agricultural practices, and to preserve the opportunity for farming.
6. Support incentives, including transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements and current use taxation, to encourage agricultural activities in the Agricultural Production Districts (APDs) and in lands that could be farmed outside the APDs within the rural area outside of Rural Cities.
7. Support and partner with programs that provide assistance to new farmers with attention to minorities, low-income residents, and immigrants.
8. Solicit partners and support businesses or programs conducting efforts to develop secondary markets for added farm revenue, including but not limited to, manure digester systems, and agri-tourism.

9. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all County residents and businesses on the importance of buying local produce and value-added products, including support for farmer's markets.
10. Support and partner with programs that promote local food access to institutions, School Districts, hospitals, food banks.
11. Support incentives to locate infrastructure such as food processing, farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop offs near Transit Oriented Developments (TOD), and within Rural Cities, to reduce costs.
12. Consider funding capital projects that maintain and improve farm infrastructure, thereby increasing the viability and sustainability of existing agricultural land.
13. Support and implement projects and policies that improve the drainage for farmland, increasing the viability of existing agricultural land.
14. Support and partner with programs and organizations, such as the King Conservation District, that provide technical assistance to landowners regarding conservation of agricultural lands.
15. Support and partner with programs that provide financial assistance with maintenance and operations of existing farmland and buildings. Examples include the award-winning Barn Again Initiative to preserve and restore historic barns in rural King County, and programs to sublease farmland and/or water rights to other farmers.
16. Identify programs and policies that encourage growing food and other crops on the most fertile soils.

Forestry: Strengthen and diversify the forestry cluster while maintaining healthy forest ecosystems.

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support forestry and its infrastructure.
2. Assist implementation of the Rural Forest Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain and conserve forests and needed forest infrastructure.
3. Support and partner with programs that support market development for forestry products and value-added goods.
4. Support and partner with programs that provide business and technical assistance to small forest landowners and forest-related businesses.
5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the forest cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable forestry practices.
6. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all County residents and businesses on the importance of buying locally grown/locally milled wood.
7. Support and partner with programs that provide incentives to landowners for forest health improvement.
8. Support incentives, including transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements and current use taxation, to encourage forest conservation.
9. Evaluate expansion of the use of incentives for forest preservation, such as the TDR program.

Equestrian: Sustain and enhance the diversity of equine uses that support the equestrian economic cluster.

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support the business and recreational aspects of the equestrian cluster and its infrastructure.
2. Support and partner with programs that educate horse owners and potential purchasers on best equestrian husbandry and manure management practices.
3. Encourage and promote the continuation and, where consistent with the County's existing policies, expansion of equestrian trail connectivity throughout King County and the region.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs from horse owners, equestrian business owners, and related rural organizations to ensure that policies and regulations support appropriate equestrian uses and associated infrastructure.
5. Support and partner with the communities that promote equestrian businesses, tourism, and recreational opportunities, including trail connectivity.

Home-Based Business: Strengthen and enhance the diverse home-based business cluster with uses ranging from sole proprietorships to cottage industries to natural resource-based support businesses.

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible home-based businesses and cottage industries.
2. Support and partner with chambers of commerce, small business assistance centers, and other programs that provide business and technical assistance to home-based businesses and cottage industries.
3. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the home-based business cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are an appropriate use and scale for the area being proposed.
4. Encourage and support information technology related home-based businesses, and the high-speed data infrastructure necessary to operate those businesses.

Recreation and Tourism: Strengthen and enhance the tourism and recreation cluster while ensuring that the business use and scale is compatible with the area in which the activity or activities are located or provided.

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible tourism and recreation opportunities including agricultural and forest tourism and value-added programs related to the production of food, flowers, forest products and wine in the County.
2. Lead and/or partner in efforts to unify regional tourism efforts to maximize program effectiveness and support individual tourism or recreation related businesses, such as the local wine industry.
3. Support and partner with efforts to provide both private and public local recreational opportunities, as well support appropriate regional connectivity of recreational uses and trails, with consideration for safety between conflicting uses during harvest periods in agricultural areas.

4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the tourism and recreation cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are consistent with the County's policies for the area being proposed.
5. Support and promote programs and initiatives that integrate economic development and recreation with forestry uses.

Commercial and Industrial: Strengthen and enhance the commercial and industrial cluster to sustain compatible businesses on sites designated for commercial or industrial uses within the following land use classifications: 1) Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, 2) Rural Towns, 3) Industrial, and 4) Mining/Mineral Resource Lands.

1. Promote and support compatible businesses in the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers in their role of providing retail goods and services for the surrounding rural area.
2. Promote and partner with the Rural Towns to support economic vitality in their role of providing retail businesses and services for the surrounding rural area.
3. Encourage mining and mineral resource businesses to employ operational practices that protect environmental quality, fisheries, and wildlife, in balance with the needs of the industry.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the commercial and industrial cluster to formulate policy and as appropriate, regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are of appropriate use and scale for the area.
5. Promote and support regional industrial and commercial facilities in the rural area that are currently designated as projects of statewide significance, including those that specialize in development of innovative and green technologies and provide jobs in the region.
6. Promote and support information technology related businesses.

Rural Cities: Partner with the Rural Cities to strengthen and enhance their economic development efforts, as rural centers and main providers of urban services for the surrounding rural area, including retail, service, institutional uses and employment.

1. Sustain partnerships with the Rural Cities, chambers of commerce, and other related organizations on County plans, policies and programs that support rural city economic development to provide goods, services and employment for the residents in the surrounding rural area.
2. Sustain partnerships to support and maintain the economic vitality of Rural Cities.
3. Sustain partnerships with Rural Cities to promote appropriate tourism efforts.



September 2, 2014

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Sponsor: Lambert

Proposed No.: 2013-0408

1 **AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT 1 TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2013-0408,**

2 **VERSION 1**

3 On Amendment 1, delete lines 23-24, and insert
4 "Delete Attachment A, Rural Economic Strategies Plan 2013, and insert new Attachment
5 A, Rural Economic Strategies Plan, revised September 2, 2014"

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7 ***EFFECT: Replaces the Attachment in the proposed ordinance.***

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9 ***This Attachment A amends the Attachment A in Amendment 1 by adding additional***
10 ***goals and strategies regarding: infrastructure, local government impacts, coordination***
11 ***and partnerships with Rural Cities, value-added goods, opportunities for farming,***
12 ***conservation of agricultural lands, maintenance and operations of farmland and***
13 ***buildings, growing of food, home-based businesses, wine industry, safety of***
14 ***agricultural operations, and the role of Rural Cities.***