September 7, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits an ordinance that will authorize the King County Executive to enter into interlocal cooperation agreement amendments with the cities of Bothell, Kent and Renton for the disbursement of Conservation Futures tax (CFT) levy funds for open space acquisition projects authorized by Ordinance 18319.

The legislation will help preserve three important urban open spaces through the distribution of $638,000 in CFT funds that were allocated in Ordinance 18319.

Specifically, the ordinance will accomplish the following:

* The North Creek Forest acquisition project in Bothell, the Clark Lake project in Kent, and the May Creek project in Renton will provide needed passive urban open space and additional protection for urban wildlife and salmon habitat.
* Each of the these open space acquisitions will help further the goals of the Washington State Growth Management Act by accomplishing objectives that have been identified in park and comprehensive plans.

The legislation also furthers the goals of key County plans and initiatives as follows:

* The legislation furthers a goal of the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative to provide publically-accessible open space in underserved and growing urban areas.
* The legislation furthers King County’s environmental sustainability goals in the Strategic Plan by providing additional protection for public open space and natural resources, including salmon species.
* The legislation furthers the goal of the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan by acquiring and preserving forest lands and protecting urban forests.

In developing the legislation, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks has reviewed and incorporated the recommendations from the King County Conservation Futures Citizens Committee, which recommended the projects in the attached legislation this past spring as part of its regular annual project review process. The legislation is supported by the cities that will receive the Conservation Future funds.

Thank you for considering this ordinance. This legislation will serve King County residents by helping to maintain our region’s special character, quality of life, and environmental health.

If you have any questions about this ordinance, please contact Mark Isaacson, Division Director of the Water and Land Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4601.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

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

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP