November 27, 2019

The Honorable Rod Dembowski

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

This letter transmits the Agricultural Drainage Assistance and Ongoing Maintenance Plan and proposed Motion that would accept the plan as required by Ordinance 18835, Section 76, Proviso P2.

This Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) helps keep farming viable in King County. The attached plan addresses each item required by the proviso, including identification of budget and staffing implications of implementing a one-time inspection and maintenance cycle of all agricultural waterways in unincorporated King County in seven years. The plan also addresses the budget and staffing implications for continuing a seven-year inspection and maintenance cycle for said waterways.

Specifically, the plan identifies the following:

* Resources needed for King County to fully support improved agricultural drainage in unincorporated King County by implementing a seven-year inspection and maintenance cycle of agricultural waterways.
* Code changes required by King County to fully support improved agricultural drainage in unincorporated King County by implementing a seven-year inspection and maintenance cycle of agricultural waterways.
* Resource needs for ADAP partners to support an expanded ADAP capable of implementing a seven-year inspection and maintenance cycle of agricultural waterways.

The work addressed in this report furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of preserving the rural character of agricultural areas by helping farms be more valuable for agricultural production than for development. It also furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative goal of providing access to affordable, healthy, local food by increasing agricultural productivity on farm in King County as well as the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of reducing CO2 emissions by increasing productivity on local farms that provide fresh, healthy products to local markets with minimal transportation needs.

It is estimated that this report required 225 hours of staff time to produce, costing approximately $25,000. There are no printing costs associated with this report.

Thank you for your consideration of this proviso response. The important work outlined in the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program Budget Response Plan will help King County residents keep farming viable.

If your staff have any questions, please feel free to 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,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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

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

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