



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

November 19, 2007

Ordinance 15970

Proposed No. 2007-0535.2

Sponsors Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to extending the waiver for
2 public benefit rating system and timber land application
3 fees; and amending Ordinance 1076, Section 4, as
4 amended, and K.C.C. 20.36.040.

5

6 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

7 1. Chapter 84.34 RCW authorizes counties to assess open space,
8 agricultural lands, and timber lands based on their current use rather than
9 their highest and best use in recognition of the public benefits that these
10 uses provide.

11 2. In 1992, the King County council approved Ordinance 1076
12 implementing the provisions of chapter 84.34 RCW and establishing
13 procedures, rules and fees for the consideration of applications for public
14 benefit rating system assessed valuation on "open space land" and for
15 current use assessment on "farm and agricultural land" and "timber land" as
16 those lands are defined in RCW 84.34.020.

17 3. In doing so, the King County council found that it is in the best interest
18 of the county to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in
19 existence adequate open space lands for the production of food, fiber and
20 forest crops, and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and
21 scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of the county and its
22 citizens.

23 4. Since the establishment of King County's public benefit rating system,
24 more than eight hundred landowners have enrolled, resulting in protection
25 of more than seven thousand acres. Since the establishment of the timber
26 land program, more than three hundred landowners have enrolled, resulting
27 in management and protection of more than three thousand acres.

28 5. King County Comprehensive Plan policy E-101 directs that the county
29 should use incentives to protect and restore the natural environment
30 whenever practicable.

31 6. In order to facilitate applications to the public benefit rating system and
32 the timber land program, the King County council has approved legislation
33 amending K.C.C 20.36.040 to waive the application fee for the public
34 benefit rating system in prior years.

35 7. The King County council has appropriated funding to the water and land
36 resources division in 2005 and 2006 to offset lost revenue for the fee
37 waiver.

38 8. With the implementation of the fee waiver and increased outreach to
39 rural land owners, applications to the public benefit rating system program
40 increased from year to year.

41 9. The King County council would like to continue waive the application
42 fee as a mechanism for facilitating participation in the public benefit rating
43 system, and the timber land program which provides an incentive to small
44 forest land owners to continue forest uses.

45 10. The authority to offer the fee waiver expires at the end of 2007.

46 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

47 SECTION 1. Ordinance 1076, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 20.36.040 are
48 each hereby amended to read as follows:

49 A. Except as provided in subsection C. of this section, the applicant shall pay a
50 current use filing fee as provided in K.C.C. 27.10.230, payable to the King County of
51 finance and business operations division, for each open space, farm and agricultural or
52 timber land application filed in calendar year 1973 or thereafter.

53 B. In the case of all farm and agricultural land applications, whether the application
54 is based on land within or outside of an incorporated area, the entire fee shall be collected
55 and retained by the county. In the case of open space or timber land applications based on
56 land in an incorporated area of the county, where the city legislative authority has set no
57 filing fee, the county fee shall govern and the entire fee shall be collected and retained by
58 the county. Where the city legislative authority has established a filing fee for open space
59 or timber land applications based on land in an incorporated area of the county, fees as set
60 forth in K.C.C. Title 27 shall be collected by the county from the applicant and the county

61 shall pay the city one-half of the fee collected; provided, that in no event shall the amount
62 paid to the city exceed the fee established by the city.

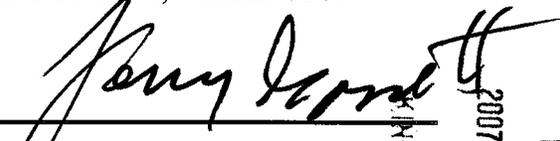
63 C. Public benefit rating system and ((timberlands)) timber land application fees
64 for lands in the unincorporated areas shall be waived from ((September 23, 2006,)) the
65 effective date of this ordinance through December 31, ((2007)) 2008.

66

Ordinance 15970 was introduced on 10/8/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 11/19/2007, by the following vote:

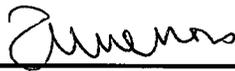
Yes: 9 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr.
Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

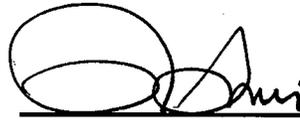
ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 30 day of NOVEMBER, 2007.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None