



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

**206-263-9600** Fax 206-296-0194  
TTY Relay: 711  
[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

July 29, 2020

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 report from the King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (Committee) with project recommendations and recommended funding allocations for the coming year's Conservation Futures Tax revenue as required by King County Code 26.12.010.C2. The Committee's funding recommendations will be incorporated into the 2021-2022 Executive Proposed Biennial Budget package. Also attached is a letter from Terry Lavender, Chair of the Committee.

The Committee reviewed applications from cities, the county, and eligible nonprofits for Conservation Futures Tax funding, and applications from the County for Parks Levy open space acquisition funding. The report documents the Committee's recommendations for the allocations of these two funding sources. The recommendations include \$11.15 million in 2021 Conservation Futures annual revenue and \$25 million in bond-backed Conservation Futures dollars. The recommendations for the Parks Levy are \$11 million in 2021 Parks Levy county open space funding, which includes \$9.746 million in estimated 2021 collections and \$1.254 million borrowed against future collections in the 6-year levy.

The report recommends funding for a wide variety of projects throughout the King County, providing benefits such as habitat protection, forest and farmland preservation, passive recreation opportunities, regional trail connections, urban greenspaces, and match waiver projects in opportunity areas in the most under-served parts of the county. Six projects were determined to be eligible for a match waiver to provide open space in historically under-served areas; three additional projects are invited to re-apply for match waivers next year after conducting additional steps such as community outreach.

Funding these conservation projects supports the King County Strategic Plan goal of a Healthy Environment, by preserving important open spaces throughout the county and its cities. The match waiver projects support the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by creating

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

July 29, 2020

Page 2

additional open spaces in areas of the county that experience demonstrated hardships and lack open space. These acquisitions will support the Strategic Climate Action Plan by preserving forests, farms and open spaces throughout the county, providing restoration opportunity where additional trees may be planted toward the one million trees goal, and potentially protecting lands in relation to the county's new carbon credit program.

It is estimated that the report required 180 hours of DNRP staff time to produce, costing approximately \$12,500.

I am pleased to transmit this recommendation report, and will incorporate funding recommendations for these important open space acquisition projects in the upcoming biennial budget package.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director in 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  
Terry Lavender, Chair, King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP  
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), DNRP  
Ingrid Lundin, Program Manager, WLRD, DNRP