## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 7 | **Name:** | Jake Tracy |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2021-0037 | **Date:** | January 27, 2020 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion 2021-0037 would confirm the Executive’s appointment of Tahmina Martelly, who resides in Council District 5, to the King Conservation District Advisory Committee as a representative of a governmental or nongovernmental organization that specifically promotes equity and social justice.

**BACKGROUND**

The King Conservation District (KCD) was established in 1949 by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) and as authorized by Washington State.[[1]](#footnote-1) Conservation districts in Washington State work to conserve soil, water and natural resources through assistance, partnerships and education with landowners and local agencies. There are 45 conservation districts in Washington State and nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the country. The KCD is guided by the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The KCD is an independent, non-regulatory agency. The KCD's stated mission "is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources through responsible stewardship." All landowners within KCD's boundaries can utilize the District's services, information, and technical assistance for water quality, habitat and canopy and forestry enhancement, farm management plans, soil retention, native plants, farm equipment loans, stream restoration, and other services.

The agency currently serves 35 jurisdictions, which includes 34 cities and unincorporated King County.[[2]](#footnote-2) The KCD is led by a five-member Board of Supervisors, who are responsible for all District programs and activities. Three of the Supervisor seats are elected and two of the Supervisor seats are appointed by the WSCC.[[3]](#footnote-3) The KCD is also guided by an Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from organizations and agencies served by the KCD.

According to the Interlocal Agreement Between King County and the King Conservation District,[[4]](#footnote-4) the Advisory Committee is responsible for developing the KCD's annual program of work, rates and charges budget, advising on new programs, developing criteria for new grant programs, and procedures for administering the member jurisdiction grants. It is comprised of the KCD Board Chair, King County Executive representative, King County Council representative, equity and social justice representative, City of Seattle representative, City of Bellevue representative, three Sound Cities elected officials, rural land owner, urban landowner, King County Agricultural Commission representative, King County Rural Forest Commission, and environmental non-governmental organization representative. The interlocal agreement does not specify term limits for appointments. The equity and social justice representative is the only committee position that requires Council approval.

**APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

Tahmina Martelly has served on the King Conservation District Advisory Committee since 2017. She works as a resiliency programs manager for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization World Relief Seattle, whose vision is that "every local refugee and vulnerable immigrant welcomed by community, rooted in community, and empowered for community." The organization provides resettlement services, employment services, and legal services, among other things, to immigrants and refugees.

In addition to her volunteer work on the King Conservation District Advisory Committee, Ms. Martelly also serves on the King County Flood Control District Executive Committee. She resides in District 5.

**ANALYSIS**

This appointment is consistent with the requirements in the KCD interlocal agreement, which states that the member must be a "representative of a governmental or non-governmental organization that specially promotes equity and social justice."

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment. It appears to be consistent with the requirements of the Interlocal Agreement Between King County and the King Conservation District

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2021-0037
2. Transmittal Letter

1. Chapter 89.08 RCW Conservation Districts [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Cities of Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton, Pacific and Skykomish are excluded from the KCD's service area. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The information on the Board of Supervisors, including current membership, can be found at <http://kingcd.org/about/board-of-supervisors/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Attachment A to Ordinance 19032 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)