## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 7 | **Name:** | Jake Tracy |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2021-0074 | **Date:** | March 24, 2021 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion (PM) 2021-0074 would authorize the King County Executive to accept two conservation easement donations north of Covington, WA, totaling approximately 23.5 acres, for habitat conservation purposes. The donation would act as a match to a conservation futures tax (CFT) grant award from 2019.

**SUMMARY**

In 2019, the CFT advisory committee recommended that $136,000 in CFT bond proceeds be used to purchase easements on land near Shadow Lake, north of Covington. Combined with previous CFT awards, the project had a total of $178,216 in unspent CFT proceeds. PM 2021-0074 would authorize the King County Executive to accept two conservation easement donations that would act as matching funding for the purchase of two properties that are part of the Shadow Lake CFT project. The properties total 23.5 acres and the value of the conservation easement donations would be $167,500.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2019, the CFT advisory committee recommended that $136,000 in CFT bond proceeds be used to purchase easements on land near Shadow Lake, north of Covington.[[1]](#footnote-1) The committee's report stated that "Shadow Lake has a large 5,000-year-old peat bog and other associated wetlands, and is in the upper reaches of the Jenkins Creek basin…This proposal will place permanent conservation easements on an additional 30 acres across three parcels, including the parcel supporting the nature center and a boardwalk trail used by visitors. Match will be provided by donation of part of the easement value." King County appropriated $136,000 for the purchase of these easements in its final supplemental appropriation of 2019.[[2]](#footnote-2) The Shadow Lake project had also received other previous CFT grant awards, and as of the end of 2019, the project had a total of $178,216 in unspent CFT proceeds.

King County Code 2.80.060 requires that any and all gifts for parks and recreation purposes that exceed $50,000 be accepted by the King County Council by motion.

**ANALYSIS**

The proposed motion would authorize the Executive to accept conservation easement donations for half the value of two of the three properties that received the 2020 Shadow Lake CFT grant – a total donation of $167,500. The properties, which total 23.5 acres, would become part of the Shadow Lake Nature Preserve. The properties are located at 21656 184th Ave SE and 22238 Peter Grubb Rd. SE, and are shown in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Location of Conservation Easement Donations**



Executive staff state that the remaining parcel identified for CFT funding, Parcel B, is also being purchased with remaining CFT proceeds and with an easement donation to match. The easement donation for that parcel is not subject to the requirements of K.C.C. 2.80.060, being less than $50,000.

**INVITED**

* Warren Jimenez, Parks Division Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2021-0074 (and its attachments)
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Fiscal Note
4. Map 1
5. Map 2
1. 2019-RPT0088 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ordinance 19021 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)