



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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April 14, 2021

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 proposed ordinance that, if enacted, would deny the vacation of King County's interest in a portion of Richardson Road right-of-way containing an area of approximately 4,399 square feet located on Vashon Island, unincorporated King County.

Adoption of the ordinance will deny the petition to convert this right-of-way to the private use and ownership of the petitioner, Richard Barron Steffen. The subject platted right-of-way provides direct connection to Puget Sound. With limited exceptions, vacation of right-of-way abutting on bodies of salt or fresh water is prohibited under RCW 36.87.130.

Although the findings in the attached County Road Engineer's Report for this road vacation show that the subject right-of-way has no use as part of the County road system, the right-of-way abuts on Puget Sound and vacation in this residential area to a private party is prohibited by statute. Petitioners have proposed an exchange of real property for the vacation area under RCW 36.34.330, however, such exchange is not a permitted exception to the prohibition of vacating right-of-way that abuts bodies of water. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the County Road Engineer and the Director of Road Services that the vacation be denied.

The procedure for vacation of the subject portion of right-of-way is set forth in King County Code (KCC) section 14.40 and the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 36.87, which establishes the right of abutting property owners to petition a County legislative body for the vacation of road rights-of-way. KCC requires the County Council issue the final determination on all road vacation petitions.

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Enactment of this proposed ordinance aligns with the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

After introduction of the proposed ordinance and the establishment of a public hearing date by the Hearing Examiner, a notice of the public hearing is posted on-site of the road vacation. After the public hearing, the Hearing Examiner will prepare final recommendations to the King County Council. Recommendations of the Hearing Examiner will be heard by the Council per KCC 14.40.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance. If your staff have any questions, please contact Tricia Davis, Director of Road Services Division, at 206-263-9690.

Sincerely,



for

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, Performance Strategy and Budget
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan, Gill, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services (DLS)
Tricia Davis, Director, Road Services Division, DLS