



King County

Dow Constantine

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June 30, 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 adopt the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies (Countywide Planning Policies) as approved by the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) on June 23, 2021. This proposed legislation will update the Countywide Planning Policies to be consistent with the Multicounty Planning Policies and Regional Growth Strategy in VISION 2050, the region's long-range plan for growth.

The 2021 Countywide Planning Policies create a shared and consistent framework for growth management planning for all jurisdictions in King County in accordance with RCW 26.70A.210. The Countywide Planning Policies inform how local comprehensive plans are to be developed. These policies include numeric growth targets that will form the land use assumptions in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan.

Over the past eighteen months, the GMPC held several meetings dedicated to reviewing the Countywide Planning Policies. The public comment period for the Policies was open from April 5 through May 5, 2021. During this period and in the months prior, the County received written and verbal comments from jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, community groups, and individuals. These comments have been combined into one document and posted on King County's Countywide Planning Policies website. Additionally, staff met with nineteen city councils, two planning commissions, the King County Planning Directors, and the GMPC's Affordable Housing Committee to gather feedback.

As part of the County's continuing efforts to advance pro-equity policies, the interjurisdictional staff team, comprised of staff from the County and cities, prepared an equity impact review, which is available on the GMPC's website. As part of public outreach, King County staff met with members of the Metro Mobility Equity Cabinet, the King County Immigrant and Refugee

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Commission, and the Climate Equity Community Task Force. Materials posted on the County's website were translated into eleven languages.

This proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan healthy environment goal of preserving open space and rural character, addressing climate change, and the goal's objectives of maintaining rural character by focusing new growth in urban areas and protect and supporting healthy and productive farms, forests, and open spaces. Land use planning plays a vital role in shaping an environmentally sustainable and economically viable future for all people in King County. The County's role in the GMPC fosters the ethic of working together for "One King County" by actively participating in regional organizations and defining King County's role in regional issues.

Environmental Review was conducted on the draft 2021 Countywide Planning Policies, including the Urban Growth Capacity Report, pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 43.21C, King County Code 20.44 and Washington Administrative Code 197-11. The review finds that the proposals fit within the range of past environmental reviews and do not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts and alternatives in the environmental documents listed in the Determination of Significance and Notice of Adoption of Existing Environmental Documents. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance.

If your staff have any questions about this legislation, please contact Lauren Smith, Deputy Director for Regional Planning, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, at 206-263-9306.

Sincerely,


for
Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

Lauren Smith, Deputy Director, Regional Planning, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget