



Legislation Text

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Clerk 09/20/2017

A MOTION providing direction to the conservation futures citizen oversight committee on priorities for allocating conservation futures tax levy funds.

WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.010 declares that it is in the best interest of the state to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops and to ensure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of the state and its citizens, and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.210 authorizes the county to acquire property rights "to protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or other otherwise conserve, selected open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land," and

WHEREAS, property rights acquired under this authorization are defined as "conservation futures," and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.230 authorizes the use of a property tax levy to fund the acquisition of conservation futures and the maintenance and operation of acquired properties, and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.240 authorizes counties to establish a special conservation futures fund to which the levy proceeds are credited, and

WHEREAS, King County has established a conservation futures tax levy and fund, and

WHEREAS, King County is required to establish a process to help ensure, over time, that the distribution of the tax levy is throughout the county, and

WHEREAS, K.C.C. chapter 26.12 establishes an annual process for distribution of the tax levy to acquire open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way, and

WHEREAS, the process includes a citizen oversight committee that makes project and funding allocation recommendations for each project to the executive, and

WHEREAS, the executive makes project and funding recommendations as part of the budget process, and

WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.010 allows the council to adopt a motion providing direction to the conservation futures citizen oversight committee on priorities for evaluating project applications, and

WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project selection, which provides: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and aquatic resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources; urban passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park or open space system addition; and transfer of development rights program implementation. Additional criteria may include: passive recreation; education/interpretive opportunity; threat of loss of open space resources; ownership complexity; partnerships; stewardship and maintenance; and any other criteria consistent with RCW 84.34.020," and

WHEREAS, Cemetery pond, which is located near the headwaters of Tributary 0291A, which flows into the May valley basin, is a stormwater flow-control facility that is located at the outlet of an existing wetland and provides stormwater detention for nearby residential and community development, and

WHEREAS, Cemetery pond is located within the Four Creeks community, which has undertaken stewardship activities to improve habitat, remove invasive species from the wetland and buffer, provide maintenance and weeding of native plants and monitor water levels and flows, and

WHEREAS, Cemetery pond has been identified as in need of improvement of systemic drainage issues, and

WHEREAS, these habitat and drainage improvements could be enhanced by acquisition of privately-owned properties in the vicinity of Cemetery pond, and

WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property rights in the Cemetery

pond area for wildlife habitat, aquatic resources or stewardship purposes meets the criteria in K.C.C. 26.12.025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen oversight committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase or property rights for the purpose of wildlife habitat, aquatic resources or stewardship in the vicinity of Cemetery pond in the unincorporated Four Creeks community east of Renton.

B. The department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources division, is requested to work with landowners and jurisdictions in which properties reflecting this priority is located, in submitting project proposals that meet this priority, as part of the 2018 conservation futures tax levy funds selection process provided for in K.C.C. 26.12.010.