

MOTION NO. **1845**

74-919

1
2 A MOTION relating to comprehensive surface
3 water planning and management, watershed
4 protection, and providing for the development
of a Surface Water Utility in King County.

5 WHEREAS, the King County Council passed Motion 1478 on
6 March 11, 1974, which created a Surface Water Utility Board to
7 determine the feasibility of establishing a Surface Water Utility
8 in King County, and

9 WHEREAS, Motion 1478 required the Board to submit a report
10 of its findings to the County Council, a copy of which is
11 attached to this Motion, and

12 WHEREAS, the County Council, after reviewing and considering
13 the Board's Report, deems further county implementing action both
14 necessary and appropriate in the area of comprehensive surface
15 water management,

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

17 1. The King County Council hereby acknowledges receipt of
18 the Surface Water Utility Report, dated October 1974, and approves
19 the Utility Board recommendation, contained on pages 3 and 15 of
20 the Report, that the county acknowledge the urgency of the
21 surface water utility as a priority item for 1975 county energy
22 and revenue.

23 2. The Council adopts as planning guidelines for the
24 further development of a Surface Water Utility the criteria
25 prepared by the Board, as set forth on pages 5 through 8 of the
26 Report, which provides as follows:

27 (a) A Surface Water Utility should be county-wide in
28 scope.

29 (b) Initial funding for planning and administration
30 should come from the general fund, either through
31 the creation of a revolving fund or through a
32 "one-time, lump-sum" appropriation.
33

- 1 (c) A substantial initial monetary investment will be
2 required for planning and administration for the
3 first 1 - 2 years. These costs cannot be recovered
4 until the 3rd or 4th year of operation via the
5 assessment of benefit charges.
- 6 (d) Four kinds of costs must be dealt with by the
7 utility: (i) planning; (ii) administration;
8 (iii) maintenance and operation; and (iv) capital
9 costs.
- 10 (e) Planning and implementation of proposals should
11 proceed on a sub-basin by sub-basin approach. All
12 sub-basins should be prioritized according to
13 magnitude of the problems, thereby indicating which
14 areas should be addressed first.
- 15 (f) The public who will benefit from and pay for King
16 County's surface water management service must be
17 sufficiently informed and involved in the defining
18 of solutions to water control problems in order to
19 knowledgeably support the formation of a county-
20 wide utility. Therefore, additional public
21 education on the nature of the problem and the
22 proposed solution and meaningful opportunities for
23 community input must occur within each sub-basin to
24 effectively implement both the county-wide utility
25 and sub-basin water management solutions.
- 26 (g) The terms of the County Services Act (RCW 36.94)
27 should guide the operation of the utility.
- 28 (h) There are various revenue sources available to
29 the utility, all of which should be pursued and
30 used in combination - general obligation bonds,
31 revenue bonds, service charges, §208 planning funds
32 under Federal Water Pollution Control Act, §201
33 construction funds, and millage.
- (i) A county utility will have to be cognizant of the
existence of related surface water managers -
cities and towns, special districts. Interlocal
cooperation agreements should be utilized to
effectuate cooperative and unified management.
- (j) Service charges should not be levied until each
respective sub-basin plan is complete.
- (k) The utility should be governed by the County Council.
- (l) An administrative agency responsible for the
utility's operations should be designated.

- 1 (m) The relationship between land use and runoff
2 generation is an essential aspect to surface
3 water management. The utility should therefore
4 closely work with the land use management and
5 planning functions of the Executive Branch in
6 preparing and implementing appropriate modifications
7 to land use policy for more responsible management
8 of water runoff.
- 9 (n) Non-structural solutions to a problem are preferable
10 to structural solutions.
- 11 (o) Multi-purpose facilities should be developed rather
12 than single-purpose facilities whenever possible.
- 13 (p) Before looking at solutions which involve developing
14 additional resources, all means of conserving
15 resources should be explored including reuse,
16 re-cycling, resource recovery and conservation
17 programs.
- 18 (q) Area-wide management is preferred over
19 fragmented management.
- 20 (r) Environmental concerns should not be outweighed by
21 least-cost solutions.
- 22 (s) Energy-conserving solutions are preferred.
- 23 (t) Flexible, short-step solutions should be considered
24 before larger, more permanent solutions.
- 25 (u) Costs should be allocated equitably and should be
26 charged as much as possible to those who benefit
27 from the action and to those who have created the
28 problem.
- 29 (v) In the design of urban drainage systems, a first
30 priority should be given to preserve, protect, and
31 enhance where practicable, the stream environment.

32 3. In order to further clarify the specific actions which
33 the county must take in commencing the operation of a surface
water utility in King County, the Department of Public Works is
hereby designated the lead agency to coordinate the completion of
the following tasks:

- (a) Explore all alternative funding mechanisms,
including, but not limited to, service charges;
Federal Water Pollution Control §208 planning
funds and §201 construction grants; general
obligation and revenue bonds; and Housing and
Community Development Act funds.

- 1 (b) Prepare alternative administrative and
2 organizational structures for the implementation
of operation of a surface water program.
- 3 (c) Consult with other jurisdictions regarding related
4 activities, including, but not limited to, the
5 RIBCO Urban Runoff and Basin Drainage Study, the
6 designation of an area-wide waste treatment manage-
ment entity, and the initiation of drainage
utilities by cities and towns within King County.
- 7 (d) Arrange for the preparation of an Environmental
8 Impact Statement assessing the environmental
impact of the proposed action.

9 The above tasks shall constitute Phase II of surface
10 water utility planning and shall be completed by December 31, 1975.

11 4. To insure the proper coordination of the next phase of
12 surface water utility planning, the Council hereby establishes a
13 Surface Water Utility Task Force, composed of representatives
14 from the following departments and offices:

15 Department of Public Works

16 Department of Budget and Program Planning

17 Department of Community and Environmental Development

18 Office of the Council Administrator

19 Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

20 Department of Health and Social Services

21 The responsibility of the Task Force will be to advise
22 the Department of Public Works on Phase II activity.

23 5. The Council hereby requests the support of a citizens'
24 committee of the Policy Development Commission to advise the
25 Council throughout the planning and developmental stages of the
26 Surface Water Utility.

27 Further, effective citizen involvement from each of the
28 major sub-basin areas should be used to guide the development of
29 the specific plans for each of these major areas.

1 6. To complete Phase II activity, \$58,000 has been provided
2 in Ordinance No. 2230, Section 49, Special Programs, Item 8, as
3 follows:

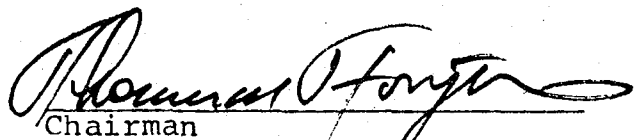
- 4 - \$31,000 Salaries and benefits for a full time
5 Task Force Coordinator and an Administrative
6 Assistant
7 - \$ 2,000 Office equipment, supplies and travel
8 - \$15,000 Consulting services for finance and
9 administration studies and environmental
10 assessments
11 - \$ 5,000 Department of Health and Social Services
12 - \$ 5,000 Council Administrator's Office

13 The Council further acknowledges the organizational
14 responsibilities delineated herein and the appropriation are
15 interim in nature and intended for the completion of Phase II
16 studies. The identification of ultimate implementing arrangements
17 and required appropriations are dependent upon Phase II studies
18 and subsequent actions by the Council.

19 7. The Council requests the Department and the Task Force
20 to submit a detailed work program and activity schedule for
21 Council review by March 31, 1975, and report progress at least
22 quarterly thereafter to the joint committees of Public Works and
23 Transportation and Community and Environmental Development.

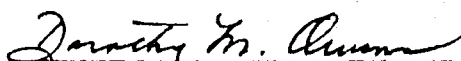
24 PASSED this 23rd day of December, 1974.

25 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
26 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

27 
28 Chairman

29 THOMAS M. FORSYTHE

30 ATTEST:

31 
32 Clerk of the Council