

MOTION NO. 2258

1  
2 A MOTION relating to the development of a  
3 policy and programs for the protection of  
4 agricultural lands in King County.

5 WHEREAS, King County is a rural and urban county with over  
6 sixty thousand acres of agricultural land, and

7 WHEREAS, King County adopted by Ordinance 1096 on January 10,  
8 1972, the "Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan" which  
9 included goals and policies applying to the county's agricultural  
10 lands, and

11 WHEREAS, the agricultural lands policies adopted in  
12 Ordinance 1096 apply to all unincorporated lands in the county  
13 and state that: "Class II and III soils having agricultural  
14 potential and other classified or unclassified land presently  
15 being farmed shall be reserved for current and anticipated needs",  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, King County adopted by Ordinance 1839 on November 3,  
18 1973, an "Addendum to the Open Space Element of the Comprehensive  
19 Plan" which included goals and policies applying to the county's  
20 agricultural lands, and

21 WHEREAS, the agricultural lands policies adopted in  
22 Ordinance 1839 apply only to land east of and including Range 6  
23 and state that: "all individual parcels of agricultural land  
24 having class II and/or class III soils that collectively comprise  
25 a contiguous area of 160 or more acres" shall be preserved in  
26 open space uses, and

27 WHEREAS, a definitive county policy regarding the retention  
28 of the county's agricultural lands west of and including Range 5  
29 does not currently exist due to the fact that the amended open  
30 space policies of Ordinance 1839 do not apply to these lands, and

31 WHEREAS, the continuing growth and urbanization of the area  
32 west of and including Range 5 will place increasing development  
33 pressures upon existing agricultural lands for conversion from  
agricultural uses, and

1           WHEREAS, King County has recognized the unique value of  
2 agricultural lands through the King County Zoning Code which  
3 states: "well located and well composed agricultural land is a  
4 major natural resource that cannot be made nor increased and  
5 that...it is deemed essential to preserve the irreplaceable  
6 agricultural lands as far as is reasonable and encourage its use  
7 for agriculture", and

8           WHEREAS, the King County Zoning Code also states that the  
9 purpose of the agricultural zone designation and its application  
10 is to encourage the protection of agricultural lands "by  
11 discouraging the encroachment of urban type development by  
12 establishing a high minimum area standard and permitting only  
13 such uses as relate to agricultural production or are similar  
14 thereto", and

15           WHEREAS, the Council Committee on Planning and Community  
16 Development has considered the matter of agricultural land  
17 policies for the county agricultural lands located west of and  
18 including Range 6 and has requested that further study be given  
19 to the development of these policies,

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

21           I. In order to develop policies and/or programs relating to  
22 all agricultural lands of King County including, but not limited  
23 to, agricultural lands west of Range 6, the Department of  
24 Planning and Community           Development and the Council  
25 Administrator are requested to complete certain tasks, as specified  
26 below:

27           II. The Department of Planning and Community Development is  
28 requested to complete the following:

29           A. Assess and inventory current agricultural land resources  
30 and activities in King County, examine recent trends in  
31 agricultural land uses in the county, and assess future demands  
32 for uses of existing agricultural land within King County.  
33

1 B. Assess the present and future viability of agricultural  
2 activity in the region, from both the economic and land use  
3 perspective; including considerations of:

4 1. Natural conditions affecting agricultural activity such  
5 as: climate (precipitation, temperature, humidity), topography,  
6 water table, soil types, drainage, irrigation.

7 2. Local economic conditions such as regional and export  
8 markets, food processing opportunities, energy availability,  
9 present and anticipated food demands.

10 3. Current and prospective needs for open space in the  
11 region and the viability of utilizing agricultural land to  
12 fulfill these needs.

13 C. Explore alternative types of policies and programs for  
14 retaining agricultural land in all areas of King County,  
15 including, but not limited to:

16 1. Policies relating to:

17 a. Zoning

18 b. Comprehensive plan open space policies

19 c. State land use policies

20 d. Tax policies

21 2. Programs such as:

22 a. Development rights purchase

23 b. Development rights transfer

24 c. Public land acquisition

25 d. Public (state and/or local) land purchase and lease-  
26 back programs.

27 III. The Council Administrator is requested to complete the  
28 following:

29 Explore the financial and legal aspects of programs for  
30 retaining agricultural land in all areas of King County including  
31 but not limited to programs such as:

32 A. Purchase of development rights

33 B. Transfer of development rights

1 C. Public land acquisition


2 D. Public (state and/or local) land purchase and lease back.

3 IV. This study and proposal presentation to the County

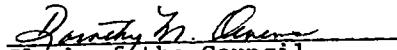
4 Council shall be completed by December 31, 1976.

5 PASSED this 22nd day of December, 1975.

6 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
7 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

8   
9 Chairman

10 ATTEST:

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13 Clerk of the Council

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