

MOTION NO. 5382

1
2 A MOTION authorizing the Director of Public
3 Works to take actions necessary to conduct
4 a study related to the formation of a Surface
5 Water Utility.

6 WHEREAS, King County has significant surface water manage-
7 ment responsibilities, and

8 WHEREAS, the County Council has determined there is a need
9 for finding a stable means of financing the growing needs for
10 surface water management in King County and for establishing
11 management controls to assure that services are provided as
12 efficiently and effectively as possible, and

13 WHEREAS, preliminary studies indicate that a Surface Water
14 Utility may be the most practical and feasible means of providing
15 for the comprehensive management and administration of stormwater
16 and erosion control, and

17 WHEREAS, a detailed study is needed to consider alternatives
18 for the establishment of the Utility as well as the establishment
19 of a rate structure for service charges;

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

21 A. The Director of Public Works shall conduct a study for
22 the purpose of forming a County-wide Surface Water Utility.

23 B. The study shall propose alternatives for the establish-
24 ment of a Surface Water Utility. In general, the study shall:

- 25 1. Determine the role of a Surface Water Utility
26 and its relationship to other jurisdictions.
- 27 2. Specifically, identify the possibilities and
28 limitations of using various statutes for
29 establishing the Utility.
- 30 3. Provide recommendations regarding the organizational
31 frameworks of the Utility.
- 32 4. Describe the administrative responsibilities of the
33 Utility, particularly, the procedures for the
collection, administration, and disposition of

1 revenues. Alternative billing methods should be
2 reviewed.

- 3 5. Provide a detailed operating budget for the first
4 year of implementation.

5 C. The study shall consider possible rate structures for
6 the Utility. The study shall be based on the following:

- 7 1. Rate structures shall be developed which clearly
8 identify the elements of cost by major functions
9 performed by the Utility and by major work products
10 of the Utility.
- 11 2. The issue of who pays for service charges shall be
12 based on alternative approaches to rate setting.
13 There shall be an equitable allocation of rates and
14 charges, to the extent feasible, to those who
15 benefit from the functions provided by the Surface
16 Water Utility and to those who contribute to the
17 costs of those functions.
- 18 3. Each alternative approach to rate setting shall
19 include an estimate of potential revenues.
- 20 4. Alternatives for service areas shall be described
21 in detail.
- 22 5. Alternative schedules for implementation of service
23 rates and charges, ranging from one-time County-wide
24 implementation to sub-basin by sub-basin implementa-
25 tion, shall be considered.
- 26 6. Policy and assumptions underlying the rate structure
27 should be consistent between drainage basin and
28 sub-basin areas.
- 29 7. Rates and charges shall take into account full
30 reimbursement to the Utility for services rendered
31 to cities, towns, and special districts based upon
32 interlocal cooperative agreements. Fixed costs shall
33

1 be spread to the maximum extent possible through
2 broadening the service area to other jurisdictions
3 within King County that desire the service.

4 8. Rate structures shall be developed in a fashion
5 which minimizes the cost of administration and
6 collection of fees and charges.

7 9. All potential revenue sources shall be reviewed
8 and considered with the intent of minimizing ongoing
9 service charge amounts. Such revenue sources should
10 include general obligation bonds and revenue bonds
11 for financing of needed capital developments,
12 service charges, development fees, cost reimburse-
13 ments based on interlocal agreements, State and
14 Federal funding, and the revenues of current
15 County functions that would be assumed by the
16 Surface Water Utility.

17 D. A range of alternatives shall be considered for financ-
18 ing capital improvements including but not limited to, State and
19 Federal grants, voter-approved general obligation bonds and
20 revenue bonds.

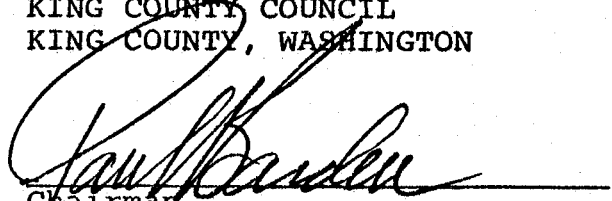
21 E. The study shall include a plan for conducting a major
22 County-wide public information program aimed at developing:

- 23 1. Public awareness of surface water management
24 problems and needs.
- 25 2. Public support for the establishment of a
26 Surface Water Utility and basic financing
27 alternatives including service charges.

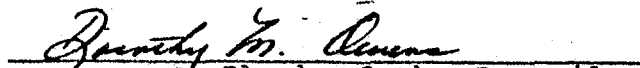
1 F. The study shall define and prepare operational
2 procedures, organizational frameworks and functional inter-
3 relationships to be submitted for review and approval by the
4 Council no later than August, 1982.

5 PASSED this 4th day of January, 1982
6

7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
8 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

9 
10 Chairman

11 ATTEST:

12
13 
14 DEPUTY Clerk of the Council