

August 5, 1982

Scott Blair Audrey Gruger
Ruby Chow Lois North
Introduced By: Gary Grant Bill Reams

Proposed No: 82-441

MOTION NO. - 5537

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2 A MOTION expressing the acceptance by the King County
3 Council of the Farmlands Implementation Task Force
4 recommendations to fund the Farm and Open Space
5 Preservation Program and requesting the King County
6 Executive and King County Prosecutor to take certain
7 actions required to implement the recommendations.

8 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1979, the King County Council enacted Ordinance 4341
9 calling for an election of the voters of the County to authorize issuing fifty
10 million dollars of general obligation bonds to provide funds for the purchase of
11 voluntarily offered interests in Farm and Open Space land; and

12 WHEREAS, in November, 1979, the voters of King County approved a fifty
13 million dollar bond issue for the acquisition of voluntarily offered interests
14 in farms and open space land in King County pursuant to Ordinance 4341; and

15 WHEREAS, King County has been unable to sell the bonds authorized by
16 Ordinance 4341 at or under the eight percent per annum interest rate permitted
17 by law; and

18 WHEREAS, concerted and committed action is needed immediately to implement
19 the Farm and Open Space Program in order to: (1) complete the Program within
20 its remaining three years of authorization; (2) reduce the uncertainty which
21 delay in the implementation of the Program has created in the farming community
22 regarding King County's real commitment to and support of agriculture; and (3)
23 commence the program before any prospective improvement in the regional economy
24 re-introduces the pressures that have historically led to increased property
25 acquisition costs and to farmland conversion; and

26 WHEREAS, a nine member citizen's Farmland Implementation Task Force has
27 developed and published a set of recommendations in a report entitled
28 Preserving Farmlands and Open Space, dated July, 1982, which proposed funding
29 and implementation mechanisms consistent with the objectives and limitations of
30 Ordinance 4341; and

31 WHEREAS, the Task Force presented its recommendations to the King County
32 Council and the King County Executive on July 23, 1982, and the recommendations
33 have been carefully considered by the Council; and

WHEREAS, the King County Council concurs with the three major criteria in
the Task Force report that the financing recommendations used must achieve the

1 intent of ordinance 4341 in quality and quantity of land served,
2 remain within the spirit of the fiscal constraints of the Farm and
3 Open Space Preservation Program, and provide for timely imple-
4 mentation of the Program.

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

6 A. The King County Council acknowledges receipt of the major
7 recommendations for funding the Farm and Open Space Preservation
8 Program contained in the Farmlands Implementation Task Force
9 Report and requests:

10 (1) The King County Executive include in the proposed 1983
11 levy ordinance a provision to issue a Conservation Futures Tax,
12 authorized by Revised Code of Washington(RCW) 84.34.230, to pay
13 the 1983 principal and interest due on the Councilmanic bonds
14 authorized by Ordinance [Proposed Ordinance 82-443].

15 (2) The King County Executive complete the required steps
16 and transmit to the King County Council the necessary ordinance(s)
17 by December 15, 1982, in order that the proposed Mutual Fund
18 financing mechanism can be considered and acted upon by the County
19 Council in time for its use in selection round 3, as described in
20 King County Ordinance 4341, by January 30, 1983.

21 (3) The King County Executive and the King County Prose-
22 cuting Attorney complete the required steps and transmit to the
23 King County Council by September 1, 1982, the necessary ordinance(s)
24 for Council review and action in time for commencing a declaratory
25 judgment action by October 15, 1982 to determine the legality of
26 issuing Hybrid Bonds as described in the Task Force Report.

27 B. The King County Council recommends that the King County
28 Executive continue developing techniques for funding the Farm and
29 Open Space Program authorized by Ordinance 4341, including the
30 transmittal of the necessary ordinance(s) to the King County
31 Council to revise and update authorization for the issuance of
32 General Obligation bonds in an amount compatible with the fiscal
33 constraints of the original authorization less the amount

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previously issued.

C. The King County Council recommends that the King County Executive continue to pursue establishing Interlocal Agreements with cities within or near Agricultural Districts to encourage the preservation of farmlands within their spheres of influence.

D. The King County Council accepts the Task Force Report recommendations and intends to limit the King County funds allocated to purchase property interest to an amount compatible with the fiscal constraints described in Ordinance 4341 for the purpose of preserving farmlands and open space on the land identified in Ordinance 4341.

PASSED this 23rd day of August, 1982.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Lois North
Chairman

ATTEST:

Janet M. Owens
DEPUTY Clerk of the Council