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water.mot (hk)

Introduced by:

Proposed No.: 92-332

MOTION NO. 8686

A MOTION requesting the County Executive to devise a water conservation plan for all King County facilities.

WHEREAS, water covers 70% of the earth, but only 3% of the world's water is freshwater, and

WHEREAS, the region's water supply is finite and must support a myriad of uses: domestic; business and industry; irrigation; recreation; and fish and aquatic resources, and

WHEREAS, the past decade of unprecedented economic growth and increased population is draining the Puget Sound's water supplies, using up any surplus, and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to maintain the region's healthy economy and good quality of life, and

WHEREAS, the conservation of water is considered the next source of "new water" by the Puget Sound water purveyors, and

WHEREAS, local governments must be responsible and promote the ethic of water conservation through a long term program and prohibit the wasteful use of water within their own facilities, and

WHEREAS, the conservation of water should be a responsibility of all county departments, not just those which are the obvious, large-scale users:

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

A. The county executive is requested to summarize for the Council within 45 days the current water conservation efforts in the department of public works, the department of adult detention, the parks division, King County Airport, Kingdome, the department of executive administrative/courthouse complex, and the Health Department.

1 B. The King County executive is requested to present a
2 comprehensive program to the council for the long term
3 conservation of water in all King County facilities. The
4 program should include:

5 1. A plan for retrofitting existing facilities with the
6 most water-efficient fixtures, including ultra low flush
7 toilets and faucets using 2.5 gallons per minute. If and when
8 technology makes fixtures even more efficient, those should be
9 used.

10 2. An on-going commitment to routinely check the water
11 systems within county facilities for leaks and to immediately
12 repair them. A central location should be established for the
13 reporting of any leaks.

14 3. An employee education program about the need to
15 conserve water and how it can be done.

16 4. A plan for the retrofitting of irrigation systems in
17 King County parks to make them more efficient and to conserve
18 water. This plan should be developed with the expertise of a
19 consultant who is knowledgeable about irrigation systems.
20 Irrigation systems for new parks should be the most efficient
21 available.

22 5. A plan for the possible re-landscaping of King
23 County parks with drought tolerant plantings.

24 6. All new parks should be planned to use less turf and
25 more drought tolerant plantings and alternative kinds of
26 landscaping.

27 7. A review of maintenance procedures at King County
28 facilities to ensure that water is used for cleaning purposes
29 only when no effective alternative method can be found.

30 8. All departments should look for future
31 opportunities for the reuse of water and wastewater, consistent
32 with all applicable health standards.

33 C. Each department will monitor water usage to create a
34 database to allow yearly comparisons. All departments will
35 forward their water use information on a quarterly basis to the

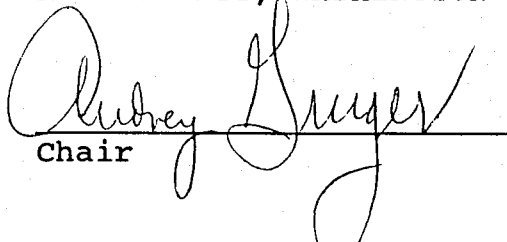
1 Facilities Division so consumption can be monitored. In order
 2 to establish a baseline of consumption, all departments are
 3 requested to forward water use information from 1989, if
 4 readily available, to the division. If not, the year 1991
 5 should be used. The departments should request their
 6 respective purveyors to separate water and sewer consumption
 7 and rates.

8 D. The program should contain a schedule for accomplishing
 9 the water conservation program, along with the costs. It
 10 should identify a range of conservation options, appropriate
 11 pay-back periods, recommended levels of investment, and a
 12 mechanism for disbursing the costs to countywide accounts. It
 13 is recommended that King County seek the help of the Seattle
 14 Water Department in devising this program.

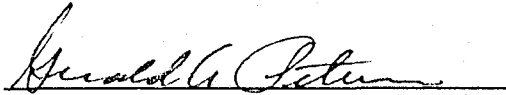
15 E. The comprehensive long term water conservation program
 16 should be presented to the council no later than January 1,
 17 1993.

18 PASSED this 15th day of June, 1992.

19 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
 20 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

21 
 22 Chair

23 ATTEST:

24 
 25 Clerk of the Council