

December 14, 1998  
ko  
clerk 12/15/98, 12/18/98

Introduced by: Brian Derdowski

Proposed No.: 98-747

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MOTION NO. **10610**

A MOTION endorsing continued county commitment to citizen involvement and oversight of functions within the Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, for many years, the executive and council have relied upon partnerships with citizen volunteers to understand and meet the needs of county residents, and

WHEREAS, in March 1997, the council approved Ordinance 12671, which declared that the Citizens Water Quality Advisory Committee (CWQAC), would cease to function on December 31, 1998, unless the council provided otherwise by ordinance. CWQAC has a long record of adding value to the county process, due in part to its unique reporting relationship to both the executive and council and its ability to function generally under its own agenda, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 12671 instructed the executive to transmit a report (which was delivered to council in October 1998) reviewing the scope, purpose and structure of groups advising the department of natural resources on water resource issues, and

WHEREAS, a primary recommendation of the report which proposes replacement of CWQAC with a new "Integrated Water Resources Advisory Panel" may result in the loss of a critical link between the county's policy makers and the county's ratepayers/citizens. The report states only that the new Panel would "assist" the department, while Ordinance 12671

1 states that CWQAC "shall act in an advisory capacity to the director of the department of  
2 natural resources, the executive, the council and the regional water quality committee..." and

3 WHEREAS, while the council encourages investigation of new models of public  
4 participation there has been no council direction for it to be relieved of focused advice from  
5 direct citizen involvement. The county's elected officials and citizens benefit from the  
6 existence of advisory groups which have a significant voice in creation of their agendas and  
7 are confident in their ability to act independently of the desires of elected officials or staff.

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

9 The council reaffirms its commitment to a broad-based program of public participation  
10 related to the planning and operations of the department of natural resources.

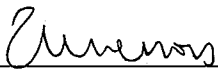
1 This program should include creation of advisory groups to follow the CQWAC model in  
2 which advice and comments are reported equally to the council and executive. Members of  
3 these advisory groups should be nominated and confirmed as required by the King County  
4 code. The groups should have a broad role and not be limited in their scope or level of  
5 interest. The program should include joint staffing of these groups by the legislative and  
6 executive branches.

7 PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December,  
8 1998.

9 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
10 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

11   
12 Chair

13 ATTEST:

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15 Clerk of the Council