



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

April 18, 2005

Motion 12106

Proposed No. 2005-0145.1

Sponsors Phillips and Edmonds

1 A MOTION urging support by the state legislature for
2 measures to preserve and restore the ecological viability of
3 major regional inland marine water bodies.

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 WHEREAS, the crown jewels of the regional environmental landscape are the
7 inland marine waterways of the northwest, including Hood canal, Puget Sound and the
8 northwest straits, around which the regional culture and ethic is built, and

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10 WHEREAS, these marine waterways have been generous in providing sustenance
11 resources and a treasured lifestyle to all in the region, featuring recreation, fishing, visual
12 and spiritual amenities, shellfish harvesting, proximity to marine mammals and links with
ancient cultures, and

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 WHEREAS, these inland waterways have provided a home for a unique range of
creatures of the water and near shore for many centuries, and as recent arrivals to the
region, we acknowledge our responsibility for custodianship and care, and

16 WHEREAS, continuing residential, commercial and industrial growth and
17 development of the region have placed the choices before us for restoration or decline of
18 these resources in sharp relief, and

19 WHEREAS, many citizen volunteers continue to be inspired by these waters to
20 give countless hours in efforts to restore and protect them, with projects such as water
21 quality monitoring, near shore assessment, habitat restoration and dissolved oxygen
22 sampling, and

23 WHEREAS, in partnership with these volunteers, local and state governments
24 must acknowledge and respond to these efforts by contributing to the restoration through
25 available policy and budget means, and

26 WHEREAS, Hood canal is experiencing severe problems of low dissolved
27 oxygen, which limits the viability of that body as a diverse marine habitat, and

28 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of acres of shellfish beds are closed on Puget
29 Sound, and high levels of toxic chemicals can be found in the livers and fat of some
30 Puget Sound fish and marine mammals, and

31 WHEREAS, critical contributors to these water quality problems are thought to be
32 stormwater runoff, toxic and automotive chemicals, leaking septic systems, pesticides
33 and animal waste, and

34 WHEREAS, lessons of neglect and mismanagement of water resources locally
35 and nationally point not only to the potential decline of cherished waterbodies in the
36 absence of active custodianship but also to the ability of focused, coordinated efforts to
37 revive and restore such waterbodies such as to make them viable as diverse, healthy
38 regional resources again, and

39 WHEREAS, recent efforts to respond to endangered fisheries have illustrated the
40 importance of coordinated support from the complex web of involved governments,
41 tribes, environmental and business interests, fisheries concerns, development interests
42 and the general public, in fashioning an effective, workable response, and

43 WHEREAS, Sound Solutions, a legislative package intended to address the key
44 issues related to restoration of our inland waterways is currently before the legislature;

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

46 The council supports the Sound Solutions legislative package, and urges action by
47 the state legislature in the following areas:

48 A. Improvement of the management of septic systems, with particular emphasis
49 placed on strengthening programs in areas of special concern such as Hood canal and in
50 shellfish protection districts;

51 B. Provision of better guidance to protect water quality through the Growth
52 Management Act and other tools, and strengthening of incentives to landowners to
53 manage shorelines in ways that protect water quality; and

54 C. Making new investments to prevent water pollution including support to cities

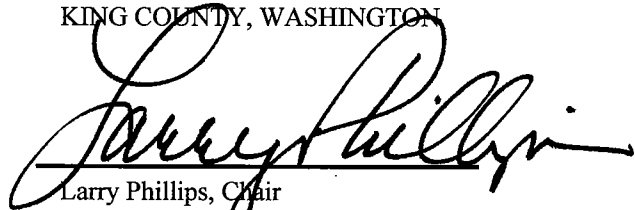
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55 and counties to pay for clean water projects, such as community septic systems, and to
56 implement new safeguards, such as stormwater programs.
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Motion 12106 was introduced on 4/4/2005 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 4/18/2005, by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Pelz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None