



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 11, 2007

Motion 12645

Proposed No. 2007-0622.3

Sponsors Phillips and Lambert

1 A MOTION requiring development of procedural and design
2 standards addressing public safety and health concerns in the
3 placement of large woody debris in the waterways of the
4 county.

5
6 WHEREAS, regional efforts to control flooding and to develop habitat for
7 waterborne species have involved the placement of large woody debris in the waterways
8 of the region, and

9 WHEREAS, while the placement of large woody debris has been undertaken in
10 support of important and appropriate regional values, the waterways of the region are also
11 used extensively and increasingly for boating and other water-oriented recreation, and

12 WHEREAS, much of such water use involves untrained and casual water
13 recreationists of all ages, utilizing a wide variety of floatation devices, who may not be
14 aware of, or prepared to respond to, potential hazards associated with large woody debris
15 placements, and

16 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to consider, in the placement of such large woody
17 debris, the need to minimize the likelihood of accidental encounter by recreational
18 boaters and other recreational water users, with potential public safety implications, and

19 WHEREAS, with the implementation of the Flood Hazard Management Plan, and
20 the approval of revenues to support the plan, the region might see an increase in the
21 numbers of river structure rehabilitation projects that might include placement of such
22 woody debris, and

23 WHEREAS, continuing regional efforts to encourage the enhancement of
24 fisheries habitat, might additionally result in such woody debris placement, and

25 WHEREAS, these developments create a context appropriate for a more clear,
26 transparent and accessible procedural approach towards large woody debris placement,
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the council may want to retain the option to adopt standards in
29 county code, or to seek their adoption as rules;

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

31 A. The water and land resources division of the department of natural resources
32 and parks be directed to develop proposed procedural and design standards regarding
33 placement of large woody debris, which standards should give full consideration to
34 impacts to public safety and health, and to minimizing hazards to recreational water
35 users;

36 B. The procedural and design standards, at a minimum, should address:

37 1. How such woody debris can be placed so as to minimize hazards to
38 recreational water users;

39 2. Avoiding placement of such woody debris in narrow channels or canyons
40 where opportunity for egress by recreational water users is limited;

41 3. Minimizing the chances that recreational water users may be swept into
42 overhanging roots or limbs of woody debris;

43 4. Minimizing the opportunity for entrapment of recreational water users in
44 large woody debris, through entanglement of arms or legs, or through the action of the
45 debris as a sieve against which a water user can be caught;

46 5. Minimizing placement of such woody debris where the action of the water
47 current may push a water recreationist into the debris, such as on the outside edge of a
48 bend in a river; and

49 6. How interested recreational water safety groups can be involved in
50 commenting upon division plans for projects involving the placement of such woody
51 debris;

52 C. A draft version of proposed procedural and design standards will be prepared
53 and presented to the growth management and natural resources committee, or its
54 successor, by March 1, 2008; and

55 D. The water and land resources division of the department of natural resources
56 and parks will prepare a summary, to the level of its current understanding, of:

57 1. An inventory of the groups, persons, agencies or interests involved in the
58 placement of large woody debris in the waterways within King County; and

59 2. A description of the permitting, procedural or regulatory requirements those
60 entities must meet in placement of large woody debris.

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Motion 12645 was introduced on 11/19/2007 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/10/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Phillips

No: 0

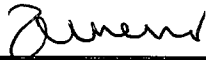
Excused: 2 - Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None