



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 6, 2010**

**Motion 13268**

**Proposed No. 2010-0359.1**

**Sponsors Phillips**

1           A MOTION requesting the department of natural resources  
2           and parks to study the potential of creating a local  
3           conservation authority as a tool for preserving open space  
4           including working landscapes.

5           WHEREAS, the people of King County have embraced, as a central regional  
6           value, the opportunity for personal connection with the region's unique outdoor resources,  
7           open spaces, parks and working lands, through the availability of access to these  
8           resources, and

9           WHEREAS, the region's people also place strong emphasis on the availability of  
10          recreational opportunities and facilities that enhance physical and spiritual health,  
11          including both active and passive recreation, and

12          WHEREAS, the people of King County greatly value the special educational and  
13          interpretive benefits that parks and open spaces provide through creating habitat for fish  
14          and wildlife, and

15          WHEREAS, the people of the region have benefited greatly through access to  
16          locally produced, healthy food, as the result of regional initiatives directed toward the  
17          preservation of farmlands and the area's rich base of fertile soils, and

18 WHEREAS, the retention of working forests and working farms in proximity to  
19 urban communities can benefit both the communities and the working landscapes, as well  
20 as adding to the diversity and resilience of the regional economy, and

21 WHEREAS, urban communities with nearby working resource lands are  
22 benefited by the presence of local wood and agricultural resources, which can be  
23 provided to local markets more quickly following harvest, and with lesser transportation  
24 costs and lesser greenhouse gas outputs, and

25 WHEREAS, working resource lands also serve as "separator" landscapes, which  
26 provide functional undeveloped spaces between urban communities, helping to create  
27 distinct geographic urban identities, as well as contributing to the quality of the region's  
28 waters and to flood control and carbon sequestration needs, and

29 WHEREAS, local farm owners and working forest owners can benefit by the  
30 presence of major markets for their products and by support for the economic foundations  
31 of resource-based communities, as well as by the awareness of regulatory and permitting  
32 entities of the important local values represented by these resource-based communities,  
33 and

34 WHEREAS, King County's growth management planning and the regional  
35 growth management strategy, VISION 2040, recognize the importance of conserving  
36 rural landscapes and encouraging growth within urban areas, and

37 WHEREAS, the ethic of resource sustainability is a chief cultural value of the  
38 people of this region and a fundamental reason to seek preservation of working lands and  
39 open space resources both for today and for generations to come, and

40 WHEREAS, a number of new working lands and open space conservation tools  
41 have emerged which have the potential to support the retention of these open space lands,  
42 and

43 WHEREAS, one of these potential tools is local conservation authorities, which  
44 would act like public development authorities responsible for acquiring working lands  
45 and open space utilizing available revenue tools, and

46 WHEREAS, while creation of such authorities is authorized by state law, this is a  
47 concept that is new to the region, and could benefit by close examination of the potential  
48 to contribute to acquisition and management of working lands and open space, and

49 WHEREAS, the Cascade Land Conservancy has provided leadership in  
50 identifying and providing focus on appropriate legal and revenue mechanisms that can  
51 support the preservation of working lands and open space, including the local  
52 conservation authority concept, and

53 WHEREAS, the county department of natural resources and parks is the county's  
54 natural and open space lands management agency, and currently manages programs that  
55 involve the acquisition, management or conservation of open space, working forests and  
56 farmlands, development rights or similar services intended to conserve the county's  
57 natural and working land base, and has developed expertise in such fields;

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

59 A. The department of natural resources and parks is requested to study, in  
60 cooperation with the Cascade Land Conservancy, the potential for the creation of a local  
61 conservation authority as a tool for retaining working lands and open space lands.

62 B. Among the elements of the study should be:

- 63           1. The statutory framework for the creation of a local conservation authority;
- 64           2. The potential for a local conservation authority to contribute to conservation
- 65 of working lands and open space lands;
- 66           3. The potential for a local conservation authority to contribute to the
- 67 implementation of desirable urban development; and
- 68           4. The potential for utilizing this tool in combination with other programs
- 69 intended to support the retention of open space and working lands, such as the transfer of
- 70 development rights program, K.C.C. chapter 21A.37.
- 71           C. By March 1, 2011, the department of natural resources and parks is requested

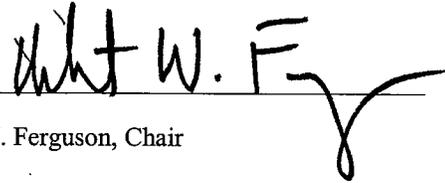
72 to file a report summarizing the results in the form of a paper original and an electronic  
73 copy with the clerk of the council, for distribution to all councilmembers.

74

Motion 13268 was introduced on 6/21/2010 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 7/6/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett,  
Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None