

ORDINANCE NO. 1839

2
3 AN ORDINANCE relating to agricultural lands,
4 establishing County Open Space Policies;
5 amending Chapter E, Open Space Development
6 Policies of the Comprehensive Plan for King
7 County under the provisions of Ordinance 263,
8 Article 2, Section 3 of KCC 20.12.030.

9
10 PREAMBLE. The Council of King County declares it to be in the
11 public interest to retain prime agricultural lands and certain farm-
12 lands within a system of open space. This open space system is recog-
13 nized as having scenic and aesthetic values that contributes natural
14 buffers within existing and potential urban areas. Furthermore, the
15 retention of agricultural and certain farmlands provide both unique
16 and supplemental food stuffs and contribute to and diversify the
17 economic base.

18 The policies in the accompanying report will serve as one basis
19 for evaluating changes in use proposed for agricultural lands. This
20 evaluation shall be made in conjunction with other adopted and appro-
21 priate Comprehensive Plan Policies.

22 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

23 SECTION 1. NEW SECTION. "Agricultural Lands as Open Space,"
24 attached hereto is hereby adopted as an addendum to the Comprehensive
25 Plan for King County under the provisions of Ordinance 263, Article
26 2, Section 3, KCC 20.12.030. As an amplification and augmentation of
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

1 the Comprehensive Plan, the Agricultural Lands as Open Space
2 Element shall supplement Chapter E, Open Space Development
3 Policies. These policies shall apply to Range 6 and east and
4 are approved subject to an environmental assessment.

5 An environmental impact statement shall be made on the
6 policies outlined in this ordinance on Range 5 and west, in
7 accordance with the procedures of Ordinance 1700, and such
8 statement be given to the King County Council upon its completion.

9 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 13th day of
10 August, 19 73.

11 PASSED this 5th day of November, 19 73.

12 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
13 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

14 John T. O'Brien
15 Chairman

16 ATTEST:

17 Dorothy M. Ruess
18 ACTING Clerk of the Council

19
20 APPROVED this 8th day of November, 1973.

21
22 John J. Peterson
23 King County Executive

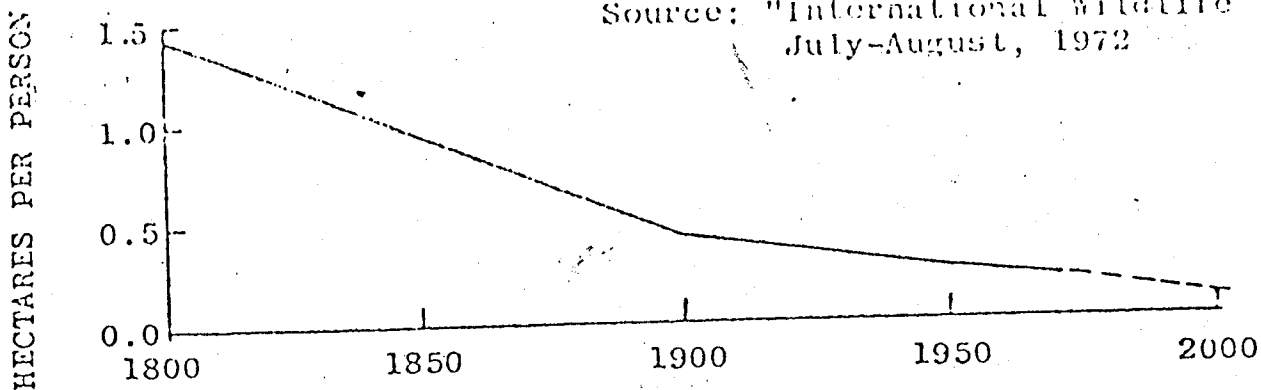
AGRICULTURAL LANDS AS OPEN SPACEINTRODUCTION

Worldwide, agriculturally suitable land is a scarce and limited commodity. Since most of the earth's surface is too wet, too dry, too hot or too cold, or is covered with water and ice, only 2% is farmed. Cropland amounts to less than 10% of the earth's land area, and this is unevenly distributed. The United States has some of the best farmland, but many other nations are not so fortunate. At current production levels, it is estimated that more than half of the world's population is inadequately fed. According to a recent study,¹ 0.9 hectares per person farmland is needed to adequately feed the world population; only 0.4 hectares per person of such land exists. To complicate the situation, the amount of cropland per person is decreasing at a rapid rate. Population increase is the primary cause, but so also is the removal of agricultural lands from production due to urbanization and other reasons. In a technological society such as ours, farmlands within urban areas are often the victim of industrial and commercial development, residential subdivision and highway expansion.

¹ Meadows, Donella H. and others. The Limits to Growth: A report for the Club of Rome's Project on the Predicament of Man. Universe Books, New York, 1972.

NOTE: For conversion purposes, 1 hectare = 2.471 acres.

TABLE 1: World Cropland Per Person

Source: "International Wildlife"
July-August, 1972

In King County, where crop and pastureland currently constitute only about 3.5% of the total land area, a significant amount has already been lost to urban development (Chart A), notably in the Green River Valley. Here are located some of the best and most intensively used agricultural soils in the County, an ideal physical situation for an agricultural economy. However, the locational and transportation advantages, combined with the degree of flood control provided by the construction of the Howard A. Hanson Dam, have helped to make this area vulnerable to the intrusion of non-agricultural uses. Today, few farms remain north of the City of Auburn; of these, many are posted for sale. A similar loss of agricultural land can occur elsewhere in the County as development pressures increase.

Although the need to retain as much agricultural land as possible in production may not currently be critical in King County, world-wide growth and food need pressures some day may indicate this to be the best policy. The following pages include a brief review of farming activity and trends as well as a discussion of the open space values of agricultural lands.

DEFINITION

Agricultural lands consist of prime crop and pasturelands which, for purposes of this report, are defined as follows:

Prime Cropland - Fertile soils capable of producing a high value crop. In King County, such land consists of Class II and III soils.²

Pastureland - Land used for grazing of domestic animals or for hay production. In King County it may be on Class II or III soils but is also considered significant farmland on Class IV soils when contiguous with Class II or III soils or when more than 160 acres in extent.

LOCATION AND EXTENT OF FARMLANDS AND FARMS

(See Appendix for definition of farms)

The best farming soils of King County are located predominantly in the river valleys where many years of river flooding have formed flat-floored lowlands consisting of fertile alluvial deposits. With the exception of those areas where urban development pressures have forced farming pursuits out of existence, these lands are the locale for a large portion of the remaining farm activity in the County.

²Capability Class of Soil - There are no Class I soils in King County (fertile soils requiring little or no conservation practice). Class II, III, and IV soils are considered suitable for cultivation. When cultivated, Class II soils require moderate conservation practices, Class III soils require intensive conservation practices, and Class IV soils usually have perennial vegetation, and are subject to infrequent cultivation because they are more subject to erosion, destruction or low yields when cultivated. Source: Puget Sound and Adjacent Waterways Study, Water Related Land Resources, March, 1970, pp. 2-11.

1839

TABLE 2: High Capability Agricultural Land
(Class II and III) by Type of Use
1970, King County

| | <u>No. of Acres</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Cropland, including rotation hay and pasture | 37,049 |
| Pastureland | 12,593 |
| Forestland | 45,788 |
| Other Land Not in Farms | <u>10,854</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>106,289</u> |

Source: 1970 Conservation Needs
Survey conducted by
Soil Conservation Service,
U. S. Department of
Agriculture.

For the most part, the dairy farms in the County, nearly 150 in number, are located on the Enumclaw Plateau and in the Lower Snoqualmie Valley, whereas vegetable crops and small fruits are grown primarily in the Green River Valley and on Vashon Island. Another significant agricultural activity is the raising of fowl for broilers and layers, but since this type of mechanized factory-type production is not dependent upon good quality agricultural soils, these farms are usually found on upland properties.

TRENDS IN FARM ACTIVITY

Farm acreage has been declining steadily in the United States. However, the rate of decline has been considerably faster in metropolitan areas such as King County or the four county region (King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap).

In 1969, total land in King County farms was only 40% of the 1950 total; the total number of farms declined, but average size increased. Though only one-fifth the national average in size, intensiveness of operation helps to make these King County farms viable units.

TABLE 3: Number of Farms and Average Farm Size,
King County: 1950-1969

| | <u>1950</u> | <u>1954</u> | <u>1959</u> | <u>1964</u> | <u>1969</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Farms | 5,496 | 5,181 | 2,952* | 1,825 | 1,212 |
| Average Acreage Per Farm | 28 | 28 | 39 | 45 | 50 |

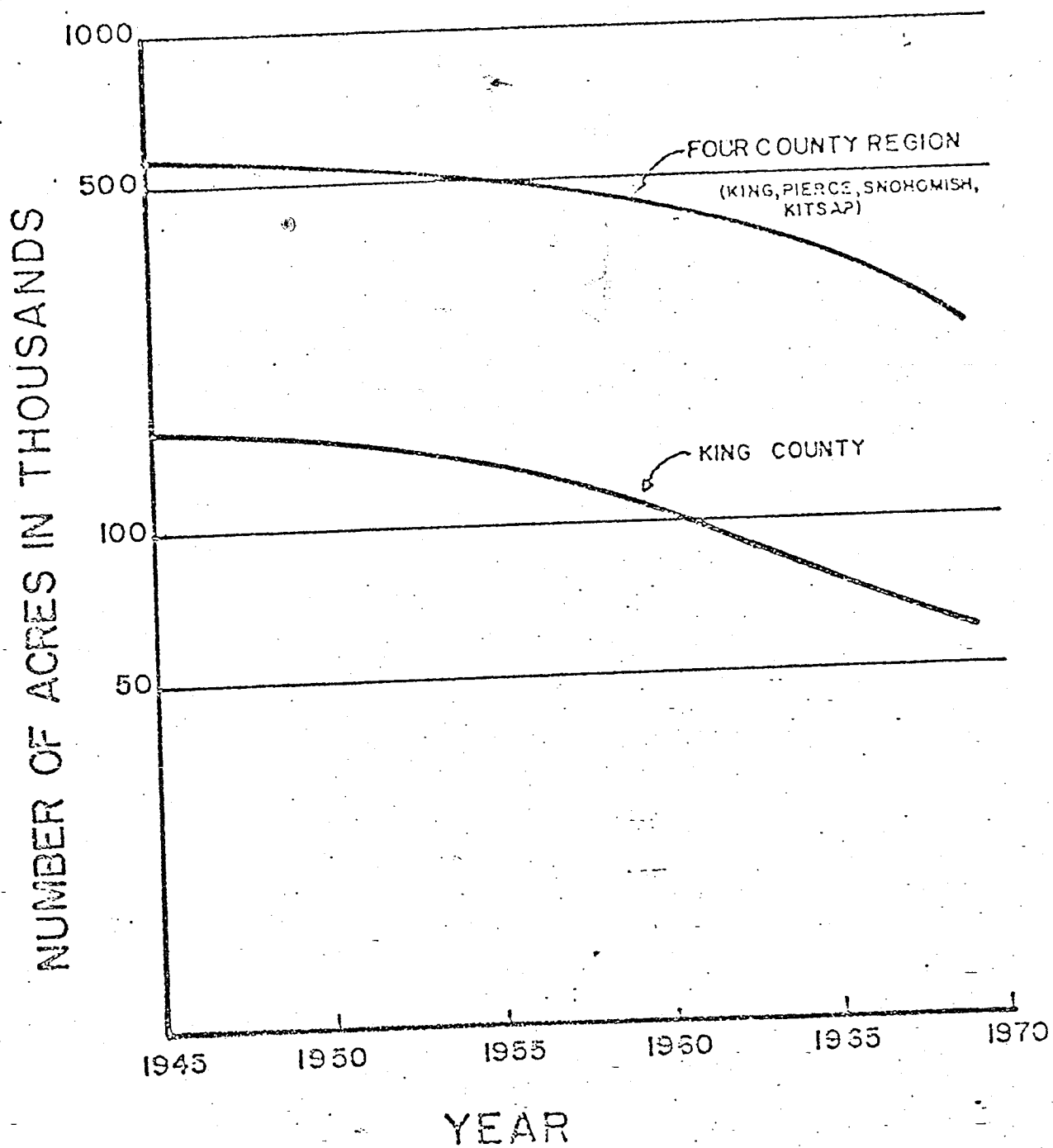
* 1,074 decrease due to redefinition
of farms.

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, U. S.
Department of Commerce, Bureau
of the Census.

If past trends continue, the Puget Sound Governmental Conference has forecast that farm acreage within the regional will decline by the year 1985 to one-fourth the 1964 total and to less than 3% of 1964 acreage by the year 2000³. Whether this forecast will be realized is dependent, not only upon economic factors, but also upon both national and local public policy regarding the importance of farm enterprises within metropolitan areas.

³ Derived from Table 9, Project Open Space Report No. 13, Agriculture in the Central Puget Sound Region, Puget Sound Governmental Conference, November, 1964.

CHART A : LAND IN FARMS



SOURCE : U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

In the United States, agriculture has become a big business; not only has farm size increased but so also has production per acre. In 1930, eight (8) acres of farmland were utilized per person; by 1964, this had declined to less than six (6) acres per person.⁴ To what extent this trend will continue is dependent upon new developments in agricultural research and application of new techniques.

FARM PRODUCTION

The actual dollar value of farm products sold in King County has continuously increased, from \$14,878,000 in 1944 to \$22,388,000 in 1969,⁵ although conversion to standard dollars shows a decline in productivity. Though the value of agricultural products may be considered small compared with the total industrial production, it continues to be a significant factor in the economic welfare and diversity of the region.

For example, in 1969, the market value of all agricultural crops sold was more than the estimated stumpage value of all timber harvested in King County.⁶ In addition, the market value of agricultural crops in the same year was more than the value

⁴Census of Agriculture, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

⁵Census of Agriculture.

⁶The market value of all agricultural products sold reflects the price received, before taxes and expenses, at the farm. In order to arrive at a stumpage value for timber, the six published Forest Products Price Reports were averaged for the highest grades of all species sold during 1969. Since this report reflects prices received at mills, \$25 per thousand board feet was deducted for costs incurred from some of the logging activities and transportation. The estimated value also reflects a peeler log factor and with other factors, the net figure of \$20,967,000 would be considered generous.

1989

of King County mineral production (including quarrying).⁷

Much of the farm product value is attributable to dairy products, with slightly over \$4 million from horticultural crops. For greater detail, the reader is referred to recent reports published by the King County Department of Planning and the Puget Sound Governmental Conference⁸ which discuss the types and values of agricultural products and where they are produced.

It is interesting to note that, although farm enterprises in the County have declined in number, there are two areas of farm activity which increased in scope between 1964 and 1969. In one instance, the number of farms with farm-related income from recreational services (such as trout fishing ponds and camping) increased from 15 to 28. This increase may represent the farmers' response to an increased demand for recreational services from the nearby urban population, or it may indicate the availability of programs which help the farmer to increase his income in this manner. In either case, the income reported as received from this source more than doubled during this five-year period, from \$25,722 to \$55,459.⁹ This trend was true for the four-county region as well.

⁷\$21,592,000 from the report: Directory of Washington Mining Operations, 1969-70, State of Washington Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mines and Geology, Information Circular No. 46, 1971.

⁸Howlett, Bruce, Agriculture in the Central Puget Sound Region, Report No. 13, Project Open Space. Puget Sound Governmental Conference, November, 1964, and Upper Green River Valley. King County Department of Planning, November, 1970.

⁹Census of Agriculture.

The other area of activity which has increased is the sale of horses and ponies (Table 4). Sales are likely due largely to the raising and selling of race horses (important here because of the proximity of the Longacres Race Tract); it may also reflect sales of horses for casual, recreational riding. Either type of use is a legitimate agricultural activity which should be fostered where the demand exists.

The King County Extension Service estimates that there are approximately 25,000 horses in the County. Although all of these do not live on farmlands; many do, thus contributing to the need for retaining suitable space for their requirements.

TABLE 4: Sales of Horses and Ponies
King County: 1964 and 1969

| | <u>No. of Farms Reporting Sales</u> | <u>No of Sales Reported</u> |
|------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1969 | 146 | 643 |
| 1964 | 54 | 122 |
| Increase | 92 | 521 |
| % Increase | 170% | 426% |

Source: Census of Agriculture,
U.S. Department of Commerce.

FACTORS AFFECTING LOSS OF LAND FOR FARMING

Many factors contribute to the loss of agricultural land for farming purposes. City officials may be anxious to increase their tax base by attracting industrial and commercial concerns; they make plans, rezone, annex land, and provide city services accordingly. Property owners speculate in land, encouraged by the prospects of gain to be derived both from promoting more intensive, and thus, purportedly more valuable, land uses. In addition there are -

income tax laws which allow a favorable tax break on long-range capital gains promoted by successful land speculation. Local chambers of commerce typically engage in promotional campaigns to attract more business. All of these factors may tend to remove farmland from production.

Property tax increases are an inevitable result of these policies. The improvement of agricultural lands through flood control and other conservation measures tends to promote urban uses even when intended only for the betterment of conditions of farmers. Related urban services, such as transportation corridors and recreation areas, remove land from agricultural use. Also the cost/price squeeze that affects agriculture nationally is an important factor in forcing smaller farmers out of business.

Coupled with the types of influences cited above is the national trend toward corporate farming. Farmers now in business may not have the time, background or inclination to keep abreast of new techniques or developments in production and management. More stringent financial and educational requirements, as well as the attraction of more lucrative opportunities in urban areas, keep young people from going into farming. These factors are counteracted in part by the fact that, in King County, the average age of dairy farmers is between 30 to 34 years as compared to over 50 years nationally. Furthermore, dairy farms are least likely to become corporate farms unless they are family corporations.

In King County, the principal loss of good agricultural land continues to occur in those areas close to Seattle and in urban King County, namely the Lower Green-Duwamish Valley and the Sammamish Valley. - How public policy has affected this loss can be seen in those portions of the valleys zoned for urban uses

urban residential, industrial and commercial). The conflict between past and proposed uses has been accentuated, not only because of the valley's proximity to a highly urban area, but because of transportation lines and flood control improvements that make these areas also highly suited for industrial and commercial development.

Where the foregoing types of pressures are, as yet, less pronounced or the land itself is far less suitable for urban development, agricultural use is still a highly important land use activity. This is particularly true on the Enumclaw Plateau and in the Snoqualmie Valley. Here, soils favorable for farming combine with poor drainage percolation or flooding conditions that, to this point, have been instrumental in keeping urban development to a minimum. Even in these areas, there is increasing pressure for types of development on, and improvement to, agricultural lands that would preclude farming use.

LOCAL VALUE OF AGRICULTURE

The supply of fresh dairy products produced on King County dairy farms is sufficient for the total County population. In addition, much of the seasonal need for fresh vegetables and small fruits is also met. Climatical factors are conducive to the production of cane berries and rhubarb, in particular, which puts us in a highly competitive position in relation to other areas in the nation. Major crop production is not a significant part of the total agricultural output, but specific crops are grown for specific needs. Beef, chickens for both fryers and eggs, and horses are also raised for local utilization. Not only does this agricultural activity fulfill a local need, but it

provides income and jobs to local people and, thus, contributes to diversity in the local economy. This in itself should be recognized as a significant value, particularly evident in recent years when the very lack of sufficient diversity has been a prime factor in the area's depressed economy.

Agricultural areas not only provide an opportunity for the full-time farmer to make a living, but provide a recreational or hobby outlet or secondary source of income or home-used produce for many part-time farmers. These may include the gentleman farmer, who farms as a hobby, the person who chooses part-time farming by choice as a part of his life-style, the retired person who is dependent upon the livestock or produce he raises to supplement his income, and those who enjoy living in an agricultural area, but who may lease their lands for others to farm. The recent interest in organically-grown crops may account for some of the interest in small farm activities. There are those families who believe in the value of farm life and work as a healthy way of life and as a valuable learning experience for their children. In any event, the availability and accessibility of agricultural lands within and close to an urban area provides the opportunity for variety and choice in living style and ways of earning a living to the area's residents.

Although opportunities have been drastically reduced over previous years, the summertime harvesting of crops can provide job opportunities for young people. In an area where jobs, particularly for teen-agers, are at a premium and where public policy has been to figure out ways and means of keeping young people profitably occupied during the summer months, this type of activity should not be under-rated. The King County Cooperative Extension

Service estimates that there are approximately 2,200 young people involved in 130 4-H Clubs in King County this year. Four school districts in the County (Kent, Issaquah, Auburn and Enumclaw) offer agricultural courses involving approximately 500 students, many of whom also belong to FFA (Future Farmers of America Clubs). It is true that many of these clubs and activities are not farm-related, but the figures do give some indication of the numbers of young people involved in worthwhile pursuits that often are related to, or evolved from, farm and rural activities. The King County Fair at Enumclaw annually provides an opportunity for many people to exhibit animals, produce and handicraft items, participate in competitive activities, and just have fun.

Probably one of the greatest values of agricultural lands to all the people of the County, aside from the economic values, is that of scenery. Agricultural areas are usually quite attractive, whether devoted to the growing of crops or raising of animals. In King County, this is particularly true, where much of the agricultural land is located in valleys within view of residential plateau areas on either side or from arterial highways along the valleys. The Enumclaw Plateau area, although relatively flat, commands fine views of the nearby Cascade Mountains and particularly of Mount Rainier. The intrusion of valleys into existing or potential urban areas provides for natural open space dividers which contribute immeasurably to aesthetic living values. The importance of such open space areas close to an urban population cannot be measured by dollar values.

Agricultural areas may contribute to certain wildlife habitat needs, to the extent that these habitats are not seriously disrupted by the activities of farming itself or by the misuse of pesticides.

Another potential value that is seldom voiced is the desirability of retaining agricultural lands in a wide variety of locations, particularly close to urban concentrations of population, in case large, agriculturally-important areas are put out of service due to natural or man-made disasters. Examples of such disasters include floods, droughts, or increased tolerance to insect or disease-controlling pesticides.

Recreation benefits may be provided, either by farmers directly offering recreation services, or through permitted access on or through farm properties for hunting, fishing, hiking and related activities. As indicated previously, even the viewing of scenic farm property is a therapeutic form of recreation and relaxation. Educational values are derived from opportunities provided by farm tours¹⁰ as well as from having farm activities, animals and programs highly visible and accessible.

Another philosophy that is being voiced by many is that of the need to stem the flow of population from rural to urban areas, a trend which is said to compound the urban problems of unemployment, overcrowding and related social ills. In fact, an experiment in reverse is being considered for funding by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the State of Connecticut, where it is proposed to attempt to lure urbanites to rural areas through the use of communications linkages that would provide rural residents with certain forms of urban benefits.¹¹ Agricultural lands would be a part of the rural lands that would continue to be occupied or reoccupied under programs of this sort.

¹⁰ For example, tours are offered by the Carnation Farm in the Snoqualmie Valley, the Aldarra Farms in Fall City, and the Smith Brothers Dairy in Kent.

¹¹ "Experiment would lure urbanites to rural areas," article in the Seattle Times, February 27, 1972.

CONCLUSIONS

Prime agricultural land is a limited resource in King County; other developable land is abundant.

Once developed in urban uses, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to reclaim prime agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Much of the agricultural land in the County is subject to seasonal high water table flooding, requires drainage, or has other problems that make improvement for urban development costly. Conservation measures⁹ adequate for agricultural use are usually inadequate for urban use.

Factors contributing to the discontinuance of farming on prime agricultural land are public policy decisions and plans which allow or imply zoning change and utility installations or services that encourage urban development. Rising land values and taxes are often the result, not the cause, of such public policy, thus tending to make farming unprofitable.

Land kept in agricultural use has open space value in addition to the dollar value of the agricultural products obtained from that land.

Support for continuation of agricultural pursuits contributes to the maintenance of economic diversity and stability in the County.

Most recreation areas and uses are compatible with, or complementary to, agricultural uses, when they do not consume land better utilized and in demand for agricultural purposes.

The regional population benefits from having fresh local farm products available because of their improved taste and quality as well as difference in time of harvest from other areas.

1889

Many farmers wish to remain in the farming business without being unnecessarily subjected to urban development pressures.

POLICIES FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

GOAL: To preserve prime agricultural lands and significant other farmlands in the open space system.

There are several areas in the County where good agricultural soils are jeopardized in terms of their continued use for agriculture. Most notable is the Green-Duwamish Valley downstream from Auburn. Here, some of the best farmlands in the County have already been developed for industrial and commercial purposes. Much more is zoned and planned for this type of use. Sewer and water lines are being installed, enlarged and extended; drainage and road improvements have been made or are contemplated. A potential need for new or raised dikes along the river has been suggested by the Army Corps of Engineers. Although the drainage plans ostensibly have been justified and promoted as an aid to further agricultural development, most "improvements" are in anticipation of, and designed for, more intensive forms of land use. Similar pressures for development are becoming noticeable in the Sammamish River Valley and the Upper Snoqualmie Valley as well. In all of these areas, there exists a wide range of opinion as to the future best use of these lands.

In the Lower Snoqualmie Valley, a majority of residents and property owners appear to clearly favor a long-term continuation of farming. Here, factors in addition to the presence of good agricultural soil and existing use patterns, such as flooding and drainage problems, lack of sewers, and distance from the metro-

political center, lend support to this direction. Where farms currently exist on soil of limited agricultural quality or extent which is equally well-suited for other uses, policy may more appropriately be directed to the timing of use change rather than to promoting the permanence of agricultural use.

Because much of the County's agriculturally suitable land lies within the jurisdiction of municipalities; the County has little control over policy decisions made by these bodies. Even where County policy may favor continued agricultural use of certain lands, future annexations may negate this policy. Because of these conflicts, which are common and normal in a democratic society, the criteria and policies presented herein reflect the current viewpoint of County Government.

CRITERIA FOR PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN OPEN SPACE

AL-1 Preserve in open space uses¹² those agricultural lands that meet one of the basic criteria in Section a and some of the supplementary criteria in Section b. (The criteria in Section a are arranged in priority order so, as a general rule of thumb, those lands meeting the criterion of "a(1)" need meet fewer of the supplementary criteria than lands in "a(3)". Since each case is different, an element of judgment must be applied to evaluate each situation.)

¹² It is intended that highly intensified mechanized agricultural activities (such as large feedlot operations and poultry farms) which do not require agricultural land for their function and are not related to the growing of crops not be included within the open space system.

SECTION a (Basic Criteria)

- (1) All individual parcels having Class II and/or Class III soils that collectively comprise a contiguous area of 160 or more acres.
- (2) Class IV soils if located contiguous with Class II or Class III soils in (1) or are over 160 acres in extent and are also either currently being used for croplands or pasture lands or are currently planned for improvements making them suitable for such use.
- (3) Class II, III, or IV soils being used for cropland or pastureland over 10 contiguous acres in extent and located contiguous to park lands or other types of open space (such as steep slopes or wetlands) that have substantial open space values.
- (4) Any other lands zoned for agriculture and used primarily as cropland or pastureland.

SECTION b (Supplementary Criteria)

- (1) That are subject to flooding, high water table or other hazards.
- (2) Where a predominance of local public opinion and property owners favor retention of agricultural use.
- (3) That do not have locally available public water and sewer services.

- (4) That serve as buffers between incompatible land uses.
- (5) That perform a clear function as an identifier or delineator of urban form.
- (6) That perform a significant scientific, educational, or wildlife habitat function.
- (7) That contribute significant scenic value to a residential or recreational use area.
- (8) That have agricultural uses complementary to adjacent public recreational land (e.g., horse-back riding facilities adjacent to public bridle trails, trout fishing ponds adjacent to public park or campground).
- (9) Where practicing a soil and water conservation program consistent with the Soil Conservation Service or County Extension Service guidelines and requirements.
- (10) Where utilized on a continuous basis for a period of five or more years for cropland or pastureland.
- (11) That lie within 200' of a stream, river, lake or saltwater shoreline.¹³

AL-2 Preserve in open space for whatever time frame is necessary and reasonable the following lands:

Where farms currently exist on soils of limited agricultural quality or extent, or are designated in the

¹³As per Shoreline Mangement Act.

1849
Comprehensive Plan for other uses. The timing of use change can logically be based on the need for that land for other purposes as well as on the availability or cost of sewer and water installations and other public services. Such lands should have significant elements of the following conditions present:

- (1) Where no plans exist to supply public water or sewer service for at least a 10-year period.
- (2) Where unreasonable costs would be created in order to provide public water supply or sewer service within a 10-year period.
- (3) Where there is ample land available for urban development that is already served by sewer and water service and is closer to existing urban centers.
- (4) Where a preponderance of property owners and farmers wish to retain agricultural use for an interim period of at least 10 years UNLESS development is clearly shown to be necessary for the benefit of a larger general public.
- (5) Where existing farms have been in predominantly cropland - pastureland usage for a period of 10 or more years.
- (6) Where existing farms have values or areas that substantially contribute to other categories of open space as defined in other sections of the Open Space Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES AND ACTIONS

The County shall:

- AL-3 Apply agricultural zoning (A Zone) wherever appropriate to protect good, agricultural land from incompatible use and development.
- AL-4 Apply the general zone (G Zone) or the agricultural zone (A Zone) in rural areas of the County where desirable to protect existing agricultural use either: a) for a limited time period, or b) in order to hold land in large tracts so that the best eventual development can be achieved.
- AL-5 Encourage property owners to apply for open space tax relief wherever land is zoned for agriculture, or where the intent of the preceding criteria are substantially met.
- AL-6 Investigate purchase-leaseback, acquisition of development rights, and other means for preserving agricultural lands in open space that meet the criteria in AL-1 particularly when these lands are threatened by urban development.
- AL-7 Where suitable for recreation, seek means to acquire agricultural lands of lesser quality for recreational purposes when agricultural use is discontinued.

AL-3 Maintain for public use an agricultural land classification map which identifies and delineates by soil classification agricultural lands in King County.

AL-9 Encourage the retention of recognized agricultural lands in recognized agricultural areas by other governmental entities.

AL-10 Take vigorous action to preserve agricultural lands, including such action as advising the public of the benefits of preserving agricultural land owners to file for current use classification.

* * * * *

5/22/73/PT:jk:jp



Food Producing Farmlands Eligible for Acquisition in Priority 1-B
Properties indicated on this map include lands which known by King County at this time to be eligible under this priority, but it is not intended to exlude any other lands which may be eligible under Priority 1-B

R8E

June 18, 1979

