



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**October 14, 2003**

**Ordinance 14776**

**Proposed No.** 2003-0449.3

**Sponsors** Edmonds

1           AN ORDINANCE concerning the governance model for  
2           the King County fairgrounds and board member  
3           compensation; and amending Ordinance 12075, Section 5,  
4           as amended, and K.C.C. 2.32.040, Ordinance 1128 (part),  
5           as amended, and K.C.C. 2.32.050 and Ordinance 11955,  
6           Section 9, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.16.045.

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9           **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 10           1. The county's current expense fund faces significant challenges as  
11           revenue growth has slowed dramatically at the same time as the cost to  
12           deliver mandated county services continue to escalate.
- 13           2. The county, as a result of current and on-going fiscal crisis, has taken  
14           action to ensure both short-term and long-term viability of its parks and  
15           recreation services.
- 16           3. The metropolitan parks task force was established in the spring of 2002  
17           to find ways to keep the county parks and recreation system open in 2003

18 and thereafter and to restore stability to the park system by removing it  
19 from dependence on the current expense fund.

20 4. The metropolitan parks task force issued its recommendations in June  
21 2002.

22 5. One of the recommendations of the task force was that the park and  
23 recreation division carries out its refocused mission by aggressively  
24 implementing a broad variety of new entrepreneurial strategies throughout  
25 the park system, including the fairgrounds, that will help raise revenues to  
26 support park operations.

27 6. The King County fairgrounds is an 81.5-acre site with the ability to  
28 generate year-round revenues at the fairground beyond the operations of  
29 the King County fair event.

30 7. The King County fair board has historically provided direction  
31 regarding the operation of the King County fair.

32 8. To more-effectively implement the recommendations of the  
33 metropolitan parks task force, the King County fairgrounds needs a citizen  
34 board that provides input into the fairgrounds operations year-round and to  
35 provide direction and actions to enhance the revenue capabilities of the  
36 fairgrounds and fair operations.

37 9. In November 2002, the King County council asked for a  
38 comprehensive review of potential alternative organizational and  
39 governance models for the King County.

40 10. Ordinance 14509, Section 45, reads as follows:

41 "The director of natural resources and parks shall file with  
42 the clerk of the council by April 30, 2003, fifteen copies of  
43 a comprehensive review of potential alternative  
44 organizational and governance models for the King County  
45 fairgrounds, including, but not limited to, structural  
46 alternatives such as formation of a 501(c)(3) organization, a  
47 public development authority and contracting out  
48 management and operation of the facility to a third party,  
49 through a competitive bid process. In developing a  
50 recommendation for a model, the director shall consider the  
51 following:

- 52 A. The ability of the alternative to support effective  
53 accounting and fiscal tracking procedures for revenues and  
54 expenditures associated with fairground operations;
- 55 B. The ability of the alternative to effectively market the  
56 features and facilities of the fairgrounds;
- 57 C. The ability of the alternative to extend the revenue-  
58 producing activities of the fairgrounds over the entire year;  
59 and
- 60 D. The ability of the alternative to support services that  
61 achieve full cost recovery."

62 11. In March 2003, the parks and recreation division requested that the  
63 fairgrounds report be transmitted in June 2003 pending the outcome of the  
64 May 20 levy election.

65 12. The maintenance and operation levy for regional and rural parks  
66 passed on May 20, 2003.

67 13. The parks and recreation division completed a comprehensive  
68 analysis of the various governance models identified in Ordinance 14509,  
69 Section 45.

70 14. In June 2003, the county executive transmitted the King County  
71 Fairgrounds Study to the King County council.

72 15. This proposed reconfiguration and establishment of a fairgrounds  
73 board will assist in instilling the entrepreneurial spirit in the fairgrounds  
74 and the fair with the hope of additional revenue generation along with a  
75 continued focus on the core values of the fairgrounds.

76 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

77 SECTION 1. Ordinance 12075, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.32.040 are  
78 each hereby amended to read as follows:

79 ~~((Fair))~~ **Fairgrounds board.**

80 A. It is the intent of the council to ~~((reduce the administrative workload of the King~~  
81 ~~County fair board and to))~~ clarify the relationships between, and responsibilities of, the  
82 county and the ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds board. The ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds board is hereby  
83 designated the following responsibilities:

84 1. To provide recommendations, advise and assist in the planning and conduct of  
85 the King County fair and fairgrounds;

86 2. To function as a vital point of interface between King County, the citizenry of  
87 the county and key groups upon whose participation a successful ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds  
88 operation depends;

89 3. To actively participate in the activities of the fair and fairgrounds, particularly  
90 with respect to ~~((the))~~ revenue generation and agricultural and youth-oriented events ~~((and~~  
91 ~~activities at the fair))~~;

92 4. To serve in a liaison capacity with participating groups and officials ~~((in))~~ at  
93 the fair and fairgrounds;

94 5. To make recommendations on the proposed fair and fairgrounds budget; and

95 6. To communicate directly with the ~~((county executive, the county council, and~~  
96 ~~the director of the department of natural resources and parks at its discretion. Such action~~  
97 ~~is particularly encouraged in those instances where the fair board considers that its policies~~  
98 ~~or recommendations are not being followed))~~ fairgrounds manager and the manager of the  
99 parks and recreation division.

100 B. ~~((The fair board shall consist of the following members, all of whom shall vote~~  
101 ~~except as noted:~~

102 1. ~~Thirteen members each representing a specific council district shall be~~  
103 ~~selected by the county executive from a list of one or more nominees presented to him or~~  
104 ~~her by the councilmember representing that district, provided as follows:~~

105 a. ~~if no nominees are submitted for the district within thirty days from the~~  
106 ~~effective date of the vacancy, the executive may make his or her own selection; and~~

107           ~~b. the terms of office for the member from each council district shall be for a~~  
108 ~~three-year period commencing October 1.~~

109           ~~2. The director of the King County extension service or his or her designee;~~

110           ~~3. One member selected by the King County vocational agriculture instructors'~~  
111 ~~organization, the Future Farmers of America;~~

112           ~~4. Two members selected by the members of the King County 4-H leader's~~  
113 ~~council;~~

114           ~~5. Two nonvoting youth members; one appointed by the agriculture teachers~~  
115 ~~from the membership of the Future Farmers of America and one appointed by the King~~  
116 ~~County extension agent from the membership of 4-H; and~~

117           ~~6. One representative from the city of Enumclaw to be appointed by the mayor~~  
118 ~~of the city of Enumclaw and confirmed by the Enumclaw city council))~~

119           1. It is the further intent of the council that the fairgrounds board and the parks  
120 and recreation division give particular attention to the following elements of fairground  
121 operations:

122           a. the development and enhancement of revenue-generating events and  
123 activities at the fairgrounds over the entire year;

124           b. the generation of revenue from the activities and events of the fair and the  
125 fairgrounds, such that the goal is to have a fair and fairgrounds that are self-supporting by  
126 2006;

127           c. the utilization of transparent, accurate and effective accounting and fiscal  
128 tracking mechanisms, that are consistent with generally accepted accounting principals,  
129 in the operation of the fair and fairgrounds; and

130 d. the energetic and effective marketing of the fair and fairgrounds, as a means  
131 of maximizing the awareness and participation of the regional community in the events  
132 and activities of the fair and fairgrounds.

133 2. The parks and recreation division shall report to the council by September 15  
134 of each year on progress on each of the elements in subsection B.1. of this section. This  
135 report shall include a copy of all recommendations and reports forwarded by the  
136 fairgrounds board to the fairgrounds manager and the manager of the parks and recreation  
137 division, including any policies or recommendations that have not been incorporated into  
138 fairground operations.

139 C.1. Nominations to the fairgrounds board may be proposed individually by  
140 members of the county council or by the county executive, or both, with final selection  
141 by the county executive and confirmation by the county council, except for the city of  
142 Enumclaw representative, who shall be nominated and confirmed by the city of  
143 Enumclaw. For the first term of service established in accordance with this section after  
144 the effective date of this section, one-third of the terms shall end September 30, 2005,  
145 one-third of the terms shall end September 30, 2006, and one-third of the terms shall end  
146 September 30, 2007, designated at the discretion of the executive; thereafter, the terms of  
147 service shall each be three years. Terms shall commence October 1 except that, for the  
148 first term of service established in accordance with this section after the effective date of  
149 this section, the respective term shall begin upon confirmation of each member by the  
150 council.

151 2. The fairgrounds board shall consist of eleven members representing the  
152 following:

- 153            a. fundraising;
- 154            b. marketing and advertising;
- 155            c. accounting principles and standards;
- 156            d. event production and promotion;
- 157            e. fair events and activities;
- 158            f. livestock and agriculture;
- 159            g. youth and youth oriented activities;
- 160            h. the downtown Enumclaw business community;
- 161            i. the city of Enumclaw; and
- 162            j. the general public, represented by two at-large members.

163            ~~((C.))~~ D. The ~~((fair))~~ King County fairgrounds is designated the ~~((line of))~~  
164 responsibility of the department of natural resources and parks.

165            ~~((D.))~~ E The ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds board shall recommend at least three candidates  
166 for the position of ~~((fair))~~ fairground manager to the ~~((director))~~ manager of the  
167 ~~((department of natural resources and))~~ parcs and recreation division. The ~~((director))~~  
168 manager of the parks and recreation division shall appoint the ~~((fair))~~ fairground manager  
169 after considering the ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds board's recommendation. The ~~((fair))~~ fairground  
170 manager ~~((will))~~ shall report to the ~~((director or his or her))~~ manager of the parks and  
171 recreation division or the manager of the parks and recreation division's designee. ~~((The~~  
172 ~~position will be exempt from career service.))~~ The ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds manager shall  
173 attend all regular meetings of the ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds board and keep the ~~((fair))~~ board  
174 informed of all developments concerning the ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds.



175           ~~((E. The fair manager shall consult with the fair board in connection with the~~  
176           ~~submittal of a budget for the operation of the fair and fairgrounds. The proposed budget~~  
177           ~~will be submitted to the fair board whose comments and recommended modifications, if~~  
178           ~~any, will be included in or appended to the budget documentation forwarded to the~~  
179           ~~executive and the county council. No budget shall be presented for adoption which~~  
180           ~~cannot be shown to have reasonable expectation of operating the fair, its maintenance and~~  
181           ~~proposed improvements from funds accruing from fair revenues.))~~

182           F. All moneys received by or on behalf of the ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds shall be  
183           deposited in the appropriate county ~~((treasury))~~ fund. All expenditures incurred in  
184           operation of the ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds and ~~((fair))~~ board shall be in accordance with  
185           procedures, ordinances and general laws governing the financial administration of King  
186           County.

187           ~~((G. Capital improvements to the fairgrounds at Enumclaw, Washington, shall be~~  
188           ~~paid for from revenues generated by the fair, its revenues and grants, gifts and other~~  
189           ~~moneys accruing to the fair from other than the county current expense fund, unless~~  
190           ~~otherwise provided by ordinance. The use of bonds for purposes of capital improvements~~  
191           ~~may be proposed, subject to approval of the executive and thereafter upon review and~~  
192           ~~approval of the council. No substantial change in land use at the fairgrounds or adjacent~~  
193           ~~property will be made without the express approval of the council.))~~

194           H.) G. The ~~((fair))~~ fairgrounds board shall establish rules governing its  
195           operation including provision for removal of members for cause.

196           SECTION 2. Ordinance 11287 (part), as amended, and K.C.C. 2.32.050 are each  
197           hereby amended to read as follows:

198            ~~((Fair))~~ Fairgrounds board – ((€))compensation. ~~((For time devoted to the~~  
199            ~~official work of the fair board, each))~~ The members ~~((thereof shall receive a per diem of~~  
200            ~~fifty dollars to be paid out of the current expense fund; provided, that a per diem of twenty-~~  
201            ~~five dollars shall be paid for official board work of three hours or less))~~ of the fairgrounds  
202            board shall serve without compensation, but the members shall be reimbursed for all travel  
203            expenses incidental to such services as to the amount authorized by law.

204            SECTION 3. Ordinance 11955, Section 9, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.16.045 are  
205            each hereby amended to read as follows:

206            **Department of natural resources and parks – duties – divisions.**

207            A. The department of natural resources and parks is responsible to manage and  
208            be fiscally accountable for the wastewater treatment division, water and land resources  
209            division, solid waste division and parks and recreation division. The department shall  
210            manage, design, develop, operate maintain and enhance the geographic information  
211            systems for the county and other contracting agencies. The department shall administer  
212            and implement the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act, federal Endangered  
213            Species Act and other federal and state laws and regulations related to those  
214            requirements. The department shall perform the metropolitan water pollution abatement  
215            function referred to in this section as "the water quality program," as set forth in chapter  
216            35.58 RCW, K.C.C. Title 28 and other federal and state laws and regulations applicable  
217            to that function, although financial planning for and administration of the water quality  
218            program shall be conducted consistent with financial policies approved by the council.  
219            The department shall coordinate the county's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination  
220            System ("NPDES") municipal stormwater permit program. The department shall provide

221 the support to the county's participation in the regional water supply planning process  
222 including the development of reclaimed water and the review of local utility district plans  
223 for conformance with county plans and policies and shall participate in the process of  
224 preparing coordinated water system plans to ensure conformance with county plans and  
225 policies. The department shall provide for the active and passive recreational needs of  
226 the region, consistent with the mission of the parks and recreation division described in  
227 subsection E.1 of this section. The department shall designate as natural resource lands  
228 those county-owned lands that serve important natural resource functions, including, but  
229 not limited to, benefiting and protecting natural drainage systems, drainage basins, flood  
230 control systems, ecosystems, water quality, ground water, fisheries and wildlife habitat  
231 and other natural resource purposes. The department shall act to ensure integration of  
232 environmental programs across utility and resource functions and to balance stewardship  
233 with economic development issues. To ensure integration and balanced stewardship  
234 through the director's office the department shall oversee strategic planning using staff  
235 resources budgeted in the department's divisions. Strategic planning may include, but not  
236 be limited to: integration of land and water resource protection; coordination of  
237 groundwater, water reuse and water supply plan approval; development of new funding  
238 approaches for resource protection; establishment of new partnerships with businesses,  
239 community organizations and citizens; and better coordination of sewerage and flood  
240 control facilities to prevent water quality degradation.

241 B.1. The duties of the waste water treatment division shall include the following:

242 a. administering the functions and programs related to the operation,  
243 maintenance, construction, repair, replacement and improvement of the metropolitan  
244 sewerage system and its financing;

245 b. administering the county's sewage disposal agreements with cities and  
246 special districts;

247 c. providing planning for the water quality capital program;

248 d. providing design, engineering and construction management services related  
249 to the water quality capital programs including new facilities development and  
250 maintenance of the existing infrastructure;

251 e. providing support services such as project management, environmental  
252 review, permit and right-of-way acquisitions, scheduling and project control; and

253 f. regulating industrial discharges into the metropolitan sewerage system.

254 2. The council may assign responsibility for services ancillary to and in support  
255 of the operation and maintenance of the metropolitan water pollution abatement system  
256 under chapter 35.58 RCW, including, but not limited to, human resources, accounting,  
257 budgeting, finance, engineering, fleet administration, maintenance, laboratory,  
258 monitoring, inspection and planning, as it determines appropriate.

259 C. The duties of the water and land resources division shall include the  
260 following:

261 1. Proposing or updating, or both, and implementing adopted policies, plans and  
262 programs relating to water and land resources, open space and other natural resources that  
263 protect fisheries, natural resources, water quality and ground water and that solve and  
264 prevent drainage problems;

265           2. Responding to major river floods and addressing drainage problems in  
266 unincorporated portions of the county as provided in K.C.C. Title 9, the Surface Water  
267 Management Program, in K.C.C. chapter 20.12, the King County Flood Hazard  
268 Reduction Plan Policies and other policies established by the council;

269           3. Within available resources, maintaining major river channels, and surface and  
270 storm drainage systems and lands to minimize flood hazards and protect fisheries  
271 resources, drainage systems and lands, and water quality;

272           4. Providing coordination and technical assistance within the county and other  
273 governments to assist in setting and implementing priorities for water and land resources,  
274 including sample collection, laboratory services, monitoring, analysis and other activities  
275 to protect, enhance and evaluate the quality of land, habitat and water resources in the  
276 county;

277           5. Planning the surface water management capital program, providing design,  
278 engineering and construction management services related to the surface water  
279 management capital program including new facilities development and maintenance of  
280 the existing infrastructure and providing support services such as project management,  
281 environmental review, permit and right-of-way acquisitions, scheduling and project  
282 control;

283           6. Preparing standards for storm water management facilities that are  
284 constructed as part of land development;

285           7. Providing technical assistance and education to businesses and the general  
286 public to encourage environmental stewardship;

287           8. Implementing the county park, open space, trails, agriculture, forestry, and  
288 other natural resources acquisition programs, including planning, site selection,  
289 financing, acquisition, project budget management and purchasing fee and less than fee  
290 interests;

291           9. Monitoring and protecting the county's real property and development rights  
292 interests acquired through the conservation futures and other open space and natural  
293 resource programs ensuring to the greatest extent practicable that subsequent county land  
294 use policies remain compatible with the acquired interests;

295           10. Preparing and implementing the management plans for protection and use of  
296 the natural resource values of county owned lands, including natural resource lands,  
297 dedicated and deeded open space lands and lands acquired by the county as a condition of  
298 land development approval, and determining appropriate means to execute such  
299 management plans;

300           11. Administering, operating and maintaining those lands designated as natural  
301 resource lands, using any work forces as appropriate;

302           12. The office of rural and resource lands shall be a distinct functional unit of  
303 the division reporting directly to the water and land resources division manager. The  
304 office shall plan, manage and be responsible for administering the county's rural and  
305 resource lands programs including, but not limited to, agriculture, farmlands preservation,  
306 current use taxation programs, forestry, noxious weeds, terrestrial wildlife and habitat,  
307 rural economic development, and encouraging environmental stewardship.

308           D. The duties of the solid waste division shall include the following:

309           1. Managing and operating the county's comprehensive solid waste program on  
310 a self-supporting basis;

311           2. Administering the county's solid waste interlocal agreements with cities and  
312 towns;

313           3. Diverting as much material as possible from disposal in a manner that  
314 reduces the overall costs of solid waste management to county residents and businesses,  
315 conserves resources, protects the environment and strengthens the county's economy;

316           4. Managing and being accountable for all transfer station operations and  
317 landfills, as well as the transportation of waste between county facilities;

318           5. Procuring and maintaining all capital and operating equipment specific to the  
319 solid waste function;

320           6. Providing planning, design, engineering and construction management  
321 services related to the solid waste capital program including new facilities development  
322 and maintenance of existing infrastructure;

323           7. Providing support services such as project management, environmental  
324 review, permit acquisitions, scheduling and project control; and

325           8. Actively pursuing all revenue sources in an effort to maintain the lowest  
326 possible rate structure for the benefit of county residents.

327           E. The duties of the parks and recreation division shall include the following:

328           1. Carrying out the county's parks and recreation division mission, which is to  
329 provide regional trails, regional passive parks, regional resource and ecological lands and  
330 regional active recreation facilities, rural parks and local unincorporated area parks within  
331 the urban growth boundary until annexed, by employing entrepreneurial strategies that

332 raise revenues to support park operations and facilitating agreements with other  
333 jurisdictions and entities to provide for recreational services and other activities;

334           2. Proposing and implementing adopted polities, plans and programs related to  
335 the provision of regional and rural parks and recreation facilities and programs in King  
336 County and local parks in the unincorporated portion of King County within the urban  
337 growth boundary until those areas are annexed;

338           3. Within available resources, managing, operating and maintaining or  
339 facilitating the management, operation and maintenance of the county parks and  
340 recreation facilities;

341           4. Within available resources, maintaining or facilitating the maintenance of  
342 regional resource and ecological lands at the direction of the water and land resources  
343 division,;

344           5. Developing and maintaining an operational master plan and develop and  
345 monitoring a capital improvement plan as defined in K.C.C. chapter 4.04;

346           6. Within available resources, developing and facilitating agreements for the  
347 development of specific active park and recreation facilities;

348           7. Coordinating with other departments and divisions as appropriate in the  
349 preparation of grant applications for park and open space acquisition, development and  
350 operations;

351           8. Developing, managing, or facilitating agreements for the provision of  
352 recreational programs;

353           9. Facilitating programs that promote the safe enjoyment of county-owned  
354 swimming pools and guarded swim beaches; and

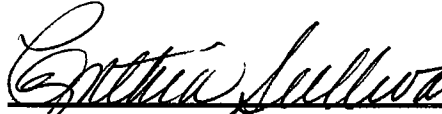


355 10. Planning, organizing, scheduling and administering the annual King County  
356 ((F))fair, off-season programs and use of the county fairgrounds with guidance from the  
357 King County ((fair)) fairgrounds board.  
358


Ordinance 14776 was introduced on 9/29/2003 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/13/2003, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

RECEIVED  
2003 OCT 24 PM 3:44  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL CLERK

APPROVED this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2003.

  
Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None