



**Signature Report**

**May 29, 2007**

**Ordinance 15809**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0160.2

**Sponsors** Gossett

1 AN ORDINANCE concurring with the recommendation of  
2 the hearing examiner to approve, subject to conditions, the  
3 application for public benefit rating system assessed  
4 valuation for open space submitted by Jeffery and Celia  
5 Bronson for property located at 17526 Westside Highway  
6 Southwest, Vashon, Washington 98070, designated  
7 department of natural resources and parks, water and land  
8 resources division file no. E06CT034.

9

10 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

11 SECTION 1. This ordinance does hereby adopt and incorporate herein as its  
12 findings and conclusions the findings and conclusions contained in the report and  
13 recommendation of the hearing examiner dated May 4, 2007, to approve subject to  
14 conditions, the application for public benefit rating system assessed valuation for open  
15 space submitted by Jeffery and Celia Bronson for property located at 17526 Westside  
16 Highway Southwest, Vashon, Washington 98070, designated department of natural  
17 resources and parks, water and land resources division file no. E06CT034, and the

**Ordinance 15809**

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18 council does hereby adopt as its action the recommendation or recommendations  
19 contained in the report.

20

Ordinance 15809 was introduced on 3/12/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 5/29/2007, by the following vote:

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

No: 0

Excused: 2 - Mr. Dunn and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      A. Hearing Examiner Report dated May 4, 2007

15809  
May 4, 2007

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

400 Yesler Avenue, Room 404  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Telephone (206) 296-4660  
Facsimile (206) 296-1654  
Email: hearex@metrokc.gov

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT:** Department of Natural Resources & Parks (DNRP), Water and Land Resources Division,  
file no. **E06CT034**  
Proposed Ordinance No. **2007-0160**

Open Space Taxation (Public Benefit Rating System)

Application of

**JEFFERY & CELIA BRONSON**

17526 Westside Highway Southwest  
Vashon, Washington 98070

Location of Property: 17526 Westside Highway SW  
Vashon, Washington

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Department's Preliminary: | Approve 2.77 acres for 20% of market value |
| Department's Final:       | Approve 2.77 acres for 20% of market value |
| Examiner:                 | Approve 2.77 acres for 20% of market value |

**PRELIMINARY REPORT:**

The Department of Natural Resources & Parks, Water and Land Resources Division Report on item no. E06CT034 was received by the Examiner on April 11, 2007.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

After reviewing the report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a public hearing on the application as follows:

The hearing on item no. E06CT034 was held by the Examiner on April 18, 2007, in the Hearing Examiner's Conference Room, 400 Yesler Way, Room 404, Seattle, Washington.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the office of the King County Hearing Examiner.

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATION:** Having reviewed the record in this matter, the Examiner now makes and enters the following:

**FINDINGS:**

1. **General Information:**

**Owners:** Jeffery and Celia Bronson  
17526 Westside Highway SW  
Vashon, WA 98070

**Property location:** Same as above

**PBRS categories proposed:** **Open space resources**  
Aquifer protection area  
Buffer to public land  
Rural stewardship land  
Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat  
Surface water quality buffer  
Watershed protection area

**Categories recommended:** **Open space resources**  
Aquifer protection area  
Buffer to public land  
Rural stewardship land (contingent)  
Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat  
Surface water quality buffer  
Watershed protection area (contingent)  
**Bonus category**  
Additional surface water quality buffer

**COMMENT:** PBRS staff initiated this application through proposal to the landowners (please see Exhibit #9). Resources were proposed by staff and then concurred in by the applicants.

**STR:** NE 35-23-02  
**Zoning:** RA-2.5

**Parcel no.:** 352302-9058  
**Total acreage:** 4.47  
**Proposed PBRS area:** 2.08  
**Recommended PBRS:** 2.77\*

COMMENT: \*If a rural stewardship plan is not approved and implemented that addresses all or a portion of the area outlined in green on the map attached to the staff report, then the recommended PBRS acreage would be reduced to 1.86 acres.

(The land area recommended for PBRS enrollment is the entire parcel less the excluded area(s), which is what has been calculated by DNRP. In the event the County Assessor's official parcel size is revised, the PBRS acreage shall be administratively adjusted to reflect that change.)

2. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in the King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks, Water and Land Resources Division, Preliminary Report for the April 18, 2007, public hearing are found correct and are incorporated herein by reference. Copies of the department report will be provided with the copies of this report submitted to the King County Council.
3. Timely application was made to King County for current use valuation of the subject property to begin in 2008. Notice of the application was given as required by law.
4. The property contains priority open space resources and is eligible for a total award of 23 points under the King County Public Benefit Rating System. The resulting current use value therefore would be 20% of market value for 2.77 acres of the property.
5. Credit for the buffer to public land category is contingent upon enrollment of adjacent parcel 182407-9019 (file no. E06CT051) in PBRS this year. Failure to qualify for this category will result in a reduced total point award and may cause an increase in the current use valuation for the enrolled portion of the property to 30% (depending on qualification for the additional credits noted below).
6. Additional credit may be awarded administratively for the rural stewardship land category subject to submittal of an approved rural stewardship plan by December 1, 2007, that addresses control of invasive plants and restoration of native species in the .91 acre area outlined in green on the staff report map as well as in the western half of the property. Credit for this category would increase the total point award by 5 points, with the current use valuation for the property being adjusted as necessary. If a rural stewardship plan that addresses all or a portion of the areas specified above is not approved and implemented, the recommended acreage would decrease to 1.86 acres.
7. Credit may also be awarded administratively for the watershed protection area category subject to submittal of a rural stewardship plan as specified in Finding no. 6 above, and reforestation of at least .28 acre. Credit for this category would increase the total point award by 5 points, with the current use valuation for the property being adjusted as necessary.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Approval of current use valuation of 20% of market value for 2.77 acres of the property pursuant to the Public Benefit Rating System adopted by Chapter 20.36 KCC, would be consistent with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources

and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE current use valuation of 20% of market value for 2.77 acres of the subject property, subject to the conditions recommended in the Department of Natural Resources & Parks report for the April 18, 2007, public hearing, and the following additional conditions of approval:

1. Credit for the Buffer to Public Land category is contingent on enrollment of the adjacent parcel in the PBRs program this year as stated in Finding no. 5 above. Failure to qualify for this category will reduce the point total by 3 and may cause an increase in the current use valuation to 30% for the enrolled portion of the property as noted in Finding no. 5.
2. Credit may be awarded administratively for the rural stewardship land category as stated in Finding no. 6 above. Award for this category would add 5 points to the point total with the current use valuation for the property being adjusted as necessary.
3. Credit may be awarded administratively for the watershed protection area category as stated in Finding no. 7 above. Award for this category would increase the point total by 5 points with the current use valuation for the property being adjusted as necessary.

Current use valuation shall be subject to all terms and conditions of RCW Chapter 84.34 and KCC Chapter 20.36, as may be amended from time to time, and all regulations and rules duly adopted to implement state law and county ordinances pertaining to current use valuation.

RECOMMENDED May 4, 2007.

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Peter T. Donahue  
King County Hearing Examiner

TRANSMITTED May 4, 2007, to the following parties and interested persons:

Jeffrey & Celia Bronson  
17526 Westside Hwy. SW  
Vashon, WA 98070

Susan Monroe, Department of Assessments  
Ted Sullivan, Dept. of Natural Resources & Parks  
Charlie Sundberg, Office of Cultural Resources  
Marilyn Cope, KCC – Committee Staff  
Bill Bernstein, Dept. of Natural Resources & Parks  
Sally King, Dept. of Natural Resources & Parks

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL  
AND ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED**

In order to appeal the recommendation of the Examiner, written notice of appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council with a fee of \$250.00 (check payable to King County Office of Finance) **on or before May 18, 2007**. If a notice of appeal is filed, the original and 6 copies of a written appeal statement specifying the basis for the appeal and argument in support of the appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council **on or before May 25, 2007**. Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal.

Filing requires actual delivery to the Office of the Clerk of the Council, Room 1025, King County Courthouse, 516 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104, prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on the date due. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. The Examiner does not have authority to extend the time period unless the Office of the Clerk is not open on the specified closing date, in which event delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

If a written notice of appeal and filing fee are not filed within 14 days calendar days of the date of this report, or if a written appeal statement and argument are not filed within 21 calendar days of the date of this report, the Clerk of the Council shall place a proposed ordinance which implements the Examiner's recommended action on the agenda of the next available Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council may adopt the Examiner's recommendation, may defer action, may refer the matter to a Council committee, or may remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

Action of the Council is final. The action of the Council on a recommendation of the Examiner shall be final and conclusive unless within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the action an aggrieved party or person applies for a writ of certiorari from the Superior Court in and for the County of King, State of Washington, for the purpose of review of the action taken.

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2007, PUBLIC HEARING ON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES & PARKS FILE NO. E06CT034:**

Peter T. Donahue was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing and representing the Department was Ted Sullivan. No others participated in this hearing.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the hearing record:

- Exhibit No. 1 *Not submitted*
- Exhibit No. 2 *Not submitted*
- Exhibit No. 3 *Not submitted*
- Exhibit No. 4 DNRP Preliminary Report to the Hearing Examiner
- Exhibit No. 5 Affidavit of Publication
- Exhibit No. 6 Notice of hearing from the Hearing Examiner's Office
- Exhibit No. 7 Notice of hearing from the PBRs/Timber program
- Exhibit No. 8 Legal notice and introductory ordinance to County Council
- Exhibit No. 9 Proposal and signed/notarized affirmation

- Exhibit No. 10 Assessor's map
- Exhibit No. 11 King County Assessor's database printout
- Exhibit No. 12 Arcview and orthophoto/aerial map
- Exhibit No. 13 Letter to neighbors re: notification of PBRs application
- Exhibit No. 14 *Not submitted*
- Exhibit No. 15 *Reserved for future submission of legal description of area to be enrolled*

PTD:ms  
E06CT034 RPT

Attachment



**This document is provided for information only. DO NOT complete and return. A completed copy will be furnished to the Applicant(s) by the Office of the Hearing Examiner after an application has been approved by the Metropolitan King County Council.**

**OPEN SPACE TAXATION AGREEMENT**

Chapter 84.34 RCW

(To be used for "Open Space", "Timber Land" Classification or "Reclassification" Only)

Property Owner: XXX  
Property Address: XXXX  
Granting Authority King County, Washington  
Legal Description

Assessor's Property Tax Parcel or Account Number: XXX  
Department of Natural Resources & Parks File Number: E0XXX  
This agreement is between XXX hereinafter called the "Owner", and  
King County, Washington hereinafter called the "Granting Authority".

Whereas the owner of the above described real property having made application for classification of that property under the provisions of Chapter 84.34 RCW. And whereas, both the owner and granting authority agree to limit the use of said property, recognizing that such land has substantial public value as open space and that the preservation of such land constitutes an important physical, social, esthetic, and economic asset to the public, and both parties agree that the classification of the property during the life of this agreement shall be for:

**Open Space Land**

Now, therefore, the parties, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth herein, do agree as follows:

1. During the term of this agreement, the land shall be used only in accordance with the preservation of its classified use.
2. No structures shall be erected upon such land except those directly related to, and compatible with, the classified use of the land.
3. This agreement shall be effective commencing on the date the legislative body receives the signed agreement from the property owner and shall remain in effect until the property is withdrawn or removed from classification.
4. This agreement shall apply to the parcels of land described herein and shall be binding upon the heirs, successors and assignees of the parties hereto.
5. The landowner may withdraw from this agreement if, after a period of eight years, he or she files a request to **withdraw** classification with the assessor. Two years from the date of that request the assessor shall withdraw classification from the land, and the applicable taxes and interest shall be imposed as provided in RCW 84.34.070 and 84.34.108.
6. After the effective date of this agreement, any change in use of the land, except through compliance with items (5), (7), or (9), shall be considered a **breach** of this agreement, and shall be subject to removal of classification and liable for applicable taxes, penalties, and interest as provided in RCW 84.34.080 and RCW 84.34.108.
7. A **breach** of agreement shall not have occurred and the additional tax shall not be imposed if removal of classification resulted solely from:
  - a) Transfer to a governmental entity in exchange for other land located within the State of Washington.
  - b) A taking through the exercise of the power of eminent domain, or sale or transfer to an entity having the power in anticipation of the exercise of such power and having manifested its intent in writing or by other official action.
  - c) A natural disaster such as a flood, windstorm, earthquake, or other such calamity rather than by virtue of the act of the land owner changing the use of such property.
  - d) Official action by an agency of the State of Washington or by the county or city where the land is located disallowing the present use of such land.
  - e) Transfer of land to a church when such land would qualify for exemption pursuant to RCW 84.36.020.
  - f) Acquisition of property interests by State agencies or agencies or organizations qualified under RCW 84.34.210 and 64.04.130 (see RCW 84.34.108(6)(f)).

- g) Removal of land classified as farm and agricultural land under RCW 84.34.020(2)(e).
  - h) Removal of land from classification after enactment of a statutory exemption that qualifies the land for exemption and receipt of notice from the owner to remove the land from classification.
  - i) The creation, sale, or transfer of forestry riparian easements under RCW 76.13.120.
  - j) The creation, sale, or transfer of a fee interest or a conservation easement for the riparian open space program under RCW 76.09.040.
  - k) The sale or transfer of land within two years after the death of the owner of at least a fifty percent interest in the land if the land has been assessed and valued as forest land under chapter 84.33 RCW, or under chapter 84.34 RCW continuously since 1993. The date of death shown on the death certificate is the date used.
8. The county assessor may require an owner to submit data relevant to continuing the eligibility of any parcel of land described in this agreement.
  9. The owner may apply for reclassification as provided in Chapter 84.34 RCW.
  10. This agreement shall supersede any previous open space taxation agreement entered into for the subject property.

This agreement shall be subject to the following conditions:

**See attached Hearing Examiner Report and Recommendation**

It is declared that this agreement specifies the classification and conditions as provided for in Chapter 84.34 RCW and the conditions imposed by this Granting Authority. This agreement to tax according to the use of the property is not a contract and can be annulled or canceled at any time by the Legislature (RCW 84.34.070).

Granting Authority:

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ King County, Washington

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Chair

As owner(s) of the herein-described land I/we indicated by my/our signature(s) that I am/we are aware of the potential tax liability and hereby accept the classification and conditions of this agreement (must be signed by all owners).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date signed agreement received by Legislative Authority \_\_\_\_\_

For tax assistance, visit <http://dor.wa.gov> or call 1-800-647-7706. To inquire about the availability of this document in an alternate format for the visually impaired, please call (360) 705-6715. Teletype (TTY) users may call 1-800-451-7985.  
REV 64 0022e (w) (7/27/05)