



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 17, 2007**

**Ordinance 15869**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0339.3

**Sponsors** Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE directing the development of a work  
2 program; expansion of water quality monitoring programs  
3 and scientific studies; and analysis of options to reorganize  
4 the office of the county executive or department of natural  
5 resources and parks to support the work of the Puget Sound  
6 Partnership and meet King County's responsibilities for the  
7 implementation of Washington State Engrossed Senate Bill  
8 5372.

9  
10 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

11 1. The Washington state Legislature, in creating the Puget Sound  
12 Partnership has found that:

13 (a) Puget Sound, including Hood Canal, and the waters that flow to it are a  
14 national treasure and a unique resource. Residents enjoy a way of life  
15 centered around these waters that depends upon clean and healthy marine  
16 and freshwater resources;

17 (b) Puget Sound is in serious decline, and Hood Canal is in a serious crisis.

18 This decline is indicated by loss of and damage to critical habit, rapid  
19 decline in species populations, increases in aquatic nuisance species,  
20 numerous toxics contaminated sites, urbanization and attendant storm water  
21 drainage, closure of beaches to shellfish harvest due to disease risks, low-  
22 dissolved oxygen levels causing death of marine life, and other phenomena.  
23 If left unchecked, these conditions will worsen;

24 (c) Puget Sound must be restored and protected in a more coherent and  
25 effective manner. The current system is highly fragmented. Immediate and  
26 concerted action is necessary by all levels of government working with the  
27 public, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to ensure a  
28 thriving natural system that exists in harmony with a vibrant economy; and

29 (d) Leadership, accountability, government transparency, thoughtful and  
30 responsible spending of public funds and public involvement will be  
31 integral to the success of efforts to restore and protect Puget Sound.

32 2. The legislature has therefore created a new agency entitled Puget Sound  
33 Partnership to coordinate and lead the effort to restore and protect Puget  
34 Sound, and intends that all governmental entities, including federal and state  
35 agencies, tribes, cities, counties, ports and special purpose districts, support  
36 and help implement the partnership's restoration efforts. The legislature  
37 further intends that the partnership will:

38 (a) Define a strategic action agenda prioritizing necessary actions, both  
39 basin-wide and within specific areas, and creating an approach that  
40 addresses all of the complex connections among the land, water, web of

41 species and human needs. The action agenda will be based on science and  
42 include clear, measurable goals for the recovery of Puget Sound by 2020;

43 (b) Determine accountability for performance, oversee the efficiency and  
44 effectiveness of money spent, educate and engage the public and track and  
45 report results to the legislature, the governor and the public; and

46 (c) Not have regulatory authority and not have authority to transfer the  
47 responsibility for, or implementation of, any state regulatory program,  
48 unless otherwise specifically authorized by the legislature.

49 3. It is the goal of the state that the health of Puget Sound be restored by  
50 2020.

51 4. The Puget Sound Partnership is intended to have a leadership council  
52 that will allocate funds for Puget Sound recovery, including making grants  
53 to governmental and nongovernmental entities, providing progress and  
54 other reports, setting strategic priorities and benchmarks and adopting and  
55 applying accountability measures.

56 5. The Puget Sound Partnership will create subcommittees and advisory  
57 committees as appropriate to assist and advise it in carrying out its mission.

58 6. The Puget Sound Partnership will promote extensive public awareness,  
59 education, and participation in Puget Sound protection and recovery.

60 7. The legislature has directed the Puget Sound Partnership to work closely  
61 with existing organizations and all levels of government to ensure that its  
62 action agenda and its implementation are scientifically sound and efficient  
63 and achieves the necessary results to accomplish recovery of the Puget

64 Sound to health by 2020 and further directs it to support, engage, and foster  
65 collaboration among watershed groups.

66 8. The Puget Sound Partnership is directed to form an ecosystem  
67 coordination board no later than October 1, 2007, that will include  
68 representatives from designated action areas and representatives of general  
69 business interests, environmental interests, tribal governments, state  
70 agencies, federal agencies and the state legislature and one representative  
71 each from counties, cities and port districts within the Puget Sound basin for  
72 the purpose of advising and assisting the Puget Sound Partnership  
73 leadership council in developing and implementing the action agenda.

74 9. The Puget Sound Partnership is directed to develop the action agenda in  
75 part based upon the foundation of existing watershed programs that address  
76 or contribute to the health of Puget Sound.

77 10. The Puget Sound Partnership is directed to create a science panel to  
78 provide independent, nonrepresentational scientific advice to the leadership  
79 council and expertise in identifying environmental indicators and  
80 benchmarks for incorporation into the action agenda.

81 11. The success of the Puget Sound Partnership will require the  
82 coordination of many governmental entities, including federal and state  
83 agencies, counties, ports and special purpose districts. King County will be  
84 a key partner as the plan moves forward.

85 12. King County via its metropolitan function is responsible for water  
86 pollution abatement including the conveyance and treatment of wastewater.

87 throughout most of King County and parts of Snohomish county.

88 13. King County and its cities have consistently lead the state and modeled  
89 programs and laws to address the public interests of life, health and safety in  
90 protecting its fresh and salt water resources by addressing wastewater  
91 treatment needs, regulating surface and stormwater runoff, and creating  
92 groundwater protection programs.

93 14. King County and its cities have also provided leadership, funding and  
94 expertise in the development of watershed plans for WRIAs 7, 8 and 9. The  
95 watershed plans have been coordinated via the Shared Strategy Plan and  
96 approved by federal agencies as the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.

97 15. King County's environmental laboratory provides quality field,  
98 laboratory, information technology services and advisory services in support  
99 of King County and other publicly-sponsored programs that protect and  
100 enhance water quality. The laboratory has been accredited and cited as  
101 "exemplary" by the Washington state Department of Ecology.

102 16. In an average year, the environmental laboratory serves more than one  
103 hundred fifty King County projects, analyzes fifteen thousand samples and  
104 produces close to four hundred thousand data points for use in  
105 environmental studies and decision-making. This information forms a  
106 database that is used to: monitor trends in regional waters; design and  
107 operate wastewater treatment plants; enforce industrial waste regulations;  
108 formulate plans and action programs to protect and enhance local water  
109 bodies; monitor recycled products such as biosolids and reclaimed water;

110 protect public health; and participate in cooperative studies with other  
111 governmental and research agencies.

112 17. King County currently has two departments and numerous divisions  
113 that are responsible for various and sometimes overlapping functions related  
114 to the protection of land and water resources through the implementation of  
115 plans, programs and regulations.

116 18. King County, as an effective steward of its resources and an advocate  
117 for the protection and restoration of Puget Sound must be internally  
118 consistent in its plans, programs, regulations, priorities and investments and  
119 work with its other partner agencies, cities, ports and tribes to effectively  
120 coordinate actions and communicate regarding these efforts.

121 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

122 SECTION 1. The executive and the department of natural resources and parks is  
123 directed to develop a work program to address the manner in which King County will  
124 coordinate with cities and other governmental agencies in the county to assess the role  
125 and responsibilities that local governments will have under chapter 90.71 RCW and other  
126 laws of Washington 2007 as stipulated in Engrossed Senate Bill 5372, including  
127 potentially responsibilities to participate in and expand the functions of local watershed  
128 groups. The work program shall include, but not limited to, the following:

129 A. A public information or communication plan for local elected leadership and  
130 appropriate staff within the agencies and departments of cities, ports and tribes regarding  
131 Puget Sound activities;

132 B. A strategy for the assembly of elected officials, agencies and experts in King

133 County to share information and research regarding Puget Sound and its tributaries;  
134 including planning for a gathering of the membership of the WRIA forums in King  
135 County and other elected officials and staff in the fall, 2007 to share an assessment and  
136 inventory of actions already completed or underway; and

137 C. A proposal or options for coordinating and identifying countywide priorities  
138 for action and funding from available state, federal and private resources to support  
139 implementation of plans, specific projects and programs that contribute to the health and  
140 restoration of Puget Sound.

141 D. A preliminary plan identifying the organizations, agencies, and  
142 individuals, together with potential funding sources, that have the availability and  
143 capacity to research the role which aquatic reserves can play in the Puget Sound  
144 Partnership's work to protect and restore Puget Sound, including identifying  
145 activities that are appropriate within such an aquatic reserve.

146 E. A preliminary work program required by this section shall be due by  
147 September 16, 2007; a final version shall be prepared and submitted to the council,  
148 together with a motion for council approval, by January 1, 2008.

149 SECTION 2. A. The executive and department of natural resources and parks  
150 should report to the council how King County and other local agencies will be  
151 coordinating and conducting adequate testing, monitoring and studies to support the  
152 science-based, ecosystem-wide approach to protecting and restoring the health of Puget  
153 Sound.

154 B. The department of natural resources and parks will prepare and submit to the  
155 council:

156           1. An assessment of King County's current role and responsibilities for  
157 monitoring, modeling, data management and research with regard to its water pollution  
158 abatement and water quality management responsibilities;

159           2. A preliminary plan for working with state and federal agencies to identify  
160 additional monitoring, modeling, data management and research required to  
161 systematically monitor and measure cumulative changes to ecosystem components and  
162 their interactions;

163           3. A preliminary plan identifying the steps, investments and potential funding  
164 sources necessary to expand the current water quality monitoring network within King  
165 County that is sufficiently integrated into the Puget Sound assessment and monitoring  
166 under the auspices of the Puget Sound Partnership and based upon King County's current  
167 sampling and field data collection including: water column sampling in marine and fresh  
168 water; sediment sampling in Puget Sound and Lake Washington; storm sampling of  
169 combined sewer overflows, rivers and streams; wastewater sampling at the sewage  
170 treatment plants, groundwater well sampling, surface water sampling at biosolids forest  
171 application sites, and other samplings for taxonomic identification;

172           4. A preliminary plan for working with state and federal agencies to identify  
173 potential science gaps and recommend research priorities for uplands and waters within  
174 King County; and

175           5. A preliminary list of potential projects to be nominated for inclusion in the  
176 state-sponsored Puget Sound science program and Puget Sound science activities of  
177 federal agencies, that can be part of an integrated research agenda and Puget Sound  
178 science work plan.



179 C. A preliminary version of those assessments, plans and lists required in  
180 subsection B. 1. through 5. of this section shall be due by September 16, 2007; a final  
181 version shall be prepared and submitted to the council, together with a motion for council  
182 approval, by January 1, 2008.

183 SECTION 3. A. The executive shall analyze and propose options and  
184 recommendations for the reorganization either at the executive level or within the  
185 department of natural resources and parks to create an organizational unit or division that  
186 is tasked with being the internal coordinating agency for all King County activities  
187 related to improving and restoring the health of Puget Sound.

188 B. At a minimum, the analysis and options for the creation of a specialized  
189 organizational unit or division should address:

190 1. How King County can best manage its planning and regulatory functions  
191 across departments and divisions ensuring environmental stewardship and economic  
192 development concerns are balanced across utility and resource functions;

193 2. Whether strategic planning efforts should be consolidated within a new  
194 organizational unit or division to ensure: integration of land and water resource  
195 protection; coordination of groundwater, water reuse and water supply planning efforts;  
196 advances in wastewater, sewerage control and flood control; and stormwater and surface  
197 water control to prevent water quality and habitat degradation;

198 3. Whether a new organizational unit or division should be responsible for  
199 proposing or updating policies, or both, and ensuring the timely implementation of  
200 adopted policies, plans and programs relating to water and land resources, open space and

201 other natural resources, water quality and ground waters that impact the wide variety of  
202 species that are critical to the food web and ecosystem of Puget Sound;

203 4. Whether a new organizational unit or division should be responsible for:  
204 development of new funding approaches for resource protection; establishment of new  
205 partnerships and sharing information with businesses, community organizations and  
206 citizens; coordinating grant applications; and exchange of data and scientific studies with  
207 other governments; and

208 5. Whether a new organizational unit or division should be the local source of  
209 information regarding the Puget Sound Partnership actions, tracking proposed state or  
210 federal regulatory changes and potential impacts to local governments.

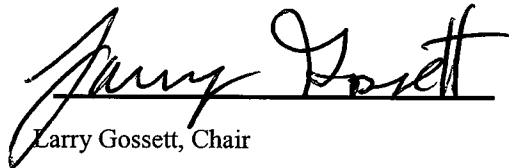
211 C. A preliminary version of the options and recommendations required in this  
212 section, including the executive's assessment of the budgetary impacts and benefits of  
213 reorganization, shall be due by September 16, 2007; a subsequent version shall be

214 prepared and submitted to the council, together with a motion for council approval, by  
215 January 1, 2008.  
216

Ordinance 15869 was introduced on 6/4/2007 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/16/2007, by the following vote:


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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



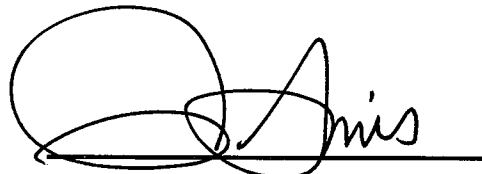
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 26 day of July, 2007.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL CLERK