



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

June 30, 2009

### Ordinance 16581

**Proposed No.** 2009-0367.3

**Sponsors** Phillips, Dunn, Ferguson and  
Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE requiring the adoption of rules  
2 addressing procedures for establishing large wood  
3 emplacements in rivers or streams.

4  
5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. Public agencies, development and habitat restoration project  
7 proponents and private landowners have increasingly made use of large  
8 wood emplacement in recent years, as a means of enhancing fisheries and  
9 aquatic habitat values, reducing erosion and scouring to river banks,  
10 deflecting flows to minimize impacts to river banks, offsetting the impacts  
11 of development projects and protecting shorelines.
- 12 2. Public safety concerns have emerged regarding the potential hazard  
13 presented by some of these emplacements to recreational boaters, floaters  
14 and other water users.
- 15 3. Based on these concerns, the King County council directed that the  
16 department of natural resources and parks prepare a report on the

17 circumstances associated with large wood emplacements, addressing  
18 means of mitigating against public safety hazards.

19 4. That report was prepared and presented to the council, noting, among  
20 other findings, certain procedural approaches to large wood emplacements  
21 that are generally observed by the department of natural resources and  
22 parks.

23 5. Those procedural approaches have not been adopted as administrative  
24 rules and are not readily available to the public.

25 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

26 SECTION 1.

27 A. By March 31, 2010, the executive shall adopt rules addressing the procedures  
28 that the King County department of natural resources and parks shall follow when  
29 installing large wood emplacements in rivers or streams.

30 B. The rules shall require the department of natural resources and parks to:

31 1. Develop a conceptual design of the wood emplacement for each proposed  
32 project. The project-specific conceptual design shall address proposed location, size,  
33 shape and anchoring of the wood; whether wood recruitment, which is the intentional  
34 accumulation of wood, floating down the river, at the installed emplacement site, is  
35 proposed; whether wood is intended to remain fixed or is intended to be moveable; and  
36 how the emplacement is to function to meet project goals;

37 2. Include in each conceptual design a description of how public safety  
38 considerations have been incorporated into the project's design;

39           3. Provide timely notice by the department of natural resources and parks to  
40 recreational water users, environmental interests, the neighboring community and others  
41 indicating an interest, about a proposed project and how interested parties may comment  
42 on the conceptual design;

43           4. Involve interested parties, who commented on the conceptual design, in a  
44 discussion and outreach to revise and refine the wood emplacement design for a proposed  
45 project, including:

- 46           a. identifying the type and extent of recreational use in the project area;
- 47           b. identifying public concerns related to the conceptual design; and
- 48           c. considering ideas for reducing or eliminating concerns regarding public  
49 safety, to the extent possible; and

50           5. Provide for periodic independent monitoring and inspection of large wood  
51 emplacements by an appropriate third-party provider. Reports of such inspections shall  
52 be provided to the department and to all councilmembers. Eleven copies of any  
53 inspection report made under this subsection shall be filed with the clerk of the council  
54 for distribution to councilmembers.

55           C. The rules shall include reference to the Guidelines for Bank Stabilization  
56 Projects in Riverine Environments in King County and the State of Washington's  
57 Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines as the guide for project design for wood  
58 emplacements. At least every three years, the department of natural resources and parks  
59 shall convene a group of stakeholders, including but not limited to river residents,  
60 recreationalists, tribes, river boating interests, appropriate regulatory agencies, King  
61 County sheriff office representatives, and water resource inventory area representatives,

62 to review the department's large-wood emplacement rules and update them as needed.  
63 The department shall report to the chair of the physical environment committee, or its  
64 successor, any changes to the rules resulting from this review process. Two copies of any  
65 report made under this subsection shall be filed with the clerk of the council, for  
66 distribution to the chair of the physical environment committee, or its successor.

67 D. The adopted rules are intended to support the department of natural resources  
68 and parks' process to evaluate various strategies for location and design of wood  
69 emplacements, to maximize project benefits and to minimize risks to public safety.

70 E. The rules shall apply over all rivers within the jurisdiction of the department of  
71 natural resources and parks.

72 F. In implementing the rules, the procedures and design options affording the  
73 greatest safety for river users shall be of primary consideration in design concerns  
74 involving a balancing of important public purposes as the county addresses safety issues  
75 in large wood emplacements and other in-stream designs.

76

77 G. The rules are supplemental to applicable provisions of the Revised Code of  
78 Washington and Washington Administrative Code.

79

Ordinance 16581 was introduced on 6/15/2009 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/29/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Dunn

No: 0

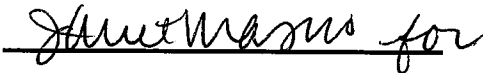
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



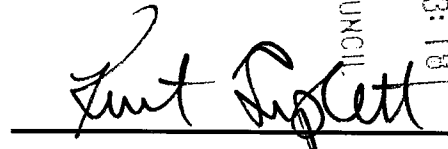
Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009.



Kurt Triplett, County Executive

RECEIVED  
2009 JUL 10 PM 3:18  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments None