



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**April 4, 2011**

**Ordinance 17058**

**Proposed No. 2011-0028.2**

**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 Sarah Wright for  
5           property located at 16245 Westside Highway SW, Vashon,  
6           WA 98070, designated department of natural resources and  
7           parks, water and land resources division file no. E10CT034

8           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

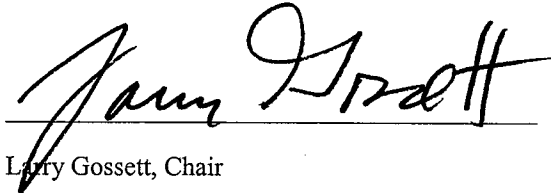
9           SECTION 1. This ordinance does hereby adopt and incorporate herein as its  
10          findings and conclusions the findings and conclusions contained in the report and  
11          recommendation of the hearing examiner dated March 14, 2011, to approve subject to  
12          conditions, the application for public benefit rating system assessed valuation for open  
13          space submitted by Sarah Wright for property located at 16245 Westside Highway SW,  
14          Vashon, WA 98070, designated department of natural resources and parks, water and

15 land resources division file no. E10CT034, and the council does hereby adopt as its  
16 action the recommendation or recommendations contained in the report.  
17

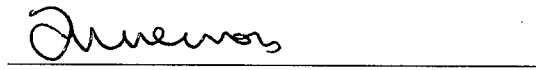
Ordinance 17058 was introduced on 1/18/2011 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 4/4/2011, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Hearing Examiner Report dated March 14, 2011

17058

March 14, 2011

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER**  
**KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**  
King County Courthouse, Room 1200  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Telephone (206) 296-4660  
Facsimile (206) 296-0198  
Email [hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov)

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

**SUBJECT:** Department of Natural Resources & Parks (DNRP), Water and Land Resources Division,  
file no. **E10CT034**  
Proposed Ordinance No. **2011-0028**

Open Space Taxation (Public Benefit Rating System; PBRs)  
Application of  
**SARAH WRIGHT**  
16245 Westside Highway SW  
Vashon, Washington 98070

Location of Property: 16245 Westside Highway SW  
Vashon, Washington

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Department Preliminary:	Section A - Approve 3.55 acres for 30% of market value (20% conditionally) Section B - Approve 1.79 acres for 50% of market value (40% conditionally) (contingent)
Department Final:	Section A - Approve 3.55 acres for 30% of market value (20% conditionally) Section B - Approve 1.79 acres for 50% of market value (40% conditionally) (contingent)
Examiner:	Section A - Approve 3.55 acres for 30% of market value (20% conditionally) Section B - Approve 1.79 acres for 50% of market value (40% conditionally) (contingent)

**PRELIMINARY REPORT:**

The DNRP Report on item no. E10CT034 was received by the Examiner on February 28, 2011. A revised staff report was submitted March 9, 2011.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

After reviewing the report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a public hearing on the application on February 28, 2011, in the 12th Floor Horiuchi Conference Room, King County Courthouse, 516 3rd Avenue, Seattle, Washington. The hearing was continued administratively for submission of a revised staff report and closed on March 9, 2011.

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:** Sarah Wright and Dana Schuerholz  
**Location:** 16245 Westside Highway SW, Vashon

**PBRS categories requested or staff-proposed:** **Open space resources**  
 Aquifer protection area  
 Farm and agricultural conservation land  
 Forest Stewardship land  
 Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat  
 Surface water quality buffer area

**Bonus categories**  
 Resource restoration  
 Additional surface water quality buffer  
 Environmental education access

**Categories recommended:** **Open space resources**  
 Aquifer protection area (Section A only)  
 Farm and agricultural conservation land (Section B only-contingent)  
 Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat (Section A only)  
 Surface water quality buffer area (Section A only)

**Bonus categories**  
 Resource restoration (Section B only-conditional)  
 Additional surface water quality buffer (Section A only)  
 Environmental education access (conditional)

**STR:** NW 25-23-02  
**Zoning:** RA-5  
**Parcel no.:** 252302-9074  
**Total acreage:** 6.93 acres  
**Recommended PBRS:** 5.34 acres (Section A is 3.55 acres and Section B is 1.79 acres)

NOTE: The portions of the property eligible for enrollment have been delineated as Section A (eastern portion) and Section B (western portion) due to their separation by an excluded portion of the property.

(The land area recommended for PBRs enrollment is the entire parcel less the excluded area, 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. Timely application was made to King County for PBRs current use valuation of the property to begin in 2012. Notice of the application was given as required by law.
3. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in the DNRP Revised Report and testimony in the March 2, 2011, public hearing are found correct and are incorporated herein by reference. Copies of the revised department report will be provided with the copies of this report submitted to the Metropolitan King County Council.
4. Award of credit under the farm and agricultural conservation land category for Section B is *contingent on submittal of a King Conservation District-approved farm management plan by July 1, 2011*. Failure to qualify under this category would preclude Section B from enrollment in the PBRs program at present due to lack of sufficient qualifying point award.
5. Subject to the above-noted contingency, the property contains priority open space resources and is eligible for a total award of 18 points for Section A and 5 points for Section B under the King County Public Benefit Rating System. The resulting current use valuation therefore would be 30% of market value for 3.55 acres of Section A and 50% of market value for 1.79 acres of Section B.
6. Additional credit may be awarded administratively for Section B under the resource restoration category *subject to submittal of a resource restoration plan for the 0.50 acres in the southwest corner of Section B by July 1, 2011, and subsequent County approval by September 1, 2011*. Award of credit under this category is dependent on award of credit under the farm and agricultural conservation land category. Award of credit under the resource restoration category would increase the total point award for Section B by five points with an accordingly adjusted current use valuation for the enrolled portion of the property.  
  
Failure to restore this 0.50 acre portion of the property would disqualify it from enrollment in the program and the enrolled acreage for Section B would be reduced accordingly.
7. Additional credit may be awarded administratively for both Sections A and B under the environmental education access category *subject to submittal by July 1, 2011, of supporting documentation demonstrating use of the property by a qualifying environmental education group(s)*. Award of credit under this category would increase the point total for each category by three points, resulting in a current use valuation of 20% for Section A and with an accordingly adjusted current use valuation for Section B.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Subject to the above-noted contingency, approval of current use valuation of 30% of market value (20% conditionally) for 3.55 acres of Section A and 50% of market value (40%

conditionally) for 1.79 acres of Section B 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 30% of market value (20% conditionally) for 3.55 acres of Section A and 50% of market value (40% conditionally) for 1.79 acres of Section B, subject to the conditions recommended in the DNRP Revised Report, the contingency noted above, and the following conditional allowances:

- A. Credit may be awarded administratively for Section B under the resource restoration category as noted in Finding no. 6 above. Award of credit under this category would increase the total point award by five points with an accordingly adjusted current use valuation for the enrolled portion of the property.
- B. Credit may be awarded administratively for both Sections A and B under the environmental education access category as noted in Finding no. 7 above. Award of credit under this category would increase the point total for each category by three points, resulting in a current use valuation of 20% for Section A and with an accordingly adjusted current use valuation for Section B.

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 March 14, 2011.



Peter T. Donahue  
King County Hearing Examiner

**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 March 28, 2011*. If a notice of appeal is filed, the original and two 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 April 4, 2011*. 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 1200, King County Courthouse, 516 Third 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 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 MARCH 2, 2011, PUBLIC HEARING ON DNRP FILE NO. E10CT034:

Peter T. Donahue was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing and representing the Department was Ted Sullivan. There were no other participants 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. 4b DNRP Revised 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 Application signed/notarized
- Exhibit No. 10 Legal description of area to be enrolled
- Exhibit No. 11 Email to applicant re: received application and approval schedule
- Exhibit No. 12 Arcview and orthophoto/aerial map
- Exhibit No. 13 Letter to neighbors re: notification of PBRs application
- Exhibit No. 14 *Reserved for future submission of farm management plan*
- Exhibit No. 15 *Reserved for future submission of resource restoration plan*

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 the 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: XX  
 Property Address: XX  
 Granting Authority: King County, Washington  
 Legal Description:

(legal description)

Assessor's Property Tax Parcel or Account Number: XXX  
 Department of Natural Resources & Parks File Number: E0XCT0XX  
 This agreement is between XX 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 of private forest lands within unconfined channel migration zones or containing critical habitat for threatened or endangered species 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; or
  - l) The discovery that the land was classified in error through no fault of the owner.
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 current use 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Ferguson  
Chair of Council

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.

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

State of Washington  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and affirmed to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Appointment Expires