



## KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

### Signature Report

#### Ordinance 20005

**Proposed No.** 2025-0302.2

**Sponsors** Dembowski

1 AN ORDINANCE regarding surface water management;  
2 revising surface water management service charges;  
3 amending Ordinance 7590, Section 8, as amended, and  
4 K.C.C. 9.08.070 and establishing an effective date.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. King County works in partnership with property owners and state and  
7 federal agencies to minimize the impacts of storm and surface runoff on  
8 the water quantity and quality of the waters of the state.
- 9 2. King County charges property owners within its surface water  
10 management service area, which is unincorporated King County, a  
11 graduated fee based on six nonresidential rate classes tied to relative  
12 amount of impervious surface and one uniform rate class for all residential  
13 parcels.
- 14 3. In 1986, Ordinance 7590 established the surface water management  
15 program to provide a comprehensive approach to surface and storm water  
16 problems including "basin planning, land use regulation, construction of  
17 facilities, maintenance and public education." In 1991, Ordinance 10187  
18 increased the services provided by the surface water management program  
19 and set a rate structure and service charges. In 2001, Ordinance 14261  
20 acknowledged that the costs to provide surface water management had

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21 increased due to the ordinary impacts of inflation and due to increased and  
22 more stringent federal and state requirements for the proper management  
23 of surface water quality and quantity. In 2006, Ordinance 15638  
24 acknowledged that the then soon to be effective new National Pollutant  
25 Discharge Elimination System permit would require King County's  
26 compliance with more stringent requirements. In 2010, Ordinance 16958  
27 acknowledged that costs had increased to comply with the stringent  
28 requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
29 permit and to meet the ordinary impacts of inflation. In 2012, Ordinance  
30 17451 acknowledged that the surface water management program had  
31 increased capital construction needs, increased costs of National Pollutant  
32 Discharge Elimination System permit compliance, and revenue losses  
33 from annexations of unincorporated county areas to cities. It also  
34 acknowledged that the King County road services program had identified  
35 construction needs to mitigate stormwater impacts and that these capital  
36 projects were necessary to protect life and property as well as to maintain  
37 or restore water quality and ecological functions in receiving waters.  
38 Ordinance 17451 also incorporated changes to the rate adjustment  
39 program that provided incentives to property owners to improve on-site  
40 control of stormwater through the granting of additional discounts. In  
41 2016, Ordinance 18401 acknowledged the residential parcel fee charged  
42 by King County was insufficient to meet the projected revenue  
43 requirements needed to provide necessary surface water management

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44 services to protect public health and safety. In 2018, Ordinance 18836  
45 acknowledged that the residential parcel fee charged by King County did  
46 not provide an adequate level of funding to mitigate the impacts of  
47 degrading stormwater infrastructure comprised of grey and green elements  
48 and that the proposed increase would help continue improving stormwater  
49 infrastructure to a higher level of service. In 2022, Ordinance 19543  
50 acknowledged that the residential parcel fee was inadequate to cover  
51 inflationary increases in the surface water management fund and it did not  
52 provide an adequate level of funding to continue to build upon ongoing  
53 efforts to mitigate the impacts of degrading stormwater infrastructure  
54 comprised of grey, which are facilities and systems, and green, which are  
55 natural lands, forests, bioswales, and rain gardens. In 2024, Ordinance  
56 19847 acknowledged that the residential parcel fee was inadequate to  
57 cover inflationary increases in the surface water management fund, and it  
58 did not provide an adequate level of funding to implement the  
59 requirements of the new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System  
60 permit or to address deferred maintenance of existing stormwater facilities  
61 to prevent failures in the system.

62 4. The current rate of three hundred and sixty-one dollar per single family  
63 residential parcels is inadequate to cover inflationary increases in the  
64 surface water management fund to continue ongoing efforts to mitigate the  
65 impacts of degrading stormwater infrastructure comprised of grey, which  
66 are facilities and systems, and green, which are natural lands, forests,

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67 bioswales, and rain gardens. The proposed increase of approximately four  
68 and ninety-nine hundredths will help continued efforts to improve the  
69 stormwater infrastructure to sustain existing level of service.

70 5. An increase in the base amount of the surface water management  
71 charge from three hundred sixty-one dollars to three hundred and seventy-  
72 nine dollars per residential parcel in 2026, an eighteen dollar increase over  
73 2025, and corresponding adjustments in the rates for classes of  
74 nonresidential property, are needed to provide necessary surface water  
75 management services to protect public health and safety.

76 6. It is in the public interest, and is necessary for the protection of health,  
77 safety, and welfare of the residents of King County, that the necessary  
78 costs of providing surface water management services continue to be  
79 funded and that such costs continue to be charged against those parcels  
80 either benefitting from such services or contributing to the increase of  
81 surface water runoff, or both, which the King County surface water  
82 management program must address.

83 7. Parcels owned by federally recognized tribes or members of such tribes  
84 that are located within the historical boundaries of a reservation are not  
85 subject to the surface water management charges provided for in K.C.C  
86 chapter 9.08.

87 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

88 SECTION 1. Ordinance 7590, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 9.08.070 are  
89 each hereby amended to read as follows:

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90           A. The service charges shall be based on the relative contribution of increased  
91 surface and storm water runoff from a given parcel to the surface and storm water  
92 management system. The percentage of impervious surfaces on the parcel, the total  
93 parcel acreage, and any mitigating factors as provided in K.C.C. 9.08.080 shall be used to  
94 indicate the relative contribution of increased surface and storm water runoff from the  
95 parcel to the surface and storm water management system. The relative contribution of  
96 increased surface and storm water runoff from each parcel determines that parcel's share  
97 of the service charge revenue needs. The service charge revenue needs of the program  
98 are based upon all or any part, as determined by the council, of the cost of meeting  
99 stormwater permit obligations of state and federal law and the cost of surface and storm  
100 water management services and to pay or secure the payment of all or any portion of any  
101 issue of general obligation or revenue bonds issued for that purpose.

102           B. The division shall determine the service charge for each parcel within the  
103 service area by the following methodology:

104           Residential and very lightly developed nonresidential parcels shall receive a flat  
105 rate service charge for the reasons in K.C.C 9.08.060. Light to very heavily developed  
106 parcels shall be classified into the appropriate rate category by their percentage of  
107 impervious surface coverage. Land use codes or data collected from parcel  
108 investigations, or both shall be used to determine each parcel's percentage of impervious  
109 surface coverage. After a parcel has been assigned to the appropriate rate category, the  
110 service charge for the parcel shall be calculated by multiplying the total acreage of the  
111 parcel times the rate for that category.

112           C. There is hereby imposed upon all developed properties in the service area

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113 annual service charges as follows:

114 SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGES

|     |             |                                  |                                                        |
|-----|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 115 | Class       | Impervious Surface %             | Rate                                                   |
| 116 | Residential | NA                               | <del>(((\$361.00))</del> <u>\$379.00/parcel/year</u>   |
| 117 | Very Light  | 0 to less than or equal to 10%   | <del>(((\$361.00))</del> <u>\$379.00/parcel/year</u>   |
| 118 | Light       | greater than 10% to less than    | <del>(((\$1,003.69))</del> <u>\$1,053.74/acre/year</u> |
| 119 |             | or equal to 20%                  |                                                        |
| 120 | Moderate    | greater than 20% to less than    | <del>(((\$1,878.75))</del> <u>\$1,972.43/acre/year</u> |
| 121 |             | or equal to 45%                  |                                                        |
| 122 | Moderately  | greater than 45% to less than    | <del>(((\$3,206.03))</del> <u>\$3,365.89/acre/year</u> |
| 123 | Heavy       | or equal to 65%                  |                                                        |
| 124 | Heavy       | greater than 65% to less than or | <del>(((\$4,466.12))</del> <u>\$4,688.81/acre/year</u> |
| 125 |             | or equal to 85%                  |                                                        |
| 126 | Very Heavy  | greater than 85% to less than or | <del>(((\$5,495.07))</del> <u>\$5,769.06/acre/year</u> |
| 127 |             | equal to 100%                    |                                                        |

128 County Roads NA Set in accordance with RCW 90.03.525

129 State Highways NA Set in accordance with RCW 90.03.525

130 The minimum service charge in any class shall be three hundred ~~((sixty-one))~~

131 seventy-nine dollars per parcel per year. Mobile home parks' maximum annual service

132 charges in any class shall be three hundred ~~((sixty-one))~~ seventy-nine dollars times the

133 number of mobile home spaces.

134 D. The county council shall review the surface water management services

135 charges biennially to ensure the long-term fiscal viability of the program and to guarantee

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136 that debt covenants are met. The program shall use equitable and efficient methods to  
 137 determine service charges.

138 E. When a parcel with impervious surface is divided by the boundary of the  
 139 service area and a portion of the parcel's impervious surface drains into the service area,  
 140 the parcel shall be charged as otherwise provided herein on the basis of the lands and  
 141 impervious surfaces that drain into the service area. When the director has determined  
 142 that the impervious surface of a parcel, divided by the boundary of the service area,  
 143 completely drains outside of the service area, the parcel is exempt from the rates and  
 144 charges of this chapter.

145 F. The King County council by ordinance may supplement or alter charges within  
 146 specific basins and subbasins of the service area so as to charge properties or parcels of  
 147 one basin or subbasin for improvements, studies, or maintenance that the council deems

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148 to provide service or benefit the property owners of one or more basins or subbasins.

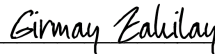
149 SECTION 2. This ordinance takes effect January 1, 2026.

Ordinance 20005 was introduced on 10/7/2025 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/18/2025, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Mosqueda, Perry,  
Quinn, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:



1AEA3C5077F8485...

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:



8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of 11/25/2025, \_\_\_\_.

Signed by:



AAA4841FD7644BE...

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

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Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov

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girmay.zahilay@kingcounty.gov

Council Chair

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Melani Hay

melani.hay@kingcounty.gov

Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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Shannon Braddock

Shannon.Braddock@kingcounty.gov

King County Executive

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signed by:

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## Status

## Timestamp

## Agent Delivery Events

## Status

## Timestamp

## Intermediary Delivery Events

## Status

## Timestamp

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