

A MOTION relating to King County Policy for the Implementation of Chapter 84.34 RCW - Open Space, Agricultural and Timberlands - Current Use Assessment

1 THE KING COUNTY COUNCIL, by this Motion, recognizes that
2 it is in the best interest of King County to maintain, preserve,
3 conserve or otherwise continue in existence adequate open space
4 lands. The application of current use taxing practices to some
5 property in King County will necessarily result in a reduction of
6 income to the County with a proportionate reduction of services,
7 unless other sources of revenue are available. Since the prime
8 source of funds to provide county services is the property tax, any
9 action which would reduce income or change rates should only be
10 undertaken after a comprehensive review of the consequences.

11 In order to insure consistent and fair treatment for
12 applicants, and to reasonably measure and maximize the public benefit
13 as against potential loss of revenue, the Council deems it necessary
14 to administer this act based on guidelines of a County-initiated
15 plan for open space lands, rather than merely by reaction to a
16 variety of unrelated individual applications.

17 Therefore, it shall be the Council's policy to require as
18 a condition precedent to the approval of any application filed for
19 classification of land as "Open Space Land", "Farm and Agricultural
20 Land" or "Timberland" as defined in Chapter 84.34 RCW that such
21 lands be designated as open space land by the official comprehensive
22 plan adopted by the County and in the case of "Farm and Agricultural
23 Land" or "Timberland" be zoned accordingly.

24 The King County Council recognizes that few properties
25 presently meet this condition; however, the County has an adopted
26 comprehensive plan which includes a category title, "Open Space"
27 and describes open space as Major Urban Parks --- Golf Courses,
28 Agriculture and Flood Control, Forest, Watershed and Wilderness,
29 Inland Waterways and Lakes and Institutions. This plan for open
30 space is being reviewed to determine what changes are required to be
31 consistent with the purposes and procedures of Chapter 84.34 RCW.
32 A revised plan will be in effect by January 1, 1972, which is the

1 earliest date applications may be made under RCW 84.34.020 (1) (a).
 2 The County comprehensive plan shall continue to treat Farm and
 3 Timberland as open space lands and all applications shall be
 4 processed administratively under RCW 84.34.020 (1) (a). Lands not
 5 included in the comprehensive open space plan may be added by
 6 amending the comprehensive plan as provided in Ordinance #00263.
 7 Lands already indicated as part of the open space plan shall be
 8 processed in the same manner as reclassifications under Ordinance
 9 #00263 and, for assessment purposes, shall be classified as "open
 10 space", "Farm and Agricultural Lands" or "Timberland" as set forth
 11 in the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to RCW 84.34.140.

12 PASSED at a regular meeting of the King County Council this
 13 9th day of November, 1970.

14 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
 15 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

16 Bill Reams
 17 Chairman

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 20 ATTEST:

21 Ray Olsen
 22 Acting Clerk of the Council
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