

MOTION NO. 2789

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

A MOTION authorizing the Council Administrator to evaluate King County's compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and to recommend actions to eliminate unnecessary delay, uncertainty and expense caused by the SEPA process.

WHEREAS, the Council has maintained a long-standing concern to ensure that environmental values become an integral part of the governmental decision-making process along with economic and technical considerations, and

WHEREAS, King County was the first local government in the state to adopt a comprehensive ordinance implementing the State Environmental Policy Act, and

WHEREAS, the application of SEPA has in many cases substantially improved the quality of King County decisions, and

WHEREAS, while SEPA was originally designed to apply primarily to large scale public projects, it has subsequently, by administrative action and court decision been applied to small, private projects, and

WHEREAS, these interpretations of SEPA have increased the burden on both local government and private parties, making in effect most actions of local government today subject to litigation and delay, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to eliminate unnecessary delay, uncertainty and expense caused by the SEPA process while maintaining objectives set forth in the Act, and

WHEREAS, RCW 43.21C.140 authorizes the County to review its steps for implementing SEPA and the SEPA guidelines and allows the County to submit a report on the cost of implementation to the State Office of Program Planning and Fiscal Management so that these evaluations may be incorporated into a report to the 45th Legislative Session.

1 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

2 1. The Council Administrator, in conjunction with the County  
3 Executive and the County Prosecutor, is hereby authorized to  
4 evaluate King County's compliance with the State Environmental  
5 Policy Act and to recommend actions to eliminate unnecessary delay,  
6 uncertainty and expense caused by the SEPA process.

7 2. In the course of this review, the Council Administrator  
8 is directed to look at the following:

9 a. The effectiveness and efficiency of using the SEPA  
10 process for both public and private projects, Countywide programs,  
11 and legislative actions.

12 b. The progress made by County Departments, Divisions  
13 and agencies to integrate SEPA requirements into their ongoing  
14 decision-making process.

15 c. The scope of exemptions to the requirements of SEPA,  
16 including the size and type of projects and discretionary and  
17 duplicative nature of actions.

18 d. The cost to prepare impact statements, both to  
19 private parties and to the public, and the time delays involved  
20 in preparation of impact statements.

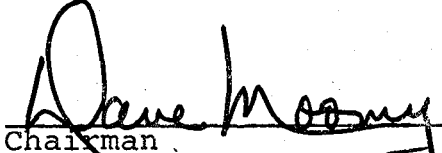
21 e. Alternatives to impact statements or modifications  
22 to the scope of impact statements that may streamline the process  
23 and improve its effectiveness.

24 f. Changes in the Act, guidelines, County procedures  
25 or County organization that may simplify the process and improve  
26 its effectiveness.

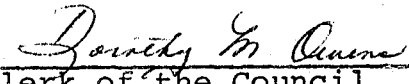
1 3. Prior to implementing this study, and throughout the  
2 study itself, the Council Administrator is requested to consult  
3 with both interested citizens, public agencies and groups to  
4 establish a specific work program for the Council's consideration  
5 as a part of the 1977 Legislative Branch Work Program.

6 PASSED this 6th day of December, 1976.

7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
8 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

9   
10 Chairman

11 ATTEST:

12   
13 Clerk of the Council  
14

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33