

June 9, 1994

Introduced By: Chris Vance

nwra/so

Proposed No.:

94 - 352

9302

MOTION NO.

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A MOTION supporting Northwest Racing Associates' proposal to build a thoroughbred racing facility in the City of Auburn.

WHEREAS, thoroughbred racing was conducted at Longacres Park in Renton from 1933 through 1992 creating a mature patron base and strong racetrack infrastructure in King County, and

WHEREAS, the closing of Longacres Park has left Washington's thoroughbred industry without facilities sufficient to accommodate significant racing activities, and

WHEREAS, Washington's thoroughbred industry generates approximately \$400 million annually to Washington's economy, and

WHEREAS, Washington's thoroughbred industry provides over 15,000 employment opportunities for Washington residents, many of whom are King County residents, and

WHEREAS, Washington's thoroughbred industry supports thousands of acres of open-space, and

WHEREAS, a major racetrack facility located in King County would be consistent with county policies to protect farmland particularly on the Enumclaw Plateau and Snoqualmie Valley where a voter-approved bond issue has been used to

1 purchase the development rights of prime agricultural land,
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Northwest Racing Associates was formed in
4 September 1992 to conduct and operate a first-class,
5 environmentally friendly racing complex in King County and
6 since such time has made substantial efforts to meet its
7 objectives, and

8 WHEREAS, on April 20, 1993 the Washington Horse Racing
9 Commission issued an interlocutory order expressing its
10 intent to issue Northwest Racing Associates a license to
11 conduct thoroughbred racing, which order is in full force and
12 effect, and

13 WHEREAS, Northwest Racing Associates has successfully
14 defended four separate legal challenges to the Racing
15 Commission's interlocutory order, and

16 WHEREAS, on September 30, 1993 the City of Auburn issued
17 a final environmental impact statement in compliance with the
18 State Environmental Policy Act for Northwest Racing
19 Associates' racetrack project, and

20 WHEREAS, in December 1993 Northwest Racing Associates
21 successfully defended an appeal of the adequacy of Auburn's
22 environmental impact statement, and

23 WHEREAS, in February 1994 the City of Auburn granted
24 Northwest Racing Associates' request to amend the City's
25 zoning code to allow horse racing as an appropriate use at
26 the racetrack site, and

1 WHEREAS, on March 25, 1994 the U.S. Army Corps of
2 Engineers determined that the Northwest Racing Associates'
3 Auburn site is the least environmentally damaging site in
4 Western Washington for a major thoroughbred racetrack
5 facility, and

6 WHEREAS, on May 20, 1994 the U.S. Army Corps of
7 Engineers issued a draft environmental impact statement in
8 compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and

9 WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Ecology has
10 determined that the Northwest Racing Associates' mitigation
11 plan will produce an increase in wetland functions and values
12 in the Green River Valley, and

13 WHEREAS, Washington's thoroughbred industry through its
14 membership organizations, the Thoroughbred Breeders'
15 Association, the Washington Horsemen's Benevolent and
16 Protective Association and Emerald Racing Associates, have
17 continuously and enthusiastically supported Northwest Racing
18 Associates, and

19 WHEREAS, King County will realize both property tax and
20 sales tax revenue from Northwest Racing Associates' racetrack
21 complex;

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

24 A. The council supports Northwest Racing Associates'
25 proposal to construct and operate a racetrack complex in
26 Auburn.

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B. The council clerk shall forward copies of this motion to the appropriate officials of the City of Auburn, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Washington State Horse Racing Commission.

PASSED by a vote of 11 to 0 this 13th day of June, 1994.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kent Pullen
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald A. Peterson
Clerk of the Council

Attachments: none