

December 8, 1995

Introduced By: Louise Miller

Proposed No.: 96-015

MOTION NO. **9733**

1  
2 A MOTION establishing the 1996 State Legislative  
3 Program for King County  
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5 WHEREAS, The Metropolitan King County council and the  
6 King County executive have worked through the joint King  
7 County Legislative Steering Committee to develop a state  
8 legislative agenda and desire to bring their positions on  
9 issues facing the 1996 Washington State Legislature to the  
10 attention of Washington State Legislature, and

11 WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with  
12 other local governments and other organizations such as the  
13 Washington Association of County Officials, the Suburban  
14 Cities Association, the Association of Washington Cities and  
15 the Washington State Association of Counties to achieve its  
16 1996 Legislative goals, and

17 WHEREAS, counties have been recognized by the  
18 legislature as partners with the state in the delivery of  
19 such critical services as criminal justice, health, and human  
20 services, transportation and water resources, and

21 WHEREAS, the Executive and the Council have finalized a  
22 substantial reorganization of King County government  
23 involving consolidation with Metro and other measures  
24 intended to strengthen King County's role as a regional  
25 government, and

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WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will continue to review legislative developments for possible revisions of King County's 1996 State Legislative Program;

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

The specific objectives set forth in Attachment A to this motion are King County's highest priorities for passage during the 1996 session of the Washington State Legislature.

PASSED by a vote of 8 to 1 this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1995.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kent Pullen  
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald A. Peterson  
Clerk of the Council

Attachments:

Attachment A  
1996 King County Legislative Package  
December 8, 1995

Section One: Advocacy

**Budget/Finance/Administration**

1. *Use of collection agents to pursue uncollectible personal property taxes.*

**Background:** Many county agencies currently use collection agents to pursue collection of fines and fees owed to King County. King County has collected nearly \$9 million since 1991 in this manner. However, it is unclear whether state law permits the county to use collection agencies to collect personal property taxes.

**Recommendation:** Clarify RCW's to authorize county use of collection agencies to collect personal property taxes.

2. *Revise authority for procurement of materials, equipment, supplies, and services.*

**Background:** Current law requires vendors to solicit bids based on county specifications when the county needs to purchase materials, equipment, supplies or services. Further, current law requires advertisement and formal sealed bids when the cost of purchasing materials, equipment, supplies and services is expected to be \$25,000 or more.

**Recommendation:** Authorize county to use the alternative competitive negotiated procurement or RFP process in place of the current bidding procedure to purchase materials, equipment, supplies or services. Increase threshold at which county must advertise for and accept formal, sealed bids for purchases of materials, equipment, supplies, and services from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

3. *Define hazardous waste site clean-up contracts to be service contracts instead of public works projects.*

**Background:** Hazardous waste clean-up contracts are currently defined and treated as public works projects, and are subject to competitive bidding requirements. Finance Department staff maintain that it is difficult to develop an adequate specification for bidding purposes, and that authorizing an RFP process would facilitate less expensive clean-up projects. In addition, the Finance Department believes that authorizing an RFP process for such clean-ups would allow the contractor to receive improved tax liability, since the contractor would pay the business and occupation (B&O) tax services rate as opposed to both the B&O retailing rate and the retail sales tax.

## Growth Management/Environment

### 1. *Seek funding in state budget for redevelopment of industrial areas.*

**Background:** King County has been an active participant in the Duwamish Coalition, which is finding ways to clean up contaminated land and revitalize the county's industrial areas to create and maintain family-wage jobs. As part of its review of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), a state-appointed task force is studying the Duwamish Coalition efforts. It has been suggested that state support for redevelopment efforts in the Duwamish area could help the state in determining appropriate changes to MTCA.

**Recommendation:** Pursue funding in state budget for cleanup and pollution prevention technical assistance to businesses. In addition, fund local regulatory assistance programs similar to the Business Assistance Program developed through the Duwamish Coalition.

### 2. *60-day notice requirement for development regulations.*

**Background:** RCW 36.70A.106 requires local governments to notify the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) at least 60 days before adoption of development regulations. There is concern that such a requirement adds unnecessary delays to the county legislative process.

**Recommendation:** Support eliminating or substantially shortening the requirement for 60-day notification of CTED.

## Human Services

### 1. *Youth employment.*

**Background:** Federal budget cuts are likely to eliminate all funding for the county's Summer Youth Employment Program and 80% of the funding for the Year-round Youth Employment Program. In addition, federal funds for youth employment and training programs will most likely come to local governments in the form of block grants through the state.

**Recommendation:** Work with state to maximize local input/control as to design of employment and training programs funded with block grants.

2. *Support retention of current MVET distribution formula for transit.*

**Background:** The Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC) has been studying state's role in transit financing this interim. With the failure of the 1995 transportation package and possible shortfalls in the state transportation budget, it is possible the LTC will review transit's MVET share for possible diversions to roads funding.

**Recommendation:** Oppose reductions in or diversion of transit's portion of MVET funding.

## Water

1. *Add funding to the transportation budget for local government stormwater assessments.*

**Background:** The 1995 Transportation budget provided only one year's funding for Department of Transportation stormwater assessments. Cities and counties currently charge the DOT for maintenance of stormwater facilities, but the 1995 Legislature limited DOTs funding to one year. Without a supplemental appropriation, the Surface Water Management Division could expect a potential loss of \$300,000 in revenues.

**Recommendation:** Support supplemental appropriation for stormwater assessment fees.

2. *Protect the County's current utility lien authority.*

**Background:** Current law permits a county to place a lien against premises receiving utility service for charges due but not paid. Legislation was introduced during the 1995 session which would have amended the county's lien authority to require local governments to place a lien against the tenant rather than the landlord if the tenant fails to pay.

**Recommendation:** Monitor potential utility lien proposals. Oppose utility lien bills that abrogate the county's lien authority.

4. *Retain existing cap on municipal permits for the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System program.*

**Background:** Current law establishes a limit on *municipal* wastewater discharger permits at 15 cents per month per residential unit. *Industrial* permit fees are not capped and consequently, businesses believe they shoulder a greater burden for the program. The Wastewater Permit Fee Task Force has been meeting during the interim to reexamine the current cap on municipals. The water pollution control division currently pays \$500,000 annually for its NPDES permit.

#### 4. Hit and run of pedestrian.

**Background:** Current law affords greater protection to cars and property than pedestrians struck during hit and run accidents.

**Recommendation:** Support amendments to hit and run statutes which increase penalties for injuring pedestrians in hit and run accidents.

## Growth Management/Environment

### 1. Growth Management Hearings Board notification requirements.

**Background:** State statutes require local governments to meet specific public notice requirements when taking actions that may affect property owners. The Growth Management Hearings Boards established under the Growth Management Act have no such public notice requirements when considering appeals of county and city comprehensive plans.

**Recommendation:** Require Growth Management Hearings Boards to adhere to the same public notice requirements as local governments when taking actions or considering appeals that may affect property owners.

### 2. Use of "Best Available Science" in protecting critical areas.

**Background:** The recently enacted SEPA/GMA integration legislation, ESHB 1724, requires the use of "best available science" by counties and cities in designating and protecting critical areas. There is some concern that this standard is unclear and may lead to significant differences of opinion as to how it should be applied.

**Recommendation:** Support clarification of "best available science" standard.

### 3. Amendments to plat approval timelines.

**Background:** There are many inconsistencies in the RCW's regarding vesting of plats. One RCW section requires that a plat be reviewed under the laws in effect at the time the complete application is submitted, while another requires that a plat may not be approved unless it complies with the laws in effect at the time of preliminary plat approval. Finally, another RCW section provides that once approved, a plat is governed by the laws in effect at the time of final plat approval for a period of 5 years. These inconsistencies make it unclear which laws apply to a plat under review, particularly new laws adopted between the time a complete application is submitted and final plat approval.

**Recommendation:** Support early retirement windows for PERS 1 employees in 1996 and 1997.

## Transportation

### 1. *Support supplemental appropriation for the Central Puget Sound Public Transportation Account.)*

**Background:** The 1991 Legislature created the Central Puget Sound Public Transportation Account (CPSPTA). The account was funded from a reduction in the motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) revenues provided for transit. In 1993, the Legislature created the Multimodal Committee which provided transit the opportunity to compete for the monies in the account. Finally, the 1995 Legislature consolidated the Multimodal Committee into the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), which now has authority for expenditures from the account. The TIB is anticipating \$12 million available in this account for 1996.

**Recommendation:** Support a supplemental appropriation for the Central Puget Sound Account for eligible transit projects.

### 2. *Support expanding the definition of ride share incentives.*

**Background:** The 1994 Legislature enacted the Ride Sharing Incentives Act in an effort to increase ride sharing activities that support transportation demand management goals. The act, supported by revenues from the Air Pollution Control Account, uses tax credits to fund vanpool and carpool projects for large employers, as long as the carpools contain more than 3 persons. During the interim, efforts have been underway to extend the program to employers with only 50 employees when the employees use 2-person carpools, bicycles, and transit as well as vanpools.

**Recommendation:** Support legislative efforts to expand ride share incentives to include greater numbers of employers and ride-sharing options.

### 3. *Expand RTA statutes to include additional multimodal transportation projects..*

**Background:** As a result of last year's ballot defeat, the RTA is examining alternative transportation plans. Proposals currently under consideration include a broader multimodal transportation component, which could include HOV projects and roads projects that support the RTA plan.

**Recommendation:** Support language broadening RTA statutes to include funding for HOV lanes, road projects, and technology/demand management projects to support the RTA plan.

## Section Three: Information/Education/Monitor

### Growth Management/Environment

#### 1. *Open Space Fund.*

**Background:** The state and various local governments currently have a "1.0% for Arts" program, whereby 1.0% of funds budgeted for capital construction are available for the acquisition and installation of artwork in state and local facilities.

**Recommendation:** Provide authorization to counties and cities to establish an "Open Space Fund" which would direct that a certain percentage of any moneys budgeted for capital construction be available for the acquisition of open space lands.

#### 2. *Salmon Protection Districts.*

**Background:** The state has authorized local governments to form shellfish protection districts and has provided the ability to assess property owners for this purpose.

**Recommendation:** Provide authorization to counties to form salmon protection districts to address the threat of non-point pollution to water quality, provide for habitat protection, and to establish public education programs.

### Kingdome/Stadium

#### 1. *Ability to contract with a private firm for management of Kingdome*

**Background:** The county does not currently have the authority to contract with a private firm for services normally provided by career service employees. State statutes would need to be amended to allow the county to contract for private management of the Kingdome.

**Recommendation:** Seek legislation authorizing the county to contract with a private firm for management of the Kingdome.

### Water

#### 1.. *Clarify state statutes regarding reclaimed water.*

**Background:** Water conservation has become an environmental and economic priority. King County is meeting these challenges through innovative public/private water reuse projects such as the Boeing Chiller project. The Water Pollution Control division would like to pursue additional language to clarify the states participation in water reuse projects.

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2. *DNA blood sampling.*

**Background:** The Department of Adult Detention currently pays for performing DNA blood sampling for offenders charged with the most serious offenses, such as sex offenses, homicide, and armed robbery. The approximate cost per case is \$50, and the total cost to the Department is \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year.

**Recommendation:** Seek local authorization to charge convicted offenders for the cost of DNA blood sampling.

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**Recommendation:** Support clarification of "best available science" standard.

#### 3. *Amendments to plat approval timelines.*

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