

October 23, 1997
clerk 10/23/97
October 30, 1997

Introduced By:

Brian Derdowski
Louise Miller
Cynthia Sullivan
Larry Phillips

Proposed No.:

97-646

MOTION NO. **10353**

A MOTION relating to regional water quality, surface water needs and funding sources; accepting the Regional Task Force recommendations to the Regional Water Quality Committee; and requesting the King County Executive, in collaboration with other regional officials, identify a preferred funding strategy supporting these needs by December 31, 1997 for public discussion during the first quarter of 1998 and for subsequent adoption by the King County Council.

WHEREAS, the King County Council adopted Motion No. 9681 in 1995 providing overall support for the Regional Needs Assessment for Surface Water Management (RNA), and calling for the establishment of watershed forums and development of regional approaches to providing flood protection, preserving water quality and enhancing fish habitat, and

WHEREAS, this process resulted in the creation of the Lake Washington/Cedar River, Green/Duwamish, Sammamish, and Snoqualmie Watershed Forums and jurisdictions in the White River Watershed and Puget Sound drainages were encouraged to continue investigating the need for a forum, and

1 WHEREAS, in July 1996 the Metropolitan King County Regional Water Quality
2 Committee (RWQC) established a process for identification and prioritization of regional
3 surface water needs and funding, and

4 WHEREAS, each existing watershed forum was directed to develop a vision for
5 protection of water quality, flood hazard reduction, and fish habitat protection in their
6 watershed; and, using a common set of criteria, identify the priority programs and projects
7 necessary for accomplishing this vision, and

8 WHEREAS, all existing forums have developed watershed visions and prioritized
9 programs and projects to achieve the visions over the next twenty years, and

10 WHEREAS, these priority programs and projects, with associated costs, were
11 forwarded early this year to a Regional Task Force (RTF) made up of three representatives
12 from each watershed forum, and

13 WHEREAS, the RTF was asked to identify the kinds of water quality, flood hazard
14 reduction, and fish habitat programs that should be supported regionally and to recommend
15 funding source(s), and

16 WHEREAS, the RTF was asked to distinguish between projects eligible for
17 regional funding from those that should be funded locally or at the watershed level, and

18 WHEREAS, the RTF recommends that jurisdictions have surface water
19 management funding mechanisms in place before being eligible for any regional funding
20 assistance, and

1 WHEREAS, the RTF identified a set of Regional Funding Principles for
2 consideration by the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and a recommendation
3 to further consider the use of a Regional Surface Water Fee, use of wastewater revenues,
4 and an increase of the King Conservation District assessment to the full five dollars in
5 order to provide funding for the RNA, and

6 WHEREAS, the RTF, having completed its work, recommends that a
7 subcommittee of RTF members representing the County, City of Seattle, Suburban Cities
8 Association, and the King Conservation District advise the RWQC on the use and
9 governance of assessment revenues, and

10 WHEREAS, the RTF recommends that the RWQC send a motion to the
11 Metropolitan King County Council requesting that the County Executive identify a
12 preferred funding strategy for public discussion during the first quarter of 1998, and

13 WHEREAS, in 1995 it was left to the Puget Sound drainages to explore their
14 interest in establishing a forum, and they are now expressing an interest in doing so, and
15 their regional needs have not yet been prioritized and added to the list of regional needs,
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the RWQC, comprised of representatives from suburban cities, City
18 of Seattle, King County, and sewer districts, has now considered the Regional Task Force
19 recommendations and endorsed this motion;

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

2 A. To accept the recommendations of the Regional Task Force, and request the
3 King County Executive to work with other regional officials to further discuss, refine, and
4 implement those recommendations. If the Puget Sound drainage jurisdictions choose to
5 establish a forum, their recommendations for adding to or revising the Regional Funding
6 Principles and list of priority projects and programs shall be brought to the RWQC for
7 consideration and recommendation to the King County Executive.

8 B. Request, by December 31, 1997, the King County Executive identify a
9 preferred funding strategy and a process for determining long term priorities supporting
10 these regional needs that is coordinated with related regional initiatives such as the
11 Regional Wastewater Services Plan and incorporates as appropriate the regional needs of
12 the Puget Sound drainage jurisdictions, and transmit this strategy and process to RWQC
13 for consideration and recommendation to the King County Council.

14 C. Request that the King County Council enact the King Conservation District
15 assessment at the level of \$5 per parcel, and limit the assessment to a period of years not
16 less than two nor more than five.

17 1. The King Conservation District shall distribute \$3.00 of the per
18 parcel assessment equally to the watersheds forums, to be used to fund programs and
19 projects identified as priority needs by the RNA process and which are consistent with the
20 district purposes under RCW 89.08.

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2. The King Conservation District shall distribute \$1.00 of the per parcel assessment to the county and each city in the district from which the funds were collected, to be used to assist that jurisdiction in paying for its share of funding subscribed to its watershed forum for regional programs and projects, or for natural resource protection activities within that jurisdiction's boundaries which are consistent with the district purposes. The county and cities within the district may choose to receive the distribution in cash or contract with the district for services equal to the value of the distribution.

3. The remaining \$1.00 of the per parcel assessment shall be used by the King Conservation District for implementation of its approved annual work program.

PASSED by a vote of 7 to 5 this 17th day of November,
1997

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jane Hague
Chair

ATTEST:

Annemours
Clerk of the Council

Attachments: