

06/17/98

Rob McKenna
Maggi Fimia
Greg Nickels
Larry Phillips

clerk 6/22/98
8/24/98

Introduced By:

Proposed No.:

98-392

MOTION NO. **10533**

A MOTION expressing support for mandatory tug escorts for oil laden tankers entering the Strait of Juan de Fuca and traveling between the ocean and Port Angeles.

WHEREAS, the long-term economic health of the Puget Sound region is tied to the health of natural systems in the area, and

WHEREAS, the economy of the Puget Sound region has been fueled in large part by increasing trade with Pacific Rim nations making Washington waterways some of the busiest in North America, and

WHEREAS, the overall increase in maritime traffic, the growing proportion of foreign vessels and the increase in foreign tanker traffic put Puget Sound marine resources at great risk, and

WHEREAS, on a daily average, an oil laden tanker capable of spilling more than the Exxon Valdez travels seventy miles along the Strait of Juan de Fuca without the guidance and protection of tug escorts, or local pilots, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has the authority to direct the United States Coast Guard to require tug escorts for oil laden tankers traveling in the Strait of Juan de Fuca between the ocean and Port Angeles, and

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WHEREAS, King County and other governments throughout the Puget Sound have committed significant resources to the protection and restoration of marine habitats, and

WHEREAS, a major oil spill in the Strait of Juan de Fuca or in the Northern Puget Sound could have devastating impacts on the recovery effort the Puget Sound region is instituting to protect and restore Chinook Salmon runs under the Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS, reducing the risk of a major oil spill by imposing mandatory tug escorts for oil laden tankers entering the Strait of Juan de Fuca would be consistent with the County's efforts to protect and restore marine ecosystems, and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Patty Murray and United States Representative Jack Metcalf support mandatory tug escorts for oil laden tankers traveling in the Strait of Juan de Fuca west of Port Angeles, and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington and others have identified a mandatory tug escort system and the stationing of a dedicated rescue tug in or near Neah Bay as viable approaches to improving marine safety in the Strait, and

WHEREAS, the State and the Federal Governments are working with the industry to fund safety enhancements for tanker and cargo traffic in the Strait west of Port Angeles.

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

The metropolitan King County council encourages the United States Coast Guard to establish a marine safety system for the Strait of Juan de Fuca. On an interim basis this system should mandate either tug escorts for oil laden tankers entering the Strait of Juan de Fuca and traveling between the ocean and Port Angeles or the stationing of a dedicated rescue tug in or near Neah Bay.

PASSED by a vote of 12 to 0 this 24th day of August,

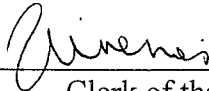
1998

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None