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Introduced By:

Brian Derdowski

Clerk 03/02/99

Proposed No.:

1999-0132

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MOTION NO. **10670**

A MOTION relating to comprehensive planning; specifying the scope of work for the proposed amendment to the King County Comprehensive Plan in 2000 in accordance with K.C.C. 20.18.060.

WHEREAS, King County enacted the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan (Plan) to meet the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act, and

WHEREAS, King County enacted Ordinance 13147 on May 21, 1998, which established a process for amending the Plan and a program for public participation, and stated that every four years, beginning in 2000, the county shall complete a comprehensive review of the Plan, and

WHEREAS, King County is undertaking the first major review of the Plan since the Plan's adoption in 1994, and

WHEREAS, K.C.C. 20.18.060 requires the King County executive to transmit to the metropolitan King County council a proposed motion specifying the scope of work for the proposed amendments to the Plan that will occur in the following year, and

WHEREAS, growth management is working in King County as demonstrated by the fact that, since 1994, ninety-one percent of new development has been within the urban area

1 and rural development has fallen from fifteen percent of new development in the late 1980s
2 to just nine percent in 1997, and

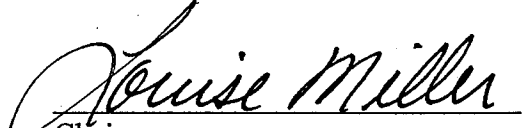
3 WHEREAS, King County needs to find ways to build on this success to better
4 implement growth management, to earn the public's trust, to build stronger communities
5 and to ensure the continued strength of the region's economy;

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

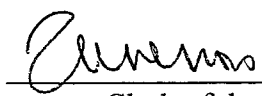
7 The scope of work for the King County Comprehensive Plan - 2000 Update
8 contained in Attachment A of this motion is hereby approved as the basis for developing the
9 amendments for the King County Comprehensive Plan to be transmitted to the council on
10 March 1, 2000, and for the associated environmental analysis.

11 PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 this 25th day of April,
12 1999

13 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
14 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

15 
16 Chair

17 ATTEST:

18 
19 Clerk of the Council

20 Attachments: Scope of Work, King County Comprehensive Plan - 2000 Update
21 Dated April 20, 1999

April 20, 1999

ATTACHMENT A TO MOTION _____

**SCOPE OF WORK
KING COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - 2000 UPDATE****I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Beginning in 1999, King County will undertake a major review of the King County Comprehensive Plan (the Plan) for the first time since its adoption in 1994. This review, called the 2000 Update, will be performed in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), and with King County Code (KCC) Title 20.

There are important indications that growth management is working well in King County. For this reason, a major underlying premise of this scope of work is that the existing Plan does not need to be fundamentally altered. Rather, there is a need to account for major changes that have occurred since 1994 (for example: large numbers of annexations and incorporations, revised state and federal regulations, and the listing of the Chinook salmon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)). Additionally, there is a need to address continued growth pressures in certain areas of the county where growth is exceeding the projections upon which the 1994 Plan was premised. King County must improve upon its success by addressing known problems in implementing the plan over the past five years, on both the urban and rural sides of the line.

The overarching goals for the 2000 Update are to:

- Ensure the Plan meets the goals of GMA and the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).
- Incorporate into the Plan the themes of Linking Land Use with Infrastructure, Protecting our Rural Legacy, Ensuring Protection under ESA, and Livable Communities.
- Identify and evaluate the status of all programmatic actions called for in the existing Plan, and develop a work program for, or accomplish those actions that are to be implemented and eliminate policies that are no longer relevant.

Other goals for the review are to:

- Update the technical appendices.
- Develop an evaluation program for future evaluations of the Plan.

II. MAJOR ELEMENTS

While the 2000 Update will cover a variety of issues, many of which are technical in nature, there are four major elements which are of paramount importance: 1) better linking land use with infrastructure, 2) protecting our rural legacy, 3) ensuring the protection under the ESA, and 4) livable communities. An overall strategy for each is described in this section.

A. Better Linking Land Use with Infrastructure

1. Evaluate the Service and Finance Strategy.
 - The Service and Finance Strategy, which was intended to use public infrastructure investments as a means of guiding new growth, has not worked well over the past five years, as evidenced in East Sammamish and Covington. For that reason, a major goal of the 2000 Update is to replace this strategy with another system that will maximize the impact of new roads CIP funds by directing investments to areas best suited to accommodate growth, and accurately reflect the availability of public water supply, sewers and other urban infrastructure.
 - Add transit planning to the Comprehensive Plan through linkages to the Six-Year Transit Plan, which is being developed concurrently with this review. This link will account for the fact that the adopted Sound Transit Plan is less extensive than was assumed when the Urban Centers were designated in 1994.
2. Consider growth phasing in the Urban Area.
 - In light of the recent experience in East Sammamish, the 2000 Update will contemplate urban phasing options that will give the County better tools to manage high rates of development in areas not yet ready to accept that growth, while also ensuring that the older urban area receives the infrastructure improvements necessary to address existing deficiencies and enhance their value for urban infill.

B. Protecting our Rural Legacy

1. Further reduce development pressure in the rural area, and redirect some rural development capacity to more appropriate locations.
 - Although the percentage of growth occurring in the Rural Area has decreased in the last five years, the rate is still higher than the target threshold (four percent of the countywide total). To help achieve this goal, the 2000 Update will consider a spectrum of options to further reduce the pressure for rural development.
 - Evaluate the cumulative impacts of the Master Planned Developments, Rural City and other Rural Area development, and prepare containment and mitigation strategies.
2. Enhance the use of rural areas for farming and forestry.
 - With the Agriculture and Forest Commissions, identify actions that will facilitate farming and forestry activities throughout the rural area, on large or small lots.
 - Revise criteria for defining the Rural Farm and Forest Districts (RF&FD) and propose corresponding boundary changes.
 - Identify portions of the RF&FD for possible rezoning to support resource uses in rural areas.
3. Identify allowable uses in the Rural Area, and discourage inappropriate uses.
 - Better define rural character and consider additional restrictions on residential and non-residential uses by establishing size, scale, and impervious surface limits.

C. Ensure Protection under the Endangered Species Act

1. Establish a policy framework for recovery of Chinook salmon and other species listed under the Endangered Species Act.
 - Coordinate with on-going work of the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) Committees.
 - Incorporate watershed-based recovery planning for the Green, Cedar River, and Snohomish Watersheds.

- Evaluate the State Salmon Strategy recommendations for land use planning and incorporate those recommendations which can best protect the species.
- 2. Implement “early actions” outlined in the King County Salmon Plan that are supported by adopted policy.
 - Revise land use designations as necessary to ensure conservation of species and to protect sensitive ecosystems.
 - Make recommended regulatory changes.
 - Identify and acquire significant habitat.

D. Livable Communities

1. Reinforce the current policy framework, which is aimed at enhancing existing urban centers and towns, and reconfiguring sprawling suburbs into communities of real neighborhoods and diverse districts at a human scale, and reducing dependence upon the automobile.
 - Improve the livability of multifamily housing by pursuing a more dispersed pattern of very small (2-8 unit) multifamily buildings interspersed in mixed-density, mixed-income communities.
 - Review existing design standards to identify possible improvements that will enhance livability.
 - Establish guidelines for offering incentives for Transit Oriented Development (TOD).
2. Review opportunities to enhance and increase active and passive outdoor recreation.

In addition to the Major Elements, there are other related issues that support and enhance the overall vision for the 2000 Update. They have been separated into five subject areas: Land Use, Natural Resource Lands, Environment, Transportation, and Housing & Human Services. Each of these strategies contributes to a comprehensive growth management strategy for King County. The last section describes a plan for implementation.

III. CRITICAL LAND USE ISSUES

GOAL: A comprehensive plan that 1) promotes the type of growth in the urban area that enhances - rather than overruns - the quality of life in King County's urban and suburban neighborhoods and 2) improves the County's efforts to control sprawl by taking additional steps to further reduce the rate of rural development. In addition to strategies listed under Section II (Major Elements), this will be accomplished by:

1. Develop a policy framework for “Community Action Strategies” which will serve to focus public expenditures to maximize their impact. Community Action Strategies will include, for example, transportation and parks improvements, and public health and other major human service facilities.
2. Provide a clearer policy framework for identifying service deficiencies in sub-regions of the County.
 - Update the Technical Appendices to include an evaluation of the inventory of water supply based on peak daily demand.
 - Identify locations with short-term and mid-term water shortages and consider growth phasing strategies.
 - Update the Technical Appendices to reflect changes to the Wastewater Treatment Plan and Transit Plan.

3. Encourage participation in the King County Transfer of Development Credits Program as an incentive for appropriate urban area development that permanently protects sensitive areas in the rural areas, especially fish habitat.
4. Acknowledge and consider the growth patterns in adjacent counties for their impact on bordering King County communities.
5. Analyze the impacts of Tribal land use decisions on urban, rural and resource lands, and on infrastructure.
6. Analyze proposed land use changes that require a significant change in classification (i.e., rural to urban, urban to resource land, etc). This should include proposals docketed by the cities of Covington and Maple Valley, as well as similar proposals docketed by the September 30, 1999 deadline. *(Note: these types of changes may require action by the Growth Management Planning Council).*
7. Revise policies and adopt development standards to make King County more supportive of permitting, constructing and modernizing K-12 public schools and K-12 public school facilities. Consider exempting educational land uses from development regulations; provided that, the exemptions would not apply to the Surface Water Design Manual, the State Environmental Policy Act, and the Uniform Building Code, and would not amend the existing Sensitive Areas Ordinance. Additionally, King County should prioritize the permitting of educational uses.
8. Provide the policy framework to ensure adequate recreational opportunities that are convenient for children throughout communities. Work with other jurisdictions to perform a countywide needs assessment for parks and open space.
9. Refine policies to guide the open space/greenway system including community separators, and the urban/rural greenway (4 to 1 Program), to establish a countywide system that can be mapped to steer development and prioritize incentive programs. If it becomes apparent that the difficulties associated with proposing viable 4 to 1 projects outweigh the benefits of that Program, consider its elimination.
10. Revise Cultural Resources policies, including historic preservation and arts and heritage activities, to reflect a regional emphasis.

IV. CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS ISSUES

GOAL: A comprehensive plan that protects King County's agricultural lands and forest lands while recognizing the need to promote innovative and flexible programs to integrate natural resource lands protection in an urban county. In addition to strategies listed under Section II (Major Elements), this will be accomplished by:

1. Better integrate the Rural Land Use, Natural Resource Lands, and Natural Environment chapters.
2. Review policies related to mineral extraction and processing.
3. More clearly state the multiple objectives of King County forestry programs and the long-range vision for forests and forestry in King County.
4. Articulate the role of forests and farmland in protecting habitat, including that which is vital to the conservation of threatened and endangered species in accordance with ESA.
5. Clarify the farmlands conversion/replacement/allowable use issues to protect farmlands in King County.
6. Propose policies that recognize the changing nature of farming in urbanizing areas to make farmland more economically viable.
7. Propose ways to maintain commercial forestry activities in the Forest Production District.
8. Better articulate the long-term benefits of sustaining local agricultural activity.

V. CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

GOAL: A comprehensive plan that assists in the conservation of threatened and endangered species under ESA, recognizes the importance of coordinating growth with the availability of drinking water, and protects the overall environment. In addition to strategies listed under Section II (Major Elements), this will be accomplished by:

1. Include information from the Ground Water Management Plans to:
 - Evaluate current designations and standards of protection for critical aquifer recharge areas.
 - Emphasize the importance of the four-pronged approach of education, data collection and management, regulatory review, and intergovernmental coordination in the protection of groundwater.
 - Evaluate whether or not to prohibit exempt wells in closed basins.
2. Assess the effectiveness of lake and stream protection standards and recommend improvements.
3. Evaluate and apply recommendations from the Integrated Water Resources Management process describing the vision, roles and responsibilities for County interests in the "four-waters" – groundwater, surface water, water supply, and reclaimed water.
4. Recognize the County, and other agencies that provide wastewater treatment, as the developers of reclaimed water and highlight its use to augment the water supply.
5. Evaluate ways to incorporate a discussion of Regional Needs Assessment funding issues and outcomes of current work into the KCCP.
6. Include information about the continuing need for a regional solid waste management system that protects the environment while conserving resources and maintaining high service levels to the public.
7. Expand the current policy framework for sensitive areas to address groundwater floodplain.

VI. CRITICAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

GOAL: A comprehensive plan that 1) promotes the development of a integrated, coordinated and balanced multi-modal transportation system that serves the travel needs of all King County residents, especially providing service to areas currently underserved and is 2) sensitive to transportation impacts on residential as well as economic development in King County. In addition to strategies listed under Section II (Major Elements), this will be accomplished by:

1. Acknowledge the County's increasing role as a regional service provider.
2. Address the impacts of transportation projects on fish habitat by integrating requirements for the recovery of fish in accordance with ESA into the transportation planning process.
3. Adjust the concurrency strategy in conjunction with revisions to the growth strategy.
4. Revise policies to account for impact of new Sound Transit alignment and recent incorporations/annexations.
5. Analyze the impacts of state highways and major freight corridors on land use and on transportation infrastructure.
6. Develop new policies for the Regional Arterial Network (RAN) and freight mobility; include maps of the RAN.

7. Strengthen policies that incorporate transit and non-motorized design elements in residential and commercial developments in King County to better link transit and non-motorized planning and land use planning.
8. Develop more relevant transportation indicators. Establish transportation indexes which track routes by the number of minutes it takes to travel them. Measure AM and PM peak commute times.
9. Survey trends in commute patterns and in personal housing and employment locational decisions.
10. Establish the policy framework for connecting the road stubs in neighborhoods to help alleviate traffic problems.

VII. CRITICAL HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES

GOAL: A comprehensive plan that supports the ability of people throughout King County to attain housing that is affordable and the human services they need to maintain quality of life. In addition to strategies listed under Section II (Major Elements), this will be accomplished by:

1. Analyze future housing needs by using demographic trend data to evaluate market demand, over time.
2. Define King County's regional role in contributing to the provision of housing and human services, especially to people with special needs and those that are homeless.
3. Consider additional policies to encourage King County to work in partnerships with both the public and private sectors to plan for and to increase housing affordability.
4. Encourage the siting and preservation of affordable housing with good access to jobs, transit, and services; coordinate with the King County Transit Oriented Development and Transfer of Development Credits Programs.
5. Establish a human services linkage throughout the plan by including appropriate policies regarding the access, funding, and siting of human services in the transportation (including transit), housing and land use elements, and capital improvement plan.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL: A comprehensive plan that can be successfully implemented. This will be accomplished by:

1. Prepare all development regulations in conjunction with proposals to change policies.
2. Explore policy options for funding facility and program needs directed by the KCCP.
3. Explore changes to taxing mechanisms that would enhance the county's ability to meet its long-term obligations as the local government for the unincorporated area.