



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 31, 2007

Motion 12559

Proposed No. 2007-0337.3

Sponsors Lambert, Hague, Gossett, von Reichbauer, Ferguson, Constantine, Dunn, Phillips and Patterson

1 A MOTION directing the executive to convene a task force
2 to undertake the review of measures intended to encourage
3 the continued viability of agriculture within the Snoqualmie
4 Valley Agricultural Production District.
5

6 WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act ("GMA"), Countywide Planning
7 Policies ("CPPs") and King County Comprehensive Plan ("KCCP") require the
8 delineation and protection of valuable and increasingly limited agricultural resource lands
9 and supports regulations that serve to encourage the continuation of agriculture land uses,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, King County has identified and designated a number of Agricultural
12 Production Districts (APDs) totaling forty-two thousand acres and has implemented
13 protections through the Agriculture zoning designation, and

14 WHEREAS, King County has enacted land use policies and regulations that focus
15 much of the agriculture within the county towards the APDs and financially supports
16 agriculture through:

17 1. Agricultural programs, such as the Farmland Preservation Program, Puget
18 Sound Fresh and farm ditch maintenance; and
19 2. Funding of the King Conservation District for development of farm
20 management plans, and

21 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie Valley APD is the single, largest APD in King
22 County and historically has had a very productive agricultural industry, and

23 WHEREAS, the Snoqualmie Valley APD is regularly inundated by flood waters
24 due to high levels of precipitation and in the past sixteen years has experienced four of
25 the highest floods on record, with the likelihood of more frequent occurrences in the
26 future, and

27 WHEREAS, these flood water levels are often increased by a number and variety
28 of factors, such as:

29 1. Storm water from development on the uplands that drain into the Snoqualmie
30 Valley; and

31 2. The construction of flood control levees along the downstream portions of the
32 Snoqualmie river that result in the backup of flood waters, and

33 WHEREAS, the regular occurrence of flooding has greatly impacted agriculture
34 within the Snoqualmie Valley APD due to:

35 1. The damage to crops;
36 2. An inability to plant due to water-logged soils;
37 3. A lack of elevated farm pads that provide safe havens for farm animals and on
38 which structures could be placed to protect to farm products, such as seeds, flower bulbs,

39 hay and similar products, and equipment and allow the continuation of farm activities
40 such as milking of dairy cows; and

41 4. The inability to rebuild flood-damaged buildings if the damage exceeds fifty
42 percent of assessed value, and

43 WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration considers flood inundated
44 food items, including produce in the ground, to be contaminated (also known as
45 "adulterated") and must be destroyed, and

46 WHEREAS, the flood occurrences of November and December 2006 have served
47 as a warning that unless King County evaluates, develops and implements significant
48 protection measures, the continued viability of agriculture in the Snoqualmie Valley APD
49 will be irretrievably compromised, and

50 WHEREAS, it is consistent with the GMA, CPPs and KCCP for the county to
51 support not only the continuation, but also the future growth, of agriculture in the
52 Snoqualmie Valley APD;

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

54 A. The King County executive is directed to convene a task force to review and
55 make recommendations in regards to farm protection measures for the Snoqualmie
56 Valley APD, such as, but not limited to, the:

57 1. Expansion of opportunities to construct "farm pads" to save livestock,
58 equipment, and products such as, seeds, bulbs and hay or other feed;
59 2. Ability to repair flood-damaged building regardless of the assessed value;

60 3. Application of expanded storm drainage technology and requirements,
61 including berms, for urban developments which contribute storm water into the
62 Snoqualmie river basin; and

63 4. Implementation of a flood control program within the Snoqualmie Valley
64 APD that focuses upon the reduction of flooding to farmlands.

65 B. The task force shall be comprised of:

66 1. Representatives from departments or divisions such as but not limited to
67 Department of Development and Environmental Services and Water and Land Resources
68 Division as appointed by the King County executive;

69 2. A representative appointed by the King Conservation District Board;
70 3. A farmer appointed by the King County Agriculture Commission; and
71 4. A representative of the Hmong farming community.

72 C. The executive is directed to complete the task force review and forward
73 recommendations to the King County council by February 1, 2008, in order to allow
74 implementation of agriculture protection standards prior to the start of the 2008/2009
75 flood season. Eleven copies of the recommendations shall be filed with the clerk of the

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76 council, who shall forward a copy to each councilmember and the lead staff of the growth
77 management and natural resources committee, or its successor.

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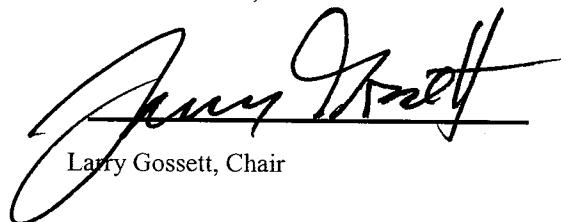
Motion 12559 was introduced on 5/29/2007 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/30/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Constantine

No: 0

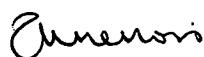
Excused: 2 - Mr. Dunn and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None