



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 21, 2009

Motion 13075

Proposed No. 2009-0407.1

Sponsors Hague

1 A MOTION identifying projects to be funded under the re-
2 authorization of Public Law 106-393, Title III, the Secure
3 Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000, and
4 allocating to those projects the Title III funds received from
5 the federal government for federal fiscal year 2008, and
6 stating King County's election for the distribution of funds
7 for federal fiscal year 2009.

8
9 WHEREAS, on October 3, 2008, Congress enacted Public Law (P.L.) 110-343,
10 which included reauthorization of and amendment to P.L. 106-393, the Secure Rural
11 Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000, and

12 WHEREAS, P.L. 106-393, as amended, allows transition payments to eligible
13 counties in covered states, referred to as the full funding amount, which are calculated as
14 a percentage of the full funding amount for 2006, and

15 WHEREAS, Washington state is a covered state and King County is an eligible
16 county, and

17 WHEREAS, if an eligible county elects to receive the full funding amount, not
18 less than eighty percent and not more than eighty-five percent shall be expended for
19 schools and roads, as described in Title I, and

20 WHEREAS, annually the county shall decide the percentage of the full payment
21 to be expended on Title I, and the percentages to be allocated to projects in accordance
22 with Title II, Special Projects on Federal Lands, and Title III, County Funds, with not
23 more than seven percent of the total payment allocated to Title III, and

24 WHEREAS, Title III of P.L. 106-393 provides for county funds to be used to
25 carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program, to reimburse for search and
26 rescue and other emergency services performed on federal land, or to develop community
27 wildfire protection plans, and

28 WHEREAS, in Motion 12885, King County elected to receive the full funding
29 amount, which election is effective for all subsequent federal fiscal years through fiscal
30 year 2011, and

31 WHEREAS, in Motion 12885, King County also made its annual election for the
32 allocation of the funding for federal fiscal year 2008, allocating eighty-five percent of the
33 full funding amount to Title I, eight percent to Title II and seven percent to Title III, and

34 WHEREAS, the Title III allocation for federal fiscal year 2008 has been received
35 by the County and amounts to \$147,010, and

36 WHEREAS, the executive's first quarter omnibus supplemental ordinance
37 appropriates funding to departments to pay for the two Title III projects described in this
38 motion, both of which meet the requirements of Title III, and

39 WHEREAS, Title III of P.L.106-393 requires a forty-five day public comment
40 period before approval of Title III projects by the county, and King County published
41 descriptions of the proposed projects forty-five days before the passage of this motion;

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

43 A. King County hereby allocates the \$147,010 in Title III funds received for
44 federal fiscal year 2008 to the projects described in subsections B. and D. of this motion.

45 B. King County hereby authorizes the use of \$73,505 of Title III funds to
46 partially reimburse the King County sheriff's office for expenses incurred performing
47 search and rescue operations on federal land.

48 C. King County hereby authorizes the use of \$73,505 of Title III funds to
49 partially fund the Firewise Forests Initiative, in the water and land resources division
50 forestry program, which will assist rural communities to develop community wildfire
51 protection plans, and to promote the use of practices that reduce the risk of wildfire.

52 D. King County hereby elects to allocate the full funding amount for the 2009
53

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54 federal fiscal year as follows: eighty-five percent for Title I, eight percent for Title II, and
55 seven percent to Title III, to be appropriated in the 2010 budget.

56

Motion 13075 was introduced on 7/13/2009 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/21/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Patterson

No: 0

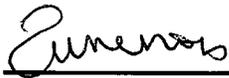
Excused: 1 - Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments A. Description of King County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, B. Description of Firewise Forests Initiative

Description of King County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue

The King County Sheriff's Office is required by state law to provide search & rescue services to King County. This is a service unique in King County to the Sheriff's Office. In addition, this service enhances King County's ability to respond to other emergencies and disasters, including natural events and terrorist incidents. This proposal will allow the Sheriff's Office to continue to provide search and rescue services at an acceptable level, improve the Unit's technical capability to locate and rescue lost and injured people, and support King County Government and all other county government agencies in those situations. This proposal will also make these services more cost effective by reducing the time required to locate and rescue victims and to assess emergency and disaster situations.

This proposal is for \$73,505 of Title III funds under the renewal of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act (Public Law 106-393) as part of the 2008 Economic Stimulus Act (PL110-343). Funds will be used to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for a portion of the costs related to search, rescue, and emergency service activities on federal land. Historically, 65% of the Sheriff's search and rescue activity is on federal land.

Description of Firewise Forests Initiative

Building on accomplishments of Fire Safe Forests initiated in 2006 through 2008 King County's Forestry Program proposes expanding into a comprehensive **Firewise Forests Initiative** through:

1. Convening and staffing a Firewise Advisory Committee
2. Assessing feasibility of a chipper program and if feasible, helping to implement it
3. Developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) for more communities
4. Incorporating CCWP's into the County's regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
5. Expanding educational effort – materials & website

The goal of the Initiative is to prevent the loss of lives, property and resources to wildfire while ensuring forest stewardship among landowners.

Project Description:

The Initiative will involve small forest landowners and forest residents in developing community wildfire prevention and implementation plans. A King County forester will work directly with community residents through consultation sessions and visits to their forest properties. The forester will also work with community members to develop forest stewardship plans for their individual properties, which for many will be the first step in implementing Firewise forest management practices on their land. Studies have shown that a healthy forest with sufficient growing space for trees will be resilient, more drought tolerant and less susceptible to fire.

The Forestry Program will partner with educational institutions, non-profit organizations and/or community groups to provide written information and training sessions for forest landowners. Web-based fire protection planning resources will be developed and existing resources made available. Community residents will be encouraged to share information with their neighbors. Residents of forested areas will be also be encouraged to consult with local fire departments to determine risk factors, such as ease of access to their home, appropriate home and street signing, that may need to be addressed in their plans.

In cooperation with the Rural Forest Commission, Washington Department of Natural Resources and other groups, the program will implement a chipper project to provide a means for property owners in Firewise communities to chip their wood debris. This will promote wildfire protection by reducing fuels; it will provide an alternative to burning, thereby reducing smoke emissions; it will allow the waste wood to be put to a beneficial use; and it will provide an incentive for communities to embark on community wildfire protection planning. This project would directly benefit carbon storage and reduce carbon emissions, supporting King County's Climate Change Initiative. The chipper project will start with a feasibility study in 2009, which will determine the best approach for providing the services (existing or new business enterprise, non-profit, or existing agency). Depending on the results of the analysis, the Firewise Program will provide grant funding in subsequent years to support the implementation of the chipper project.

2009 Budget \$118,505 (\$45,000 in 2009 budget plus \$73,505 of 2009 Title III funds):

\$5,000 – Develop website (DNRP staff time) fire start map, risk analysis tools, risk assessments, clickable CWPP map (contract or staff time)

\$24,000 – King County WLRD forestry program staff time

- Develop RFP for and manage Firewise Chipper Project feasibility study

- Develop RFP for four CWPPs and manage
- Staff Foothills Firewise Advisory Committee:
Fire Districts Insurance Corporations CERT
Fire Marshal King County WLR WDNR
PSCAA Landowner Representation

\$25,000 – Contract for a Firewise Chipper Program feasibility study which will include:

- An assessment of best business structure (NPO, existing, for profit)
- A review of appropriate equipment, best acquisition sources and cost ranges
- Program partners - contact them and get letters of support, commitments (KCD, WDNR, PSCAA, PSP, Pierce and Snohomish)
- Secure funding sources from partners and other grant sources
- Target communities - higher fire risk areas in King County, maps, basic information
- A model of how the program will be delivered
- Potential markets and end uses for chips indentified
- Benefits from the program: fire risk reduction, healthy forests, community engagement, carbon storage, students skills development and resume building

\$10,000 – Chipper Program pilot program, depending on results of the feasibility study.

- Chipper services provided to communities with approved Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) to support/incentivize healthy forest management

\$40,000 – Contract - completion of four Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

- Four completed plans ready for state approval

\$5,000 – DDES hours

DDES clearing inspectors will participate in the public planning process. Participation in the public planning process may assist DDES to develop a programmatic permit covering forest management (*e.g.*, thinning) related to fire safety plans.

\$5,000 – Fire Districts staff hours

The local fire district[s] will assist with initial fire risk assessments, map and integrate CWPPs in their operational planning for participating communities.

The Initiative will establish a partnership among the County, local fire districts, the County’s fire marshal, Washington DNR and other agencies concerned with wild fire.

\$4,505 – Outreach publications and mailings; printing and postage

The Initiative will provide resources such as videos, pamphlets, checklists or booklets to help landowners prepare their plan and implement elements of it: *e.g.*, a planning check list, a “how to do a thinning” checklist, guidance on how to hire a forester, etc.

Estimated 2010 Budget \$124,500:

Project will continue to support participation by forestry program staff, DDES fire marshal, and fires district personnel. Work will include continuation of the advisory committee, a contract for several community fire plans, and implementation of the chipper project, directed by the feasibility study results.

Estimated 2011 Budget \$40,500

Forestry staff will continue to manage the contract for community fire plans and implementation of the chipper project.