



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 7, 2010

Motion 13323

Proposed No. 2010-0483.2

Sponsors Phillips and Ferguson

1 A MOTION requiring a study by the solid waste division of
2 the department of natural resources and parks of the
3 availability and utility of portable truck scales for county
4 vehicles carrying solid waste from waste transfer stations to
5 the Cedar Hills landfill.

6 WHEREAS, the ombudsman's office has completed and forwarded to council a
7 report dated August 19, 2010, confirming the historical practice whereby solid waste has
8 been conveyed from solid waste transfer stations to the Cedar Hills landfill in trucks
9 under the management of the county's solid waste division that are sometimes loaded
10 beyond the allowed vehicle weight standard established by the state, and

11 WHEREAS, such a practice may carry with it the potential to adversely impact
12 roads and bridges of the region, designed to a specified load capacity, and might
13 additionally represent a risk to public safety, in light of the effect that overweight loads
14 can have on handling characteristics of vehicles, as described by the ombudsman's report,
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the ombudsman's report notes that there has been significant
17 progress by the division in its efforts to minimize the numbers of trucks that are
18 dispatched in an overweight status, and that drivers confirm this progress, and

19 WHEREAS, in order to efficiently manage the transfer of waste by minimizing
20 the number of conveyance trips, yet assure that trucks remain within appropriate weight
21 limits, it is necessary to determine the weight of the trucks before leaving a transfer
22 station en route to the landfill, and

23 WHEREAS, the ombudsman's report recommends that installing scales at all
24 transfer stations should be completed as soon as reasonably possible, and

25 WHEREAS, a number of the transfer stations that were built decades ago, are not
26 currently equipped with weighing scales necessary to confirm that the trucks are within
27 weight limits before departure, and

28 WHEREAS, the transfer station system is undergoing a system-wide upgrade,
29 with stations to be upgraded or replaced over the next five years, with new or upgraded
30 stations to be equipped with installed weigh scales, and

31 WHEREAS, the ombudsman's report notes that the division evaluated placement
32 of a portable scale at the Houghton transfer station over a decade ago, and that the scale
33 did not perform adequately, causing the division to decline to move forward on
34 placement of similar scales, and

35 WHEREAS, since that time, there may have been improvements in the
36 construction and operation of portable scales; and

37 WHEREAS, other county agencies use portable scales, which may be appropriate
38 for transfer stations currently not served by scales, and

39 WHEREAS, a review by the division of the market availability of such scales
40 could provide a reasonable short term alternative to awaiting the completion of new or
41 upgraded transfer stations that will be equipped with permanent scales;

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

43 A. The solid waste division is directed to undertake a study on the availability of
44 portable weight scales that could be used for weighing trucks that carry solid waste from
45 transfer stations to the Cedar Hills landfill. The study shall address the cost, reliability,
46 accuracy and utility of such scales for that purpose. The study shall also address the
47 potential for surplus scales when station upgrades or replacements are completed.
48 Among the scales considered should be portable scales currently in use by other agencies
49 of county government.

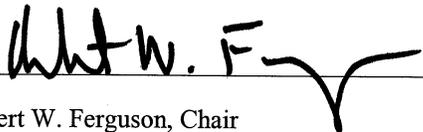
50 B. By November 10, 2010, the solid waste division shall file a report,
51 summarizing the results of the study, in the form of a paper original and an electronic

52 copy with the clerk of the council, who shall distribute electronic copies to all
53 councilmembers.
54

Motion 13323 was introduced on 8/30/2010 and passed as amended by the
Metropolitan King County Council on 9/7/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett,
Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None