



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

February 24, 2015

Motion 14302

Proposed No. 2015-0074.1

Sponsors Dembowski

1 A MOTION providing direction to the conservation futures
2 citizen oversight committee on a priority for allocating
3 conservation futures tax levy funds near the Sammamish
4 river and certain regional trails.

5 WHEREAS, state law declares that it is in the best interest of the state to
6 maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space
7 lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops and to assure the use and
8 enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being
9 of the state and its citizens, and

10 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.210 authorizes the county to acquire property rights to
11 protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or other otherwise
12 conserve, selected open space land, farm and agricultural land and timber land, and

13 WHEREAS, property rights acquired under this authorization are defined as
14 conservation futures, and

15 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.230 authorizes the use of a property tax levy to fund the
16 acquisition of conservation futures and the maintenance and operation of acquired
17 properties, and

18 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.240 authorizes counties to establish a special
19 conservation futures fund to which the levy proceeds are credited, and

20 WHEREAS, King County has established a conservation futures tax levy and
21 fund, and

22 WHEREAS, King County is required to establish a process to help ensure, over
23 time, that the distribution of the tax levy is throughout the county, and

24 WHEREAS, K.C.C. chapter 26.12 establishes an annual process for distribution
25 of the tax levy to acquire open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife
26 habitat and trail rights-of-way, and

27 WHEREAS, the process includes a citizen oversight committee that makes
28 project and funding allocation recommendations for each project to the executive, and

29 WHEREAS, the executive makes a project and funding recommendation as part
30 of the budget process, and

31 WHEREAS, the conservation futures allocation process requires a project to be
32 sponsored and forwarded by the jurisdiction in which the project is located, either
33 individually or in partnership with other jurisdictions because of shared interests, and

34 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.010 allows the council to adopt a motion providing
35 direction to the conservation futures citizen oversight committee on priorities for
36 evaluating project applications, and

37 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project
38 selection, which provides: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and
39 aquatic resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources;
40 urban passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park or open space system addition; and
41 transfer of development rights program implementation. Additional criteria may include:
42 passive recreation; education/interpretive opportunity; threat of loss of open space

43 resources; ownership complexity; partnerships; stewardship and maintenance; and any
44 other criteria consistent with RCW 84.34.020," and

45 WHEREAS, conservation futures tax levy funds were used to purchase a
46 conservation easement in the city of Bothell in 1996 for the purpose of preserving open
47 space along the Sammamish river, and

48 WHEREAS, the conservation easement allowed the continued operation of the
49 existing recreational land use, and

50 WHEREAS, the land along the Sammamish river provides recreational uses,
51 scenic resources and open space as well as important habitat value and ecological benefit,
52 and

53 WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to partner with cities, the state, private
54 entities, local landowners and citizens to purchase additional property rights that would
55 preserve additional open space and recreational land along the Sammamish river, the
56 Burke-Gilman trail, the Sammamish River trail, the Tolt Pipeline trail and the Eastside
57 Rail Corridor, and

58 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property
59 rights for preservation of existing open space and recreational land meets the criteria in
60 K.C.C. 26.12.025 for project selection;

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

62 The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen oversight
63 committee consideration during the annual project selection and funding recommendation
64 process, one or more projects that includes the purchase of property rights near or
65 adjacent to already preserved properties, for the purpose of preservation of existing

66 recreational uses, view corridors and open space along the Sammamish river, the Burke-
67 Gilman trail, the Sammamish River trail, the Tolt Pipeline trail and the Eastside Rail
68 Corridor, in order to promote the enhancement of existing open space uses, and to
69 preserve scenic resources and recreational land uses.
70

Motion 14302 was introduced on 2/9/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 2/23/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert,
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None