



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 17, 2017

Motion 14978

Proposed No. 2017-0396.1

Sponsors Dunn

1 A MOTION providing direction to the conservation futures
2 citizen oversight committee on priorities for allocating
3 conservation futures tax levy funds.

4 WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.010 declares that it is in the best interest of the state to
5 maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space
6 lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops and to ensure the use and
7 enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being
8 of the state and its citizens, and

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, King County has established a conservation futures tax levy and

20 fund, and

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, the executive makes project and funding recommendations as part of
29 the budget process, and

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

33 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project
34 selection, which provides: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and
35 aquatic resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources;
36 urban passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park or open space system addition; and
37 transfer of development rights program implementation. Additional criteria may include:
38 passive recreation; education/interpretive opportunity; threat of loss of open space
39 resources; ownership complexity; partnerships; stewardship and maintenance; and any
40 other criteria consistent with RCW 84.34.020," and

41 WHEREAS, Cemetery pond, which is located near the headwaters of Tributary
42 0291A, which flows into the May valley basin, is a stormwater flow-control facility that

43 is located at the outlet of an existing wetland and provides stormwater detention for
44 nearby residential and community development, and

45 WHEREAS, Cemetery pond is located within the Four Creeks community, which
46 has undertaken stewardship activities to improve habitat, remove invasive species from
47 the wetland and buffer, provide maintenance and weeding of native plants and monitor
48 water levels and flows, and

49 WHEREAS, Cemetery pond has been identified as in need of improvement of
50 systemic drainage issues, and

51 WHEREAS, these habitat and drainage improvements could be enhanced by
52 acquisition of privately-owned properties in the vicinity of Cemetery pond, and

53 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property
54 rights in the Cemetery pond area for wildlife habitat, aquatic resources or stewardship
55 purposes meets the criteria in K.C.C. 26.12.025;

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

57 A. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures citizen
58 oversight committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding
59 recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase or property
60 rights for the purpose of wildlife habitat, aquatic resources or stewardship in the vicinity
61 of Cemetery pond in the unincorporated Four Creeks community east of Renton.

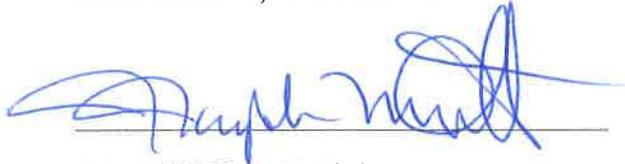
62 B. The department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources
63 division, is requested to work with landowners and jurisdictions in which properties
64 reflecting this priority is located, in submitting project proposals that meet this priority, as

65 part of the 2018 conservation futures tax levy funds selection process provided for in
66 K.C.C. 26.12.010.
67

Motion 14978 was introduced on 9/25/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/16/2017, by the following vote:

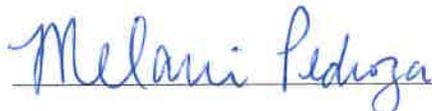
Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles
and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



Attachments: None