



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15605

Proposed No. 2020-0062.1

Sponsors Kohl-Welles

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

4 WHEREAS, in RCW 84.34.010, the state Legislature "declares that it is in the
5 best interest of the state to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in
6 existence adequate open space lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops and
7 to ensure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic
8 and social well-being 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 an advisory committee that makes project and
27 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 advisory committee on priorities for evaluating
32 project applications, and

33 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project
34 selection, which are: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and aquatic
35 resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources; urban
36 passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park, open space or natural corridor addition; and
37 passive recreation opportunity in an area with unmet needs; and projects that seek to
38 redress historic disparities in access to or health benefits of open space in opportunity
39 areas. Additional criteria may include: educational or interpretive opportunity; impact to
40 open space resources; feasibility, including ownership complexity, a willing seller or
41 sellers or community support; partnerships; if the property identified in an adopted
42 comprehensive plan, park open space, habitat, cultural resource or community plan;

43 transfer of development rights participation; stewardship and maintenance; regional
44 significance; adopted financial policies; and any other criteria consistent with chapter
45 84.34 RCW," and Motion 15513 gives additional detail on project eligibility criteria, and

46 WHEREAS, the Ballard P-Patch is a half-acre ADA-accessible urban passive-use
47 natural area for community gardening, gathering and other activities, that has been
48 stewarded and maintained as such for over forty years, and

49 WHEREAS, the P-Patch provides educational opportunities to the community
50 through garden tours for local schools, and

51 WHEREAS, GROW, the nonprofit organization that operates the P-Patch, seeks
52 to redress historic disparities by serving low-income communities through providing
53 more than two thousand pounds of organic produce from the garden to the Ballard Food
54 Bank each year, and

55 WHEREAS, the owner of the land on which the P-Patch and adjacent acre of
56 parking are located has expressed the desire to sell the properties, and

57 WHEREAS, as of January 20, 2020, a fund set up by GROW to permanently
58 protect the Ballard P-Patch had raised over \$59,000 from over three hundred donors, and

59 WHEREAS, if the properties are not purchased by GROW or a public entity, the
60 P-Patch will likely be converted into residential development, resulting in loss of the
61 open space resource and the benefits it provides;

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

63 A. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures advisory
64 committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding
65 recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase of or property

66 rights for the Ballard P-Patch and adjacent property, including parcels 3526039030,
67 3526039023 and 3526039047, to prevent the loss of, and potentially expand, the urban
68 passive-use natural area and continue to reap the community benefits it provides,
69 including educational opportunities and benefits to low-income community members.

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

73 as part of the 2020 conservation futures tax levy funding selection process provided for in

74 K.C.C. 26.12.010.

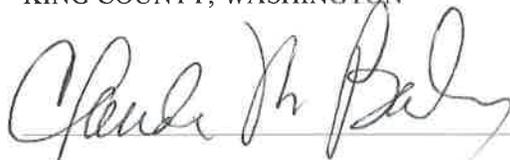
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Motion 15605 was introduced on 1/28/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/25/2020, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Balducci and Mr. Zahilay



KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None