

July 17, 2017

The Honorable Joe McDermott
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits an ordinance adopting the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area (CSA) Plan (“Plan”) as an amendment to the 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan and related amendments to King County property-specific development regulations for Vashon Rural Town. The Plan is consistent with the State Growth Management Act and King County Code provisions that allow for Comprehensive Plan amendments outside the traditional four-year cycle in order to adopt a subarea plan.

This Plan, the first to be transmitted to the King County Council under the recently reinstated subarea planning program, replaces the 1986 Vashon Community Plan and the 1996 Vashon Town Plan while carrying forward many policies from those documents that remain relevant and vital to the community. It respects the community’s enduring commitment and passion to protect and preserve the Island’s ground and surface waters, natural habitats, and shorelines. It also identifies other community priorities that aim to:

- increase the supply of affordable housing in the Rural Town of Vashon;
- support a permanent farmer’s market location and efforts to develop a new food hub;
- develop a suite of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies specific to Vashon-Maury Island’s unique needs;
- perform a feasibility study for a potential Regional Trail that connects the north and south ferry terminals;
- expand public access to non-sensitive shoreline areas using abandoned or underutilized King County properties; and
- conduct an island-wide on-site sewage system study.

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Since CSA Plans are a component of the Comprehensive Plan, there is a strong and consistent link between the two documents, including content that is organized using similar topics and categories. Policies in the CSA Plan conform to the adopted Comprehensive Plan and implement the Comprehensive Plan's broader goals at the local level. The Plan contains 78 policies and 41 associated actions that are specific to Vashon-Maury Island's unique needs and culture.

The Plan represents the culmination of a year-long process that began in March 2016 with the formation of a King County CSA Plan interdepartmental team and a 15-member Community Advisory Group comprised of Island volunteers from a diverse cross-section of interests. We hosted four different community forums where over 300 islanders attended to learn about and comment on the Plan. This Plan was one of the first to utilize King County Information Technology's (KCIT) new digital engagement partner, *Peak Democracy*, who helped to design a more user-friendly platform for reading and commenting on the draft Plan. The public comments we received helped to generate the Executive Recommended Plan and consequently to make refinements for the document you are receiving today. We closely coordinated with staff from your office throughout the planning process, including confirmation of the Community Advisory Group members, scheduling and participation at the various public forums, and ensuring constituent concerns and needs were being addressed.

This CSA Plan furthers the King County Strategic Plan goals and objectives in several different ways. It promotes improved health and safety through coordinated planning with Vashon emergency services and climate change mitigation policies. The Plan supports community health on the island by encouraging a new community garden and a permanent farmer's market location. Enhanced local transportation services on the island are addressed through Metro's alternative services program and future expansion of ridesharing, community vans and mobile vehicle matching. Finally, the CSA Plan process broadens opportunities for island residents to participate in the formation of County policies that directly impact their lives.

Required public notice and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Procedures

In accordance with KCC 20.18.110, the Zoning Code Amendments ordinance must be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation at least thirty days before the Council's public hearing. Under KCC 20.18.150 and RCW 36.70A.106, within ten days of adoption, the Council must transmit the Zoning Code Amendments ordinance to the state and provide published notice in the official county newspaper. SEPA review is underway and will be completed in advance of any action by the King County Council.

I urge your careful consideration of the proposed Plan and implementing regulations. Together, they will help to ensure that Vashon-Maury Island continues to manage growth effectively while protecting its rural character and ensuring the County's compliance with the Growth Management Act.

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If you have any questions about this transmittal, please contact John Starbard, Director, Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, at 206-477-0382.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy, King County Executive Office
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB)
Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning, PSB
John Starbard, Director, Department of Permitting and Environmental Review