

February 28, 2018

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 a plan, motion, and an ordinance that responds to:

- The 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18409, Section 19, as amended by Ordinance 18602, Section 5, Proviso P2, which relates to the Community Service Area Subarea Planning Program; and
- The 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18409, Section 88, as amended by Ordinance 18602, Section 47, Proviso P3, which relates to the Community Service Area Subarea Planning Program.

The two provisos directed the Executive to file a plan, motion and an ordinance by March 1, 2018 to restructure the subarea planning program ("Restructure Plan").

Funding for subarea planning was included in the 2015-2016 Biennial Budget. This allowed the County to reinstitute the program which had been dormant for nearly twenty years. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan adopted the broad outlines of the new program, and identified King County's Community Service Area boundaries as the geographic framework.

The enclosed plan, motion, and ordinance address the restructure of the program in accordance with requirements of the provisos. The Restructure Plan proposes the following:

- Maintains the subarea planning program, and better defines the scope of subarea plans;
- Retains the program within the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER). Subsequent legislation will propose moving DPER into a new Department of Local Services, where it can coordinate with Community Service Area Program staff and leverage departmental initiatives aimed at improving service delivery;

- Increases staffing to from one full-time equivalent (FTE) staff to three FTEs to maintain an adequate service level. The additional two positions would be considered as part of the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget.
- Establishes clearer roles and responsibilities within the subarea planning program regarding policy and budget consistency, and interdepartmental coordination;
- Moves the Comprehensive Plan to an eight-year review cycle so that it no longer coincides with the budget process, provides better alignment with state the Growth Management Act planning schedule, and increases capacity for local planning;
- Retains existing land use processes such as the annual Comprehensive Plan update, the Docket, and Zone reclassifications, to ensure continuous public access to planning services;
- Shifts the deadline for transmittal of one workplan action item adopted in the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan;
- Commits to working with the County Council to define appropriate timeframes for implementation of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Workplan Action Items.

The proposed restructure addresses multiple guiding principles in the King County Strategic Plan. By adding subarea plans for Potential Annexation Areas, it addresses the Equitable and Fair principle. By aligning the Comprehensive Plan with State Growth Management Act and related planning timelines, it address the Regionally Collaborative principle.

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

It is estimated that this report required 200 staff hours to produce, costing \$15,000. The estimated printing cost for this report is negligible.

Thank you for your consideration of this plan, motion, and ordinance. This important legislation would build on the County's successes in implementing the State Growth Management Act, and help implement and support local area planning.

The Honorable Joe McDermott

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If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning, in the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9606.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Grant Lahmann, Chief of Staff to Chair McDermott

Jeff Muhm, Director of Council Initiatives

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB)

Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning, PSB

Jim Chan, Interim Director, Department of Permitting and Environmental Review