



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Keith McGlashan
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Avenue N
Shoreline, WA 98133-4905

May 17, 2010

Dear Mayor McGlashan:

Pursuant to the terms of the terms of the SEPA Nominal Lead Agency Agreement between the Cities of Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Kirkland, Redmond, Seattle, Shoreline, and Yarrow Point, I am recommending that the North/East Cities (NEC) end the joint environmental impact statement (EIS) process for the siting and construction of a municipal jail.

When the NEC first started this project in 2008, the cities' contract with King County for jail services was set to expire in 2012. King County stated it would not have room to house any city inmates after 2012 and therefore cities needed to plan for new jail facilities to meet their jail capacity needs. As a result, the cities of Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Kirkland, Redmond, Shoreline, Yarrow Point and Seattle, as well as King County, entered into agreements to jointly plan for a regional misdemeanor jail facility. Concurrently, the cities continued to pursue efforts with King County to find a regional solution to address our long-term jail capacity needs.

Now, however, conditions have significantly changed from 2008. The County and cities recently adopted an agreement for jail services through 2016. For the last two years, King County's jail population has dropped. Executive Constantine's staff has carefully reviewed the population projections, and as a result, he is proposing providing 150 beds to cities through 2020. In addition, cities now have more contracting options available than they had in 2008. The availability of beds from King County and other jurisdictions is projected to meet the jail bed need of the North/East cities through 2020.

The availability of jail beds from King County and other jurisdictions does not solve the region's long-term jail capacity needs. Moreover, it does not eliminate the risks associated with long term projections of jail population and capacity. However, it does allow all parties to work together to continue to develop and explore all possible options for meeting the region's bed capacity needs. The information and analysis generated through the NEC joint EIS process will be helpful to cities and the County as we continue to plan for the future needs.

To help mitigate these risks and support this collaborative approach, Executive Constantine is recommending the creation of a regional jail planning and management group. This group would focus on fostering a well coordinated system of jails in the county; utilizing the region's jail capacity effectively and efficiently; developing periodic reports on trends in the region's jail

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population and capacity utilization, and cooperating on meeting the region's long term jail capacity needs. I concur with the Executive's recommendation and will be joining him in this effort.

As we all said from the beginning, no one wants to build a jail. Now, conditions have changed such that I am recommending that the North/East cities' EIS be terminated. Please let me know if you are in agreement with this recommendation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael McGinn

cc: Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Relations Program Manager, City of Shoreline
Catherine Cornwall, Senior Policy Analyst, Seattle City Budget Office

When the NRC first started this project in 2008, the cities' contact with King County for jail services was set to expire in 2012. King County stated it would not have room to house any city inmates after 2012 and therefore cities needed to plan for new jail facilities to meet their jail capacity needs. As a result, the cities of Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Kirkland, Redmond, Shoreline, Yarrow Point and Seattle, as well as King County, entered into agreements to jointly plan for a regional misdemeanor jail facility. Concurrently, the cities continued to pursue efforts with King County to find a regional solution to address our long-term jail capacity needs.

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