



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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April 23, 2021

Fish, Farm, Flood Implementation Oversight Committee

c/o Beth leDoux

201 S Jackson St., Suite 5600

Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Ms. Spiry, Ms. Donaldson and Ms. Krass:

Thank you for your December 21, 2020 letter expressing your support and vision to address regulatory issues that can create unnecessary challenges for farming in King County. Clear and workable regulations are needed for farmers to manage their fields and grow crops while also maintaining protection for salmon and the environment.

I convened the Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood Initiative to have community leaders and willing Tribal members tackle the issues that were creating obstacles and conflict for salmon recovery, flood protection, and productive agriculture in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District. I continue to support and be inspired by your work and that of the Implementation Oversight Committee to work together, across interests, to identify projects and solutions that bring benefits to all three F's. Each of you – and more so in your extra service as co-chair – has provided invaluable service and leadership toward that end. Thank you for your hard work.

I appreciate the effort of the members of the Regulatory Task Force (RTF) to resolve permitting and regulatory concerns raised by the agriculture community. It is inspiring to see this work come forward from a Task Force that included individual farmers, salmon recovery experts, agricultural organizations, flood experts and Tribal governments.

Based on your recommendations, I am taking the following actions:

- I am directing the Department of Local Services (DLS) to memorialize the clarity achieved through the RTF per an internal concurrence memo to provide direction for staff to consistently implement county regulations.
- I am directing the divisions of Permitting and Water and Land Resources to develop a work program needed to complete Task Force recommendations that advance solutions and efficiencies necessary to achieve improved farming and habitat conditions.

- As part of my Clean Water and Healthy Habitat Initiative, I expect DLS and DNRP leadership to guide and collaborate across their organizations on this important work.
- I will ensure that the Federal caucus is made aware of issues that need addressing at the federal level. It will also be important to strengthen our work with Federal agencies to have an informed understanding when regulations impact the landowners and residents who live and work in the lower Snoqualmie Valley.

King County remains committed to the FFF initiative. I am hopeful that by continuing this collaborative and action-oriented effort we will find increasing and broad support, not just in the Snoqualmie Valley, but across King County. FFF not only advances important multi-benefit work but serves as a model for people of different and strongly held positions to work together for a common purpose.

Thank you again for your continued efforts. I look forward to seeing more results of your hard work and meeting in person in our post-pandemic future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dow Constantine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

cc: Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services (DLS)
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, DNRP
Joan Lee, RRSS Section Supervisor, DNRP
Beth leDoux, FFF Project Manager, DNRP