



SCA Public Issues Committee

AGENDA

July 12, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, Vice Chair 2 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, Vice Chair 10 minutes
3. **Approval of minutes – June 14, 2017 meeting** 2 minutes
Page 5
 - . **Vice Chair’s Report** – Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, Vice Chair 5 minutes
 - . **Executive Director’s Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director 10 minutes
 - . **Regional Affordable Housing Task Force** 30 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 19
Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst
(5 minute staff report, 25 minute discussion)
 - . **Regional Centers** 15 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 3
Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst
(5 minute staff report, 10 minute discussion)
8. **Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy** 15 minutes
UPDATE
Page 7
Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst
(5 minute staff report, 10 minute Q and A)
9. **2017 State Legislative Session** 15 minutes
UPDATE
Page 33
Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst
(5 minute staff report, 10 minute Q and A)

10. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

UPDATE

5 minutes

Page 39

Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst
(2 minute staff report, 3 minute discussion)

11. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

UPDATE

5 minutes

Page 41

Deanna Dawson, Executive Director
(2 minute staff report, 3 minute discussion)

12. Informational Items

a. King Conservation District Program of Work

Page 43

13. Upcoming Events

- a. Joint SCA and NLC First Tier Suburbs Council Networking Event – Wednesday, July 19, 2017 – 5:30 PM – Renton Pavilion Events Center
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 9, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Renton City Hall – *(Subject to cancellation upon action of the PIC)*

14. For the Good of the Order

15. Adjourn

Did You Know?

Sammamish celebrated its 10th birthday on August 31, 2009. The Mayor went around to the grade schools and talked about city government and happened to find a 10-year-old boy that shared the City's birthday. The boy sat next to then (and current!) Mayor Don Gerend in a parade to celebrate the birthdays. To celebrate all that Sammamish had become in 10 years, a time capsule was buried near City Hall, between a playground and a skate park. That time capsule is to be opened upon Sammamish's 50th birthday, August 31, 2049. In the summer of 2009, messages from kids and adults were captured on video to be watched in 2049. The video messages were burned to a DVD, a technology unlikely to exist 32 years from now when the capsule is opened!

Sound Cities Association

Mission

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

Vision

To be the most influential advocate for cities, effectively collaborating to create regional solutions.

Values

SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking.

Page Intentionally Left Blank



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

June 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. 23 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Deputy Mayor Bob Keller, Sammamish; Joyce Nichols, City of Bellevue staff; Alison Bennett, City of Bellevue staff; Councilmember John Holman, Auburn; Diane Carlson, King County Executive's Office staff; Leo Flor, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Veterans and Human Services Renewal Manager; Adam Schmid, King County Department of Community and Human Services staff; Michael Huddleston, King County Council staff.

2. Public Comment

Chair Marts asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Marts closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the May 10, 2017 Minutes

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, to approve the May 10, 2017 PIC minutes.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Marts spoke to the benefits of connecting with fellow PIC members outside of formal meetings to build friendships. In addition to networking across cities and in informal settings, Chair Marts encouraged members to engage their PIC alternates. Alternates are encouraged to review the PIC packet each month and attend often to ensure robust representation from each city at the PIC, cover absences by the PIC member, and assist in bringing back information to one's city. Even with busy schedules, making time to engage in outside conversations with members from other cities is important as it can improve the work one does within their city.

5. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, introduced new SCA Administrative Services Manager Caitlin Magee and Policy Analyst Ella Williams. Dawson noted that SCA is in the process of hiring for a full-time policy analyst.

Dawson reported that members have been appointed to the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force, and will begin meeting on July 14, 2017. SCA will be represented by Kenmore Mayor David Baker (North), Bellevue Mayor John Stokes (East), Renton Councilmember Ryan McIrvine (South), and North Bend Mayor Ken Hearing (Rural). SCA will be working with King County staff to seek feedback from each subregion to help inform the work of the Task Force members.

Dawson reported that discussions are ongoing regarding how to better work together as a region on economic development. At the June 14, 2017 Economic Development Council meeting, former Governor Chris Gregoire, now CEO of Challenge Seattle, discussed a small working group, who will meet over the next six to eight weeks to talk about how King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties can work together. The group will be chaired by Gregoire, and Dawson will represent King County cities other than Seattle.

Dawson concluded by reporting on upcoming SCA events. The next SCA networking event will be July 19, 2017. This will be a joint meeting with the National League of Cities (NLC) First Tier Suburbs Council. Bellevue Councilmember Conrad Lee and Auburn Councilmember John Holman are vice chairs of the NLC First Tier Suburbs Council. The PIC meets next July 12, 2017, and there will not be a pre-PIC workshop. The August PIC meeting will likely be canceled, with a cancellation decision to be made at the July PIC meeting. The next pre-PIC workshop will be September 13, 2017 and will focus on the heroin and opiate crisis and impacts on property crime.

6. Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy

Chair Marts noted that the timeline for passage of an ordinance placing the proposed Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy on the November ballot precludes the normal process for adopting a formal SCA policy position. More informal feedback is sought, however, from SCA member cities to be carried forward to the SCA Board of Directors and SCA Regional Policy Committee members in order to help shape the levy ordinance. Marts proposed that a round robin format be used for discussion on this item to provide each PIC member with an opportunity to offer initial input from their city. Additional feedback may be provided prior to the June 28, 2017 SCA Board of Directors meeting to SCA Senior Policy Analyst Ellie Wilson-Jones at ellie@soundcities.org or 206-495-5238.

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on King County Executive Dow Constantine's proposal to place a Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) on the ballot this November to replace the existing Veterans and Human Services Levy, which expires at the end of 2017. A summary of the VSHSL levy proposal is provided beginning on [page 24 of the PIC Packet](#), and the ordinance, as transmitted by the Executive in May, begins on [page 28](#). As proposed by the Executive, this property tax would be levied at a rate of \$0.12 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation generating about \$60.7 million in levy revenues in 2018. One third of levy proceeds would go to each of three service categories: veterans, military service members, and their families; seniors; and vulnerable populations. At least half of all first-year levy proceeds from each category would be dedicated to housing stability, including capital investments, and at least one-quarter would be devoted to housing stability in future years. Earlier in the evening, Levy Renewal Manager Leo Flor gave a presentation to PIC members on this VSHSL proposal.

The proposed VSHSL ordinance was first referred to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC), which met earlier in the day. RPC voted to advance the legislation without recommendation to expedite consideration by the King County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee. SCA Caucus Chair and Kent Mayor Suzette offered an amendment, which was approved earlier in the day at RPC, to reduce the levy rate to \$0.10 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation—down from the Executive's proposed expansion to \$0.12 but up from the current levy, which was passed at a rate of \$0.05. Mayor Cooke spoke to concerns about the cumulative impact of recent tax measures and potential for sticker shock with a \$0.12 rate. At the lower rate of \$0.10 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, the levy would generate an estimated \$50.6 million in 2018—about \$10 million less than under the Executive's original proposal. Substantial public comment in favor of the levy was received at the RPC meeting. Many of these advocates spoke to going beyond what the Executive had proposed and increasing the rate to \$0.15 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation.

PIC members have previously spoken to concerns about the cumulative burden of recent tax measures. PIC members have also expressed worries about jeopardizing the levy's success with voters by seeking too great an increase. Outside polling conducted by levy supporters has shown strong support among those polled for an expanded Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy. Additional questions were also asked related to the degree of support for a variety of service areas, with funding services for veterans and for seniors polling the most strongly.

While the RPC has advanced the levy ordinance without recommendation, further RPC action is anticipated. Under the King County Charter, the legislation returns to RPC should the County Council make any amendment. The ordinance has remaining technical issues, and the Council Chair has assured SCA RPC Members that it will necessarily be returned to RPC. Feedback was sought from PIC members at the meeting to be carried forward to the SCA Board of Directors and SCA RPC members. Additionally, members were invited to provide follow up comments after the meeting. All input received from SCA members will be provided to the SCA Board to review and synthesize at its June 28 meeting. This feedback from the PIC and the Board will inform the work of SCA representatives of the RPC. Action by the RPC is anticipated on the afternoon of July 12, prior to the next PIC meeting.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, spoke to her city's historical support for the Veterans and Human Services Levy. Former Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis, as well as former Enumclaw Mayor John Wise, were champions of the original levy. Backus noted that she supports the proposed Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy and the addition of services for seniors. She highlighted the importance of communicating clearly, concisely, and transparently about the levy proposal with the public.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, spoke to her support for the levy proposal and planned investments in services for seniors, those facing homelessness, and vulnerable populations, but stated that she would seek further input from her full City Council.

Councilmember David Storaasli, Pacific, stated his support for the levy and said it was crucial that added investments be made in serving seniors.

Councilmember Austin Bell, Burien, noted that the need for human services is the number one issue raised by his constituents. While the City of Burien does not have the tax base itself to address unmet needs, Bell spoke to the role of this levy in investing in necessary services. He recommended putting the levy forward at a rate of at least \$0.12 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation and urged strong consideration of a higher \$0.15 rate.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, spoke to his personal support for the levy, and stated that a more in depth discussion will be necessary with his City Council to gather broader input. Wong asked how the effectiveness of the levy would be measured and what the role of SCA would be in providing input as to how levy proceeds are used. Wilson-Jones answered that the proposed levy ordinance would require the Executive to transmit two subsequent plans for review and approval by the Regional Policy Committee and King County Council. The first, a transition plan, would cover the expenditure of the first year's levy proceeds. The second, an implementation plan, would cover the rest of the levy expenditures. SCA RPC members would be involved in shaping these final plans and feedback would be sought from the PIC. Under the levy ordinance, annual reporting to the Council on the fiscal and performance management of the levy would also be required. Dawson underscored that because of the timing for action on the proposed VSHSL ordinance, SCA will not have a chance to adopt a formal policy position. RPC is anticipated to act on the ordinance the same day as the July 12 PIC meeting, so prompt feedback from PIC members is requested.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, stated that she is concerned about voter fatigue after recent tax measures and after her city's struggle to pass a key levy during the recession, but the outside polling indicating support for the VSHSL proposal is comforting. Stanford will provide further feedback after her Council discusses the levy June 22. She said it will be important for the city to understand what its residents are putting into the levy and what they get out of it. The city partners with the North Urban Human Services Alliance and will also want to hear their input.

Mayor Chris Roberts, Shoreline, noted his Council's historical support for the Veterans and Human Services Levy. Roberts requested more information about where levy-funded services will be delivered, noting the importance to Shoreline of equitable geographic distribution, and expressed hope that the levy would not be used to replace county general fund investments in services for seniors. Wilson-Jones answered that under state law, a levy lid lift such as the proposed VSHSL may be used to invest in existing programs but must be used to supplement, and not supplant, existing funds.

Councilmember Carol Simpson, Newcastle, noted that as a small city Newcastle relies on King County to provide services and requested clarification on whether anticipated 2018 levy proceeds were based on 2017 or 2018 assessed valuations. She noted that, overall, the assessed valuation for property in Newcastle has gone up by 15 percent, but the growth has been unequal with higher valued properties increasing by 11 percent and more the more affordable housing, some of which is occupied by seniors, increasing by 16 percent. Wilson-

Jones noted that the 2018 VSHSL levy projections are based on projections for 2018 assessed valuations.

Councilmember Barre Seibert, Clyde Hill, stated that the Clyde Hill City Council will not meet prior to the June 28 SCA Board meeting. Seibert noted that he personally would echo Backus' support for the levy proposal.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, stated that his city shares Shoreline's concerns about equitable geographic distribution of levy benefits, as expressed previously by Roberts. While there is a perception that homelessness is not a problem on the Eastside, the need is significant. The City of Kirkland requested, unsuccessfully, that one penny of the rate for the Best Starts for Kids Levy be devoted to local affordable housing investment. Nixon also noted the pattern of implementation plans for county human services levies being developed after levy passage and urged earlier development of such plans.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, stated that he anticipated the Renton City Council would be supportive of the VSHSL proposal, but that he had not yet received Council feedback.

Chair Marts, Issaquah, underscored the importance of robust human services and highlighted the Veterans and Human Services Levy-funded program Passage Point, which provides supportive housing for parents leaving incarceration and working toward reuniting with their children and reintegrating with the community. Marts stated that Washington's tax structure is regressive, but a property tax based on assessed valuation is one of the least regressive options. Marts noted he anticipates that his City Council will be supportive of the levy proposal.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, stated that Redmond is concerned that voters would be asked to vote on the VSHSL before they are provided specificity as to how the money would be spent. He also expressed concern about the unequal distribution of levy-funded services, and noted that about 33 percent of funds for the current Veterans and Human Services Levy come from taxpayers on the Eastside but that Eastside residents receive only about 15 percent of levy services. The needs of people on the Eastside are not being met, so Redmond may not be supportive of the VSHSL proposal. Margeson stated that more treatment for behavioral health, including substance use disorders, is needed. Going forward, it will also be crucial to ensure that the county's human services levies—the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIIDD) sales tax, Best Starts for Kids property tax levy, and the proposed VSHSL—are coordinated and that levy services not overlap.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, highlighted work in his community to provide veterans and seniors with services and voiced personal support for the VSHSL proposal but noted he would seek further feedback from his Council and echoed Redmond's feedback regarding geographic equity. He noted that with voters fatigued from recent tax measures, there needs to be clear messaging about the benefits of the proposed VSHSL. Dawson clarified for members that SCA member feedback need not be a simple statement of support or opposition, but rather input is sought as to specific changes and requested improvements to the proposed levy ordinance.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, requested the VSHSL PIC staff report be sent to her for distribution to her Council, from whom she anticipates support. She also noted the high rate of homelessness in Tukwila and community support for regional efforts to address such needs. Kruller stated that the distribution of levy-funded services should be based on need, with services focused in communities where it is the greatest. Given voter fatigue, Kruller emphasized that messaging about the proposed levy will make a difference.

Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, underscored that the VSHSL proposal is for a replacement to an expiring levy, not a new property tax levy, and the significance of this fact for voters. She noted that, in Black Diamond, the community center plays a significant role in delivering services—through meals for seniors, assistance for people experiencing homelessness, and a food bank. Edelman requested more information about whether non-profits would be eligible to receive funding under the proposed VSHSL.

Councilmember Christie Malchow, Sammamish, noted that the Sammamish City Council has not yet discussed the levy proposal, and echoed concerns from the City of Redmond. Malchow noted that, as described during the pre-PIC workshop, the number of homeless veterans is increasing despite investments from the current Veterans and Human Services Levy, and such information may be concerning to voters.

Councilmember Fran Hollums, Covington, stated her support for the intent of the levy and inclusion of seniors. She cautioned that the messaging about the levy needs to be improved for it to win voter support. She noted that the geographic distribution of levy benefits is important as is ensuring services are offered efficiently and without duplication.

Councilmember Jan Molinaro, Enumclaw, noted that the Enumclaw City Council will discuss the VSHSL proposal on June 26 and echoed the need for equitable distribution of levy benefits.

Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, stated that the Woodinville City Council has not yet discussed the levy proposal in detail but that he anticipates there would be general support, though voter fatigue over tax measures is a concern. Talmas, who is a member of the RPC, stated that the RPC acted earlier in the day to move forward the legislation in response to a request from Council Chair Joe McDermott, which came with a commitment to engaging SCA throughout the legislative process. Talmas recounted feedback received during the May PIC meeting that members wished to see the levy pass and were concerned about the impact of the increased rate on voters. Talmas noted that SCA RPC members did discuss in caucus this concern as well as the issue raised related to the development of an implementation plan following the passage of the levy ordinance.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, noted support for the expiring Veterans and Human Services Levy and concerns about adding to it through a replacement levy. He spoke to ensuring levy-funded services reach his community while also keeping the levy as compact as possible in recognition of the many levies coming forward to voters.

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, echoed concerns from the City of Redmond and stated that the Duvall City Council has not yet discussed the levy proposal.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, who serves on the RPC, stated that he shares the comments from Backus regarding the need for clear communications about the levy proposal. Hill noted that he has yet to discuss the proposal with the Algona City Council, but that he personally would support the levy at a rate of as much as \$0.15 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation. He spoke to the role of the current levy in plugging funding gaps in a variety of service areas and the importance of new investments in housing to help people reconstruct their lives. Though not a tax proponent generally, Hill said this is a levy that does a lot of good and that there was substantial public testimony in support of the levy at the RPC meeting.

Roberts requested clarification about the next steps following the collection of PIC member feedback and, noting he had heard general consensus from PIC members in support of the levy, asked whether a letter echoing the feedback would be sent to the county. Dawson stated that SCA staff plans to share the PIC's and any additional SCA member feedback with the SCA Board of Directors at its June 28 meeting and that the Board will review this input, potentially add to it, and share with the SCA RPC members to consider as they negotiate the specifics of the VSHSL ordinance. It is not the intention to send a formal letter to King County as there would not be a formally adopted policy position and there appears to be diverging views on some issues, such as how to equitably distribute levy funded services. This more nuanced feedback will be provided to RPC members, and the detailed minutes of the PIC meeting will also be available for King County Councilmembers and their staff to review. Chair Marts requested confirmation that members did not wish to take emergency action to adopt a formal policy position. Members did not express interest in taking emergency action.

Hollums noted that she had not yet discussed the VSHSL proposal with her Council but would do so and provide further feedback.

Stanford asked whether the King County Executive was still proposing that a sales tax to fund housing be placed on the ballot next year. Wilson-Jones answered that King County Budget Director Dwight Dively told the RPC that afternoon that the Executive has expressed interest in developing a proposal for placing an up to 0.01 percent sales tax for housing and services on the ballot sometime in 2018. Dawson added that the newly created Regional Affordable Task Force will also be weighing ways to address housing affordability, including the need for such a sales tax, but will be looking at the issue much more broadly with strong consideration given to not just funding options but also potential regulatory solutions.

7. Regional Centers

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, provided an overview of regional centers policies and changes under consideration by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB). Members of the GMPB caucus have requested feedback on the options being reviewed. Regional centers are currently divided into two categories: Regional Growth Centers and Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MICs). In June, the GMPB discussion focused on potential changes to the criteria for designating MICs. These policies play an important role in how federal funds are allocated through PSRC's competitive processes.

Parry noted that MICs are designated regionally and prioritized for transportation funding to support existing employment and preserve limited regional industrial lands. These land areas require unique infrastructure and do not typically mix well with other uses like housing. The GMPB is reviewing potential changes to the designation criteria produced in a staff stakeholder working group released in February. The review of MIC designation criteria provides an opportunity to analyze how well existing policies are achieving regional goals for protecting and supporting industrial lands, and to create consistent criteria for all MICs designated by the region since 2002.

Parry provided an overview of the three options for changing the MIC designation criteria produced by the stakeholder working group. These alternatives are referred to as Alternative A, Alternative B1, and Alternative B2. A detailed description of these options is provided beginning on [Page 45 of the PIC Packet](#). The working group alternatives generally recognize the existing planning criteria for designation of MICs in place since 2011 with key changes related to the thresholds for existing and planned levels of employment and the establishment of different “tiers” or classifications of MICs. The GMPB is scheduled to continue reviewing the stakeholder working group alternatives in July and September, after which the GMPB is expected to release options for public comment. Parry said the PIC will be briefed at future meetings and that a formal position on the policies under consideration could be developed and approved at the September and October PIC meetings if determined to be warranted by PIC members.

Mayor Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said the GMPB should consider a consistent structure for designating Regional Growth Centers and MICs. For instance, if tiers are considered for one category, it could make sense to include tiers in all categories of centers to provide for consistent and understandable regional standards. He asked for clarification as to what would happen if a designated MIC falls below the minimum total job criteria in the future and whether de-designation would require approval by the PSRC Executive Board. Parry responded that the proposed alternatives contemplate reviewing existing MICs for consistency with any changes in criteria and that any action to change designation of MICs would require action by the PSRC boards. It is not proposed that there be an automatic de-designation if a center falls below a certain number of jobs. Rather, the working group report recommends PSRC boards use discretion in evaluating centers that are close to the “existing conditions criteria” to account for economic recessions, local investments, regional importance of a particular industrial area or infrastructure, and other factors.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted that he is an SCA representative on the GMPB. He stated that the GMPB is looking at tiers or other strategies to differentiate MICs based on scale, and that any change in criteria should include time to allow jurisdictions to adapt to the new criteria.

Roberts asked for clarification about the criteria relating to the size of MICs. Margeson noted that Regional Growth Centers are required to be compact for walkability but that the same standard does not apply to MICs because of their industrial focus. Parry said that he would provide additional information to Roberts about criteria related to size for MICs, but that the current criteria do not include any limitations on size and instead focus on whether the area is contiguous and primarily industrial in nature.

Chair Marts stated that the discussion of centers criteria appears to be a solution in search of a problem. He noted that many cities have taken actions to accommodate growth with the understanding they would receive funding support at the regional level and that any threat to that support was detrimental.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, said that his city is concerned about its Regional Growth Center at Canyon Park. He noted that Bothell's center is home to a significant cluster of biotech jobs, and that it is important to the city that the area remain designated as a center at the regional level.

Margeson reiterated that the focus of the night's discussion is MICs rather than Regional Growth Centers, but that future meetings of the GMPB would look more closely at Regional Growth Center criteria. He said that any policy changes would not be implemented immediately and that no 2018 funding allocated through PSRC was at risk. He said the reason for the policy review is that all but the most recently approved MIC (Sumner-Pacific) were approved without criteria and are very different, but are treated the same in competition for regional funding. He said that MICs in King County appear to do well under any of the scenarios under consideration and that the focus in King County should be to ensure investments are directed to areas with high levels of existing jobs. He added that another reason the MIC criteria are being reviewed was a request from Arlington and Marysville to consider designating areas as MICs to protect industrial lands that do not yet have a high concentration of jobs. He said the goal of preserving industrial lands for future growth should be weighed-against the infrastructure investments needed to support the region's existing job base.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said that it is important to review policies periodically, and that doing so in this case ensures that regional funding is directed to the right areas to meet our region's goals.

Roberts said the centers policies are important because they impact where funds allocated through PSRC are focused. He said that adding more centers could possibly reduce the share of regional funding that any one center could receive. Margeson noted that the total number of projects each county can put forward to compete for regional funding is currently capped, and that this could limit the impact of adding new centers in other counties on those located in King County.

Marts said that he is concerned that Issaquah's Regional Growth Center will no longer compete for funding at the same level if the policies are changed to include tiers of centers. He said Issaquah is on pace to hit its target for 2035 growth in 2018 and that regional support for infrastructure to support that growth is critical.

8. Regional Transportation System Initiative

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that a meeting of the Regional Transportation System Initiative (RTSI) was held on June 13 and attended by representatives from more than 30 cities, King County, WSDOT, PSRC, and others. A technical team has been meeting over the last several months and produced criteria to define the network of state, county, and city roads

that carry regional traffic. The purpose of the June 13 meeting was to review the work done to date by the technical committee, develop a better understanding of regional transportation needs and priorities in each community, and gauge the level of support for a coordinated approach to potential solutions to these challenges.

SCA members identified numerous regional transportation concerns that they would like the RTSI to focus on, including: congestion on the regional system; cut-through traffic on city streets due to congestion on the regional and interstate system; and, reduced local funding for transportation as a result of cuts by the state legislature. Despite unique challenges in some cities and subregions in the county, there were several common themes to guide the RTSI as it develops potential solutions, including: the need for more transit and multi-modal options; the need for sustainable funding to support maintenance and operation of the system; the importance of reducing vehicle trips through Transportation Demand Management techniques or telecommuting; engaging other counties in any proposed solutions; and, the need to address the impacts of the housing affordability crisis on the road network. In addition, members expressed concerns about the willingness of voters to support any tax increases to support transportation improvements and the need to seek creative solutions.

Parry said the meeting was a good first conversation, but that much more work would be done in the coming months by the technical committee to quantify needs on the identified network and incorporate the feedback from the June 13 meeting. Another meeting of local leaders is being planned for later in 2017.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, noted that she co-chaired the June 13 RTSI meeting on behalf of SCA along with King County Executive Dow Constantine. She said the meeting was successful and thanked Parry for his work on behalf of SCA to help organize the June 13 meeting.

Mayor Chris Roberts, Shoreline, thanked SCA for helping to convene the RTSI. He said it was helpful to hear the perspectives of so many cities. He said he would like to see more information about the extent to which funding options authorized by state law are already being implemented in King County, and that this information would be important for any future discussions with the state legislature. He said it would be necessary to establish a clear, common definition of the problem that needs to be solved to move forward.

Councilmember Christie Malchow, Sammamish, said that she had received feedback from Mayor Don Gerend, Sammamish, who attended the meeting. She said key takeaways were the need to address falling gas tax revenues and optimizing the existing system through improvements to technology, transit, and other means.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, said he agreed with Roberts that no single solution would work for all communities. Margeson said one of the outcomes from the RTSI that he is interested in seeing is an analysis of the gap for King County between future road needs and available funding.

9. 2017 State Legislative Session

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that a second 30-day special session is now underway and will conclude June 21. The Governor has been coaxing legislators to reach an agreement on school funding and a two-year operating budget within the current special session, but a third special session is now considered highly likely. The state government would partially shut down on July 1 if a new budget or temporary budget extension isn't in place, and state agencies have begun contingency planning. Governor Inslee has said he wants a final agreement on a full two-year budget, not a temporary extension. The state has never, however, had a partial government shutdown despite taking budget negotiations to the brink in 2013 and 2015. Lawmakers will receive an updated revenue forecast June 20, but while revenues are anticipated to be forecasted as higher than previously projected, there's not expected to be enough of a jump to close the sizeable budget gap before legislators.

Wilson-Jones noted that the Senate was in Olympia June 13 for floor activity. Senate Republicans again passed out a bill, SB 5893, strongly opposed by Democrats that would cut the motor vehicle excise tax rate voters approved last year for Sound Transit 3 and would replace the method used to value vehicles for purposes of calculating the tax. House Democrats previously approved legislation that would have changed the applicable valuation formula and required credits to vehicle owners, but would not adjust the tax rate.

Also this week, the King County Council appointed Democrat Javier Valdez as a state representative, filling the 46th Legislative District seat vacated by Jessyn Farrell, who stepped down to focus on her run for Seattle Mayor.

To conclude, Wilson-Jones noted that the Association of Washington Cities is again urging city leaders to remind lawmakers that they must protect critical shared revenues and that they have work to do to address city policy priorities. The SCA 2017 legislative priorities also remain unresolved in the current session.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that there were discussions at the most recent North End Mayors and City Managers meetings about developing a sign-on letter opposing contemplated cuts to the state's share of LEOFF 2 pension obligations. The Senate Republicans have proposed eliminating the contribution costing cities \$70 million in the next biennium. Mayor John Marchione, Redmond, is working on a response, which may be circulated by SCA. *(Note: On June 20, Dawson distributed information to member city mayors about an op-ed developed by Mayor Marchione addressing the proposal to eliminate the state contribution to LEOFF 2 and cut state shared revenues.)*

10. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on the list of potential levies and ballot measures in the PIC Packet. If members have updates to the list, they can be provided to SCA at brian@soundcities.org.

Councilmember Christie Malchow, Sammamish, said the Lake Washington School District is expected to be running a bond measure in early 2018, and Issaquah School District may have a levy on the ballot in February 2018.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, said Renton was considering running a parks measure in August or November 2018.

Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, provided an update on a recall effort that may be on a future ballot in Black Diamond that is under review by the Washington State Supreme Court.

11. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that this is a recurring monthly agenda item providing a list of potential issues that SCA will track and may bring back at a later time. Dawson noted that a pre-PIC workshop on the law enforcement response to the heroin and opioid epidemic will be held September 13. Members are asked to provide her with any updates to the list via email at deanna@soundcities.org.

12. Informational Items

Chair Marts reported that two informational items are contained in the PIC Packet. The first is on Count Us In, the annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in King County, on page 67, and the second is on the Washington State Attorney General's Office Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement, on page 83.

13. Upcoming Events

Chair Marts reported that the next PIC meeting will be held July 12, 2017 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Renton City Hall. There will not be a pre-PIC workshop in July, and Vice Chair Ed Prince will run the meeting. SCA is also jointly hosting a networking event with the National League of Cities First Tier Suburbs Council on July 19 at 5:30 PM at the Renton Pavilion Events Center.

14. For the Good of the Order

Chair Marts highlighted the month's "Did You Know" on the PIC agenda, which features the City of Covington as it marks its 20th year of cityhood. Chair Marts requested a volunteer for the July "Did You Know." Councilmember Christie Malchow, Sammamish, volunteered. Chair Marts asked if any member wished to offer further comments.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, noted that a letter is being circulated for signatures that voices opposition to proposed federal cuts that would impact Sound Transit 2 projects.

Councilmember Jan Molinaro, Enumclaw, reported that the King County Fair, now in its 155th year, will be held next month in Enumclaw.

Chair Marts noted that he would be absent from the July meeting. Because the PIC is planning to not have an August meeting, and SCA Executive Director Dawson will be on parental leave starting in August, Marts noted that this may be their last meeting together with Marts serving as Chair. Chair Marts also noted that he will be rotating off PIC at the end of the year after seven years of service, with a new Councilmember serving for Issaquah in 2018. He thanked Director Deanna Dawson for her leadership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
June 14, 2017**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	John Holman
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Richard Leider
Bellevue	John Stokes	Kevin Wallace
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Tris Samberg
Burien	Austin Bell	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Jim Berger
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.
Des Moines	Robert Back	Melissa Musser
Duvall	Amy Ockerlander	Will Ibershof
Enumclaw	Jan Molinaro	Mike Sando
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Dini Duclos
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Mariah Bettise
Kenmore	David Baker	Nigel Herbig
Kent	Bill Boyce	Dana Ralph
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Erin Weaver	Bill Allison
Medina	Sheree Wen	
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	Wendy Weiker
Milton	Susan Johnson	Debra Perry
Newcastle	Rich Crispo	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Michelle Sipes-Marvin	Jonathan Chicquette
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Storaasli
Redmond	Hank Margeson	John Stilin
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Bob Keller
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Keith Scully
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Brad Toft	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Thomas McLeod
Woodinville	Bernie Talmas	Susan Boundy-Sanders
SCA Deanna Dawson Brian Parry Ellie Wilson-Jones Ella Williams Caitlin Magee		

Voting members are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.

Page Intentionally Left Blank



July 12, 2017
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6:

Regional Affordable Housing Task Force

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

SCA Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Members

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore; Mayor John Stokes, Bellevue; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Mayor Ken Hearing, North Bend

Discussion

Late in 2016, the King County Council announced a proposal to work with the County Executive, cities, and other partners to convene a regional effort to develop a countywide plan for affordable housing. In May of 2017, the Council approved Motion 14873 to form a new Regional Affordable Housing Task Force to be charged with developing a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy by the end of 2018. Thirteen Task Force members have been appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council, including four SCA representatives. The Task Force will hold its first meeting on July 14, from 9:00 AM to noon, at the Renton Community Center. Discussion at the July 14 meeting will help shape the scope of work for the next 18 months of the Task Force’s work. At the July PIC meeting, PIC members are encouraged to provide input on local and regional affordable housing issues, and the Task Force’s future work plan. This input will be carried forward by SCA staff to the four SCA representatives on the Task Force.

Background

As has been discussed extensively by the SCA Public Issues Committee and recognized in the SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda, the region faces a housing affordability crisis. King County’s population has increased rapidly, growing by nearly 300,000 residents (16 percent) since 2000, making for a tight housing market and leading to rapid rises in rents. Between 2016 and 2017, the median home price increased by more than 14 percent, and, as of late 2016, the median monthly rental price in King County had reached \$2,250—more than \$700 greater than the national average. Many people, including older adults and moderate and low-wage workers of all ages, are struggling to find, affordable, quality housing in the region. King County estimates that nearly 65,000 households are unstably housed, due to a combination of high rents and low household incomes

Regional Affordable Housing Strategy

The King County Council passed [Motion 14754](#) in November 2016 requesting the convening of a regional planning effort with cities, nonprofit agencies, and private partners to develop a plan for affordable housing. In response to Motion 14754, King County Executive Dow Constantine

transmitted a [Regional Affordable Housing Strategy Status Report](#) to the King County Council in March 2017. This Status Report, together with [Motion 14873](#) approved by the Council in May, formally established the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force (“Task Force”) to recommend a countywide affordable housing strategy to the County Executive and County Council no later than December 2018.

Per Motion 14873, the Task Force membership includes twelve voting members and one ex officio (non-voting) member. SCA was asked to recommend four voting members representing North King County, East King County, South King County, and cities in the rural area. SCA held a call for nominations beginning in April. Four nominees were recommended by PIC on May 10 and approved by the SCA Board on May 17.

As approved by the King County Council, the Task Force is composed of the following members:

- King County Executive Dow Constantine;
- King County Councilmembers Balducci, Dembowski, Gossett, Kohl-Welles, and von Reichbauer;
- Kenmore Mayor David Baker, representing North King County (recommended by SCA);
- Bellevue Mayor John Stokes, representing East King County (recommended by SCA);
- North Bend Mayor Ken Hearing, representing cities in the rural area (recommended by SCA);
- Renton Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, representing South King County (recommended by SCA);
- Seattle Mayor Ed Murray;
- Seattle Councilmember Rob Johnson; and,
- The Director of King County Department of Community & Human Services, Adrienne Quinn (ex officio member).

The objectives of the Task Force are identified as follows:

- Assess the current state of regional housing affordability in King County, including ongoing efforts by jurisdictions;
- Develop a recommended statement of intent to address the regional affordable housing crisis in King County;
- Identify collective tools and actions that can be taken at the regional level to create more affordable options where needed and preserve affordable housing where it exists today, which could include a recommended plan for new partnerships, local strategies, regulatory reform, and funding approaches that could include, but is not limited to, evaluating a countywide sales tax levy under RCW 82.14.530¹;
- Develop and recommend a state legislative strategy to address issues relating to affordable housing and homelessness; and

¹ State legislation approved in 2015 allows counties to seek voter approval for a sales tax of up to 0.1 percent for affordable housing, mental and behavioral health-related facilities, or associated services (see [RCW 82.14.530](#)).

- Develop a dashboard to display regional progress in achieving the affordability goals of the Countywide Planning Policies.

These objectives are to be achieved according to the following timeline:

- Kick-off meeting July 14, 9:00 AM to noon, at the Renton Community Center;
- Task Force Work Plan due to the Council by October 31; and,
- Final Task Force recommendations due to the Council no later than December 2018.

The work of the Task Force will be aided by a Standing Advisory Panel recommended by the County Executive and appointed by the Task Force. The Advisory Panel will consist of members representing local housing authorities, for-profit and non-profit housing developers, tenants and landlord organizations, homeowners, communities of color, unincorporated housing issues, and an affordable housing advocacy group.

The SCA Board of Directors was briefed on the upcoming Task Force meeting at its June 28 meeting. Board members expressed continuing concern about the growing housing affordability crisis throughout the county, though the needs are different in different cities and subareas of the county. For some, the concern is preservation of existing affordable housing stock, while for others the primary concern is funding or regulatory tools needed to promote development of new affordable housing units. Members expressed support for the Task Force's mission to seek to address affordable housing across a variety of income levels.

Next Steps

The Regional Affordable Housing Task Force will hold a kick-off meeting on July 14, from 9:00 AM to noon, at the Renton Community Center ([register here](#)). This kick-off meeting will include an opportunity for attendees to hear from Task Force members as well as provide input on issue areas that should be the focus on the Task Force's work. PIC members are encouraged to provide feedback at the July PIC meeting. In addition, SCA will be working with County staff to seek feedback throughout the process from each subregion to help inform the work of the Task Force members.

The Task Force is scheduled to recommend a final Regional Affordable Housing Strategy to the County Executive and Council no later than December 2018. The Regional Policy Committee will serve as the policy committee for recommendations from the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force for any region-wide policy or plan.

Page Intentionally Left Blank



July 12, 2017
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 7:
Regional Centers
DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

SCA Appointees to PSRC Growth Management Policy Board

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond (Caucus Chair); Councilmember John Holman, Auburn (Caucus Vice Chair); Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland; Mayor Allan Ekberg, Tukwila; Mayor Ken Hearing, North Bend; Councilmember Paul Winterstein, Issaquah

Additional SCA Member City Representatives on PSRC Growth Management Policy Board

Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue

Discussion

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) is considering updates to the region's criteria for designating Regional Growth Centers and Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MICs). These potential changes are important to SCA members as they define criteria for designating population and job growth centers at the regional and countywide level, which guides land use planning as well as how PSRC-managed transportation investments are prioritized.

In July, the GMPB worked to narrow the scope of alternatives under consideration for including major military installations within the centers framework, and updating criteria for designation of MICs and Regional Growth Centers. Members of the SCA GMPB caucus provided direction on the options under consideration and are seeking ongoing feedback from the PIC before any final recommendations are made.

The GMPB is working to develop recommendations for public comment, potentially in September or October of 2017. Final recommendations are currently anticipated to be sent to the PSRC Executive Board for final approval in November or December of 2017.

Background

Regional Growth Centers are designated areas where jurisdictions are planning for compact, walkable communities with job and housing densities needed to support efficient transit service. Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MICs) are locations of intensive manufacturing and industrial activity that are served by major regional transportation infrastructure, including rail, major highways, and port facilities. Designation of an area as a Regional Growth Center or a MIC is a requirement to compete for a portion of the federal

funding allocated through PSRC that is earmarked for addressing growth in designated Regional Centers and the corridors that connect them.

PSRC is evaluating the success of the current centers policy framework initially adopted in 1995 to recognize different scales of centers, use consistent designation criteria, and consider other changes to meet local and regional objectives for growth. As a part of this effort, a stakeholder working group consisting of planning and technical staff from around the region was formed to develop a series of policy options that were released in a [final report](#) in February. A pre-PIC workshop was held in March that included a presentation from PSRC staff detailing the policy update process and highlighting recommendations from the working group report. Briefings and discussion took place at the May and June PIC meetings.

Key discussion points at GMPB have focused on three primary areas: how large military installations should be incorporated into planning for centers; minimum eligibility criteria for MICs; and reviewing and standardizing Regional Growth Center designation criteria. Major areas of discussion regarding these areas are summarized below.

Major Military Installations

The stakeholder working group proposed several options to recognize large-scale military installations in concert with a nearby designated centers. In addition to the working group options, Pierce County has proposed creating a stand-alone designation for certain “major military installations” that could compete for regional funding currently set aside for Regional Growth Centers and MICs.¹ The working group noted that certain large military facilities, like Joint Base Lewis McChord, are of a size, scale, and have impacts on surrounding communities on par with large cities in the region. However, as the military does not plan for future growth under the Growth Management Act, the working group recommended against considering them in the same manner as Regional Centers.

While recognizing the important role military facilities play in our region’s economy, SCA members on GMPB noted that military facilities are fundamentally different from the types of centers cities are investing in and planning for. Members noted that jurisdictions make difficult decisions to accommodate growth and its impacts, and that federal funds allocated through PSRC are critical to mitigating those impacts. Members were generally supportive of creating a separate designation to recognize the importance of military facilities in regional planning, but disagreed with recommending they be eligible for Regional Centers funding without much more review of how these facilities fit into the region’s plans for growth. One option could be to establish a separate designation for military facilities as part of the centers framework update, but defer any changes to the funding framework until further analysis is completed as part of the update to Vision 2040 slated to occur over the course of 2018 and 2019. Deferring any funding changes until after the update to Vision would allow the region to review the full scope

¹ Military facilities are currently eligible to compete for federal funds allocated through PSRC via competitions administered at the county level – roughly half of the competitive funds allocated through PSRC. Under the Pierce County proposal, projects associated with military facilities would also be eligible for the funding set aside specifically for Regional Growth Centers and MICs when a) located outside of the boundaries of the military facility, and b) sponsored by a city or county.

of regional planning priorities affecting growth management, housing, the environment, the economy, and transportation prior to making any determination to prioritize corridors serving military facilities for regional funding. In addition to funding policies, members identified several planning issues to resolve before a major military installations designation should be approved, including: establishing clear criteria for what qualifies as a major military installation; and, ongoing requirements for joint land planning, transportation demand management planning, and for shared infrastructure investments.

Manufacturing/Industrial Centers

The GMPB is considering to whether MIC designation criteria should be changed to better promote preservation of manufacturing and industrial lands for future job growth, and how that goal should be balanced with the need to support existing manufacturing job centers. Current criteria require a minimum of 10,000 existing jobs, along with various planning requirements, to qualify for MIC designation. GMPB is considering whether to expand the eligibility requirements to allow industrially zoned areas of at least 2,000 acres to qualify as MICs as well, regardless of current job activity. Under one such proposal, MICs meeting the 10,000-job threshold would be prioritized for regional funding over those designated based on acreage. Another proposal would recommend that all MICs – whether they meet the jobs threshold or were designated based on acreage for future job growth – be treated equally in regional funding competitions. PSRC staff estimate that five or six additional areas in the region could qualify as MICs by meeting the 2,000-acre requirement if no job threshold were in place. Additional detail on MICs was provided in the Regional Centers staff report in the [June 14, 2017 PIC Packet](#).

At the July GMPB meeting, SCA members stated they recognized the importance of preserving limited industrial lands, but encouraged maintaining a minimum job thresholds or other evidence of economic activity to prevent allocating resources that may not ultimately help preserve or promote industrial job growth. Members also expressed support for continuing to prioritize regional funding to areas with high levels of existing employment. As with the military installations proposal, members discouraged making any commitments as to how future funding competitions will be affected without significantly more review of how the new policies fit into the regional growth strategy.

Regional Growth Centers

The stakeholder working group report recommends two potential options that would clarify the minimum criteria for designating Regional Growth Centers and establish “tiers” for centers based on existing and planned population and economic activity. The current centers framework only formally recognizes one scale of Regional Growth Center. The working group was tasked with exploring alternatives to provide a framework for regional transportation investments that address the different needs of different scales of centers. Additional criteria under consideration could increase the emphasis placed on access to transit, require monitoring of planned versus actual growth, and create standard criteria for designating smaller scale centers in county comprehensive plans. An overview of the full scope of options

under consideration can be found in the Regional Centers staff report in the [May 10, 2017 PIC Packet](#).

At previous meetings of the PIC, some members expressed concerns about how any new “tiers” would be incorporated into future funding decisions, noting the investments and commitments jurisdictions have made to accommodate significant growth based on the expectations established by existing policy framework. In addition, concern has been raised about whether new designation criteria could result in the de-designation any current Regional Centers where existing plans are inconsistent with the new criteria.

Due to the length of discussion related to the other topics, limited time at the July GMPB meeting was available to address Regional Growth Centers. Additional discussion and refinement of alternatives is expected at the September GMPB meeting. Initial direction from SCA members on GMPB included: that flexibility should be allowed for currently designated Regional Growth Centers that may fall short of the new planning targets, especially when a jurisdiction has demonstrated a commitment to plan for and encourage growth in centers; and, that identifying different capacity and roles for centers may be of value, but that much more information is needed about how creating any new categories of centers would be incorporated into future funding competitions.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the GMPB will be held in September when the board is expected to consider a draft proposal for military installations and MICs, and revised options for Regional Growth Centers. The GMPB is working to develop recommendations for public comment, potentially in September or October of 2017. Final recommendations may be sent to the PSRC Executive Board for final approval as early as November or December of 2017.

Members of the SCA GMPB caucus would like feedback from the PIC on the options under consideration as recommendations are being developed. In addition, SCA may want to take a formal position on the potential policy changes as they are refined by GMPB.

Item 8:

Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, ellie@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238

SCA Regional Policy Committee (RPC) Members

Mayor Suzette Cooke, Kent (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Dan Grausz, Mercer Island; Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn; Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville; Mayor Dave Hill, Algona (alternate); Mayor John Stokes, Bellevue (alternate)

Update

A Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy is currently under consideration by the Region Policy Committee and King County Council to replace the expiring Veterans and Human Services Levy. As originally proposed by King County Executive Dow Constantine, this property tax would be levied at a rate of \$0.12 per \$1,000 in assessed value generating about \$60.7 million in levy revenues in 2018. Under the original proposal from the Executive, one third of levy proceeds would go to each of three service categories: veterans, military service members, and their families; seniors; and vulnerable populations. At least half of first-year levy proceeds in each service category would be dedicated to housing stability, including capital investments, and one-quarter would be devoted to housing stability in future years.

As previously reported to the PIC, the Regional Policy Committee voted June 14 to move the proposed replacement levy forward for further King County Council consideration. The Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and the full Council have now also voted to amend and advance the levy ordinance, which returns to the RPC for action on July 12. PIC members will be provided with an update at the July 12 PIC meeting as to the status of the levy ordinance and anticipated path forward for placement on the November 7 general election ballot.

Background

The Veterans and Human Services Levy (VHSL) was first approved by King County voters in November 2005 and was renewed in 2011 with an expiration date of December 31, 2017. The original and current VHSL levies were passed at a rate of \$0.05 per \$1,000 in assessed value. Proceeds from the current levy are split evenly between services for veterans, military service members, and their families; and other, more general, human services. PIC members were briefed on the expiring levy and preparations to replace it at the [November 9, 2016](#), [February 8, 2017](#), [May 10, 2017](#) and [June 14, 2017](#) PIC meetings, and SCA also hosted a [roundtable meeting](#) October 26, 2016 dedicated to discussion of the expiring levy and potential replacement.

As reported most recently at the [June 14 PIC meeting](#), the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) and King County Council are now considering a proposal from the King County Executive to replace the expiring levy with an expanded Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL). As originally proposed by the Executive, the VSHSL would be a new six-year (2018-2023) property tax levy assessed at a rate of \$0.12 per \$1,000 in assessed value. Under the Executive's proposal, the new levy would generate about \$60.7 million in 2018 compared to \$18.6 million in 2017 under the current levy. One third of levy proceeds would go to each of three service categories: veterans, military service members, and their families; seniors; and vulnerable populations. At least half of all first-year levy proceeds would be dedicated to housing stability, including capital investments, and one-quarter would be devoted to housing stability in future years.

As with the current VHSL and other county human services levies, the Executive has proposed undertaking more detailed implementation planning following the passage of the levy ordinance. Under the proposed levy ordinance, the Executive would transmit by August 23, 2017 for King County Council consideration a proposed transition plan addressing service continuity from the expiring levy, covering first year housing stability investments, and proposing any new near-term staffing or planning activities. A plan for levy oversight would also be due that day. Under the proposed ordinance, a fuller implementation plan would follow by March 16, 2018 if the levy is approved by voters this November. These plans would require King County Council approval, and it is anticipated that the transition plan, oversight plan, and implementation plan would be referred to the Regional Policy Committee for action.

The PIC was briefed June 14 about action earlier that day by the RPC to advance the levy ordinance without recommendation to expedite consideration by the King County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee. SCA Caucus Chair and Kent Mayor Suzette offered an amendment, which was approved, to set the levy rate at \$0.10 per \$1,000 in assessed value, rather than the Executive's proposed \$0.12. At the lower \$0.10 rate, the levy would generate an estimated \$50.6 million in 2018—about \$10 million less than under the Executive's original proposal.

During the June 14 PIC meeting, it was also reported that the VSHSL ordinance was anticipated to return to the RPC for additional action, and PIC member feedback was sought to further shape the levy ordinance. Each member in attendance shared initial reactions to the proposed VSHSL, and members were also invited to provide additional feedback following the meeting.

SCA Member Feedback Regarding the VSHSL

The [draft minutes of the June 14 PIC meeting](#) together with additional comments received subsequently from the cities of Mercer Island and Enumclaw were provided to the SCA Board of Directors to review at its June 28 meeting. The Board discussed the VSHSL proposal and feedback heard from SCA Members, and several themes emerged, consistent with the prior PIC discussion:

- There was strong historical support for the work done through the existing Veterans and Human Services Levy, recognition of remaining unmet needs, and general support for pursuing a replacement levy.
- There was not a consensus about the appropriate rate for the VSHSL. While some members spoke to concerns about voter fatigue after recent tax measures and impacts of a proposed \$0.12 rate to homeowners, renters, and businesses, others spoke to the need for such funding.
- There was recognition that needs exist in every community throughout the county, and that all areas should have some share of the levy benefits.
- Finally, the importance of communicating clearly, concisely, and transparently about the levy proposal with voters was underscored.

These themes from the Board discussion, together with the draft minutes of the June 14, 2017 PIC meeting, have been provided to the SCA members of the RPC to inform their further deliberations on the levy ordinance.

King County Council and Regional Policy Committee Consideration

June 14 RPC Action

As noted above and reported last month, the RPC acted on the afternoon of June 14 to advance the amended levy ordinance without recommendation, after receiving assurances from King County Council Chair that it would be returned to the RPC for further action.

June 28 Budget Committee Action

The levy ordinance was next taken up by the King County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee (Budget Committee). On June 28, the Budget Committee adopted a striking amendment offered by ordinance sponsor and King County Council Chair Joe McDermott. This striking amendment returns the levy rate to the originally proposed rate of \$0.12 per \$1,000 in assessed value. Among other changes, the amendment also more explicitly constrains the future expenditure of levy funds to purposes approved in the forthcoming implementation and transition plans, both of which are subject to review and approval by both the RPC and King County Council.

Additionally, the amendment incorporates two concepts [previously discussed by the Executive](#) but not explicitly referenced in the original levy ordinance. Recognizing that an increase in property taxes could burden most some of those people levy services are intended to assist, Executive Constantine has proposed a pair of possible actions to alleviate the impact to some homeowners. The Executive has stated that he will lobby the Legislature to allow local governments to exempt lower-income households of seniors, people who are retired due to disability, or veterans who have a total disability rating from levy lid lifts. Without such a state law currently in place, the Executive is proposing that levy funds be used to offset costs to these property owners. For the first year of the levy, the value of such assistance is estimated by Executive branch staff and the King County Assessor to total less than \$1 million. The costs of administering such a program have not yet been determined. Chair McDermott's amendment established the intent of the King County Council to make use of new property tax exemption

authority, if created in state law, with respect to this levy, and made clear, within the ordinance itself, the intent to put in place a “payment assistance program” to offset the property taxes paid by people who qualify for existing property tax exemptions.

Chair McDermott’s striking amendment, together with individually offered amendments from fellow Councilmembers, also added examples to the lengthy but non-exhaustive lists of vulnerable populations to be served with the levy and types of regional health and human services that could be offered. Additional example populations included:

- Persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex
- African Americans and other persons of color who have been disproportionately impacted by policies and practices resulting in housing instability or housing insecurity
- Immigrants (refugees were included in the original version)
- Youth involved in the child welfare system, including youth in the foster care system, and young adult alumni of the child welfare system
- Minors who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so

Additional examples of regional health and human services that could be funded with the levy included the assistance program described above as well as services and programs related to:

- Senior centers
- Child care
- Suicide prevention efforts, reducing unintentional injury, and supporting survivors of domestic violence
- Children, youth and young adult diversion from the criminal justice system
- Service provider retention and recruitment
- Civil legal aid
- Allowing seniors to age in place
- Youth in crisis

The Budget Committee also adopted an amendment from Councilmember Claudia Balducci to require that the forthcoming implementation plan identify and describe accountability measures for the levy, including measurable outcomes or results for each of the three populations (veterans, seniors and vulnerable populations) to be served, and establish an outcome based performance monitoring program. The amendment also spoke to coordination with the county’s other two human services levy (the Best Starts for Kids property tax levy and the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency sales tax). During the June 28 BFM hearing, members were also assured by Adrienne Quinn, director of the King County Department of Community and Human Services, that the implementation plan will also speak to collecting data about the delivery of levy services throughout the county and outcomes achieved in those areas.

King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski offered an amendment that would have effectively retained the traditional 50-50 split between levy funded services for veterans, service members and their families and services for other populations. The amendment, which would have required that half of the allocation for seniors be used to serve senior veterans,

service members, and their families, however, failed to secure sufficient support in the Budget Committee.

July 5 King County Council Action

Following action by the Budget Committee on June 28, the ordinance next moved to the King County Council. On July 5, the Council voted 5-4 to recommend an amended levy ordinance to the RPC. Several amendments were offered and approved. Significantly, the levy rate was changed back to \$0.10 per \$1,000 in assessed value, the same rate as passed previously by the RPC. Another significant change was made affecting the distribution of funding collected under the levy. Under previous versions of the ordinance, the funding collected through the levy would be distributed equally among the three service categories. Per the amended ordinance, funding collected from the levy would be distributed as follows (estimates for the first year of the levy): \$16.7 million for seniors with at least half of this funding allocated to serve seniors who are also veterans; \$16.7 million for veterans (plus any allocation as noted in the first bullet); and \$16.7 million for general human services. The result of this distribution is that funding for services for veterans – when including senior veterans – could remain at least half of the total collected by the levy.

July 12 RPC Consideration

As a mandatory referral to RPC under the King County Charter, the legislation now returns to RPC. It is anticipated that the RPC will approve a version of the levy ordinance on July 12, prior to the day's PIC meeting. As noted above, SCA RPC members have been provided with the draft June 14 PIC minutes together with the themes discussed by the SCA Board on June 28. SCA RPC members will take this feedback into consideration when considering the levy ordinance.

The process following the July 12 RPC meeting depends on whether RPC approves, without changes, the version sent over by the King County Council. If the RPC concurs, the ordinance returns to the Council for one more vote and could be approved without further changes and finalized. If the RPC makes changes to the ordinance, then the Council would consider those and, if approved by the Council, the legislation would also be finalized. If the Council were to make further changes to what RPC passed out, the ordinance would return once again to RPC during a special meeting. August 1 is the deadline for placing the levy on the November ballot.

Next Steps

At the July 12 PIC meeting, members will be provided with an update on action by the RPC, anticipated to take place earlier in the day on July 12. Members will be briefed on any amendments approved by the RPC and the anticipated path forward for the levy ordinance thereafter. If a levy ordinance is approved by RPC and the King County Council by August 1, the proposal would be placed on the November 7 general election ballot for voter consideration.

Page Intentionally Left Blank



July 12, 2017
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 9:

2017 State Legislative Session

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contacts

Ella Williams, Policy Analyst, ella@soundcities.org, (206) 495-3525

Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, ellie@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238

SCA Legislative Committee Members

SCA President and Kenmore Mayor David Baker (Chair); Councilmember Bill Allison, Maple Valley; Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific; Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park

Update

After the conclusion of the 105-day regular legislative session, expiration of two 30-day special sessions, and into a third special session, legislative leaders finally announced June 28 to the Governor that they had reached a deal in principle on a new biennial operating budget. The operating budget compromise was swiftly adopted by the Legislature on June 30, just before the state government was due to partially shut down on July 1. The \$43.7 billion biennial operating budget addresses the McCleary decision with an increased statewide property tax levy providing additional state funds to K-12 education and creates a new state-funded paid family and medical leave program. Cities will see increased revenues from the elimination of the sales tax exemption on bottled water, self-produced fuel, and internet sales, however state-shared revenues from marijuana taxation will decrease from \$30 million to \$12 million.

Two of SCA's 2017 legislative priorities were addressed in final activity related to the budget compromise. There was a moderate increase in funding for foundational public health services, however the added funding is insufficient to allow King County to keep up with increasing demand and population. Additional funds were also made available to address the growing issue of affordable housing and homelessness through the extension of the document recording fee and REET II flexibility.

Background

At the recommendation of the SCA Legislative Committee and the PIC, the SCA Board of Directors adopted an SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda in October 2016 ([Attachment A](#)). The Legislature convened its 105-day budget-writing session January 9, 2017. PIC members have been briefed at each meeting in 2017 on the Legislature's progress toward completing budgets for the next biennium and related to SCA's three legislative priorities—adjusting the property tax cap, investing in public health services, and addressing the housing and homelessness crisis (see the [January PIC Packet](#), page 39, and [January Meeting Minutes](#), page 4; [February PIC Packet](#), page 45, and [February Meeting Minutes](#), page 10; [March PIC Packet](#), page 59, and

[March Meeting Minutes](#), page 12; [May PIC Packet](#), page 59, and [May Meeting Minutes](#), page 11; and [June PIC Packet](#), page 59, and draft [June Meeting Minutes](#), page 11).

As of the last PIC meeting, the Legislature had reached the conclusion of its first 30-day special session and was nearing the conclusion of its second without having reached a compromise to overhaul state school funding and without passing operating or capital budgets for the biennium that beginning July 1, 2017.

Biennial Budget Deal

On June 21, the Governor called a third special session and negotiations persisted against a backdrop of potential government shutdown preparations. Budget negotiators reported to the Governor on June 28 that they had reached agreement in principle on the 2017-19 biennial operating budget. Details of the budget were initially expected on June 29, but were released slowly throughout the morning on June 30 as legislative staff continued work to produce specific and updated numbers. The \$43.7 billion biennial operating budget was signed by Governor Inslee late in the evening on June 30. A variety of ongoing issues were addressed in the adopted operating budget.

On the McCleary decision, Legislators increased the statewide property tax for education to \$2.70 per \$1,000 while limiting local school districts' levy authority. The actual impact to property owners, broken down by school district, can be found [here](#). The increased state property tax makes up most of the additional \$5.4 billion added to the state budget over the next four years.

Local jurisdiction marijuana mitigation revenues to cities and counties will decrease from \$30 million to \$12 million in the 2017-2019 biennium unless marijuana sales exceed forecasts by at least \$18 million. Cities eligible to receive this revenue will also expand to all jurisdictions without a marijuana retail ban in place. It should be noted that beyond 2019, the adopted operating budget limits marijuana distributions to cities and counties to \$6 million per fiscal year.

Sales taxes on internet-based sales from out-of-state retailers will now be collected. This sales tax is already collected from retailers based in Washington. There is also a budget proviso that will study the impacts of this new tax collection mechanism on revenues.

The tax exemptions on bottled water and self-produced fuel have also been repealed, adding \$7.4 million and \$6.5, respectively, in local sales tax to cities statewide.

The manufacturing business-and-occupation tax rate reduction first approved for Boeing in 2003 was extended to all other Washington manufacturers, and would have resulted in a reduction in the rate of 40%, or \$64 million, over four years starting in 2019; however, Governor Inslee vetoed this provision on Friday, July 7.

The proposal to eliminate the State's contribution to LEOFF 2 funding was not included in the final budget. The [op-ed](#) in the Seattle Times drafted by Mayor Marchione of Redmond and

signed onto by nearly 30 SCA mayors was reported to be essential in maintaining full LEOFF 2 funding in the state operating budget.

Also passed as part of final budget negotiations were major policy bills, including a new statewide paid family and medical leave program. It will be funded through a combination of employee and employer contributions, permitting employees to take up to 12 weeks paid family or 12 weeks paid medical leave, totaling to no more than 16 weeks annually. Employees would be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 weekly. This program applies to businesses with at least 50 employees.

AWC has offered a preliminary analysis of the impact of specific items in the operating budget on cities. This can be found [here](#).

Capital Budget Forthcoming

An agreement on the capital budget has not yet been reached. AWC has reported that the capital budget will likely include reforms to the Public Works Assistance Account, also known as the Public Works Trust Fund. The specific details have not been resolved.

Investment in the Housing Trust Fund also remains uncertain while budget negotiators continue to work on a capital budget deal. The adoption of a final capital budget is expected before the expiration of the Legislature's third special session on July 20.

Update on SCA Legislative Priorities

The three priorities contained in the SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda—adjusting the property tax cap, investing in public health services, and addressing the housing and homelessness crisis—were all tied up in final budget negotiations, without much progress during the regular and first two special sessions. Statewide, there was additional funding provided for public health, homelessness, and affordable housing.

Adjusting the Property Tax Cap

For 2017, SCA joined a coalition urging the Legislature to give local governments the option to replace the arbitrary one percent property tax cap with a new cap that takes into account inflation and population growth. The Legislature did not act on adjusting the property tax cap for local governments and it is unlikely to be addressed before 2021, when the state's exemption from that rule, used to fund education, is due to sunset.

Investing in Public Health Services

Recognizing the decrease in funding for core public health services, SCA also urged the Legislature this year to fund basic public health through added investment in local public health jurisdictions. There was a statewide increase of funding for foundational public health services of \$12 million, with approximately \$2 million of that going to the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health in the next biennium.

Addressing the Housing and Homelessness Crisis

Amidst the ongoing affordable housing and homelessness crisis, SCA supported work to expand and make permanent the document recording fee, increase investment in the housing trust fund, and add optional local tools for creating and preserving affordable housing.

House Democrats and Senate Republicans reached a compromise to extend the document recording fee at its current rate of \$40 through 2023 as part of SB 5254. SB 5254 also allows a portion of REET II funding to be used for homeless housing development through June 30, 2019 under certain conditions; makes changes to the Growth Management Act's buildable lands program requiring additional analysis of whether suitable land exists to meet comprehensive plan development targets; and exempts certain planned actions from environmental impact statement requirements for development near major transit stops.

The Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program provides services to address homeless and has been fully funded in the operating budget. There has also been additional funding provided to fully implement the Medicaid 1115 Waiver, which serves behavioral health and supportive housing.

Next Steps

The Legislature continues in its third special session, needing to reach a compromise on the biennial capital budget. More details will continue to surface as jurisdictions and organizations work to analyze the impacts of the adopted operating budget. While 2017 legislative activity is stretching into the summer, work is already underway to prepare for the 2018 legislative session. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) will be adopting priorities for 2018 this September. In preparation, AWC will be analyzing where things stand with 2017 priorities, surveying members about the biggest issues facing their cities, and holding regional conversations to gather input.

SCA will be hosting a Networking Event on September 6, 2017 with a panel of legislators to debrief on the 2017 legislative session, and give feedback on the 2018 session.

Attachment

- A. [SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda](#)



To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda

Adjust the Property Tax Cap

Property tax is the largest revenue source for Washington's cities, supporting critical services such as justice, health, and safety. Property taxes are capped at a level that creates an ever-widening gap between the cost of providing public services to a growing population and the revenue available to pay for them. A new property tax limit should correspond to what it actually costs local governments to continue providing services, and keep up with increased public demand.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to give local governments the option to replace the arbitrary annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth.*

Invest in Public Health Services

Protect our communities by investing in core public health services. The 40% per capita decrease in public health funding since 1999 is reaching crisis levels across the state. The funding shortfall has left Public Health–Seattle & King County unable to fully investigate disease outbreaks. The Washington State Department of Health is requesting \$54 million for local public health jurisdictions to fill critical gaps in disease prevention and response, and to pilot shared services to improve the efficiency of the overall system.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to fund basic public health by investing \$54 million in core public health services.*

Address the Housing and Homelessness Crisis

Our communities face an affordable housing and homelessness crisis. Over 4,500 people are surviving unsheltered on any given night in King County, and others, including older adults and moderate and low-wage workers of all ages, are struggling to find affordable, quality housing in our region. Partnerships between state and local governments are critical to create new units of affordable housing. Renewed state commitments to help Washingtonians transition out of homelessness are necessary, as are expanded investments to address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness.

- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to partner with us to address homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing in the following ways:*
 - *Expand and make permanent the Document Recording Fee*
 - *Invest \$200 million in the Housing Trust Fund*
 - *Allow local governments to create and preserve affordable housing through a Preservation Tax Exemption and other optional local tools*
- *The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to address other underlying causes of homelessness by making investments in our state's behavioral health system and enacting legislation to prohibit Source of Income Discrimination.*

Page Intentionally Left Blank



July 12, 2017
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:
Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

Update

This is a monthly item on the PIC agenda to share information on upcoming local levies and ballot measures in King County.

At its July 5 meeting, the King County Council referred an amended Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy proposal to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC). The RPC is scheduled to meet on July 12 to review the amended proposal. Additional information can be found in the staff report for Item 8 of the July 12 PIC agenda packet.

Upcoming Levies and Ballot Measures (officially filed)

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2017	Aug	King County	Access for All (countywide .1% sales tax, \$67 million per year for seven years)

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2018		Renton	Parks Levy

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Cities

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2018		Seattle	Families and Education Levy (renewal)
2019		Seattle	Library Levy (renewal)
2019		Seattle	Transportation Levy (renewal)

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Countywide

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2017	Nov	King County	Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (renewal/expansion currently proposed at \$0.10 per \$1,000 assessed value totaling \$50 million per year)
2018		King County	Affordable Housing and Related Services Sales Tax
2018		King County	AFIS Levy (renewal)
2019		King County	Medic One (renewal)

2019	King County	Regional Parks Levy (renewal)
2018-19	King County	Land Conservation
2021	King County	Best Starts for Kids (renewal)

Potential Future Ballot Measures – School & Special Purpose Districts

Year	Month	Measure
2018		Shoreline School District Operations Levy
2018		Shoreline School District Capital Levy
2018		Lake Washington School District Bond Measure (\$288 million, no tax rate increase)
2018		Issaquah School District Levies (Maintenance and Operations, Capital, and/or Transportation)

Next Steps:

The deadline to file a resolution placing a measure on the November 7, 2017 ballot is August 1.

Please share this information with your city, and provide information on upcoming elections in your city to SCA Senior Policy Analyst Brian Parry.



July 12, 2017
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 11:
Potential Upcoming SCA Issues
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, deanna@soundcities.org, (206) 495-3265

Update

This is an ongoing, monthly PIC item noting issues that SCA members have asked to be brought to the PIC.

Potential Issues

- City Human Services Funding
 - SCA staff is working with the King County Alliance for Human Services and city staff to collect data and will return to the PIC for discussion
 - An upcoming pre-PIC workshop is also anticipated on this topic

- Regional response to property crime
 - Identified at SCA Caucus meetings in December
 - Members also discussed correlation with heroin epidemic
 - A pre-PIC workshop on the law enforcement response to the heroin and opioid epidemic will be held September 13

- Addressing the impact of growth on the region
 - This topic was raised at the SCA caucus meetings in December

If you or your city has additional items to be added to this list, please contact Deanna Dawson, deanna@soundcities.org.

Page Intentionally Left Blank

Item 12a:

King Conservation District 2018 Program of Work

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

SCA Staff Contact

Ella Williams, Policy Analyst, ella@soundcities.org, (206) 495-3525

SCA King Conservation District Advisory Committee Members

Councilmember Brenda Fincher, Kent (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Erika Morgan, Black Diamond; Councilmember Mark Phillips, Lake Forest Park; Councilmember Austin Bell, Burien (alternate); Councilmember Mariah Bettise, Issaquah (alternate); Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island (alternate)

Background

In 2015, King County entered into a [five-year interlocal agreement \(ILA\)](#) with the King Conservation District and adopted a Program of Work. SCA and the PIC were heavily engaged in providing feedback to craft the Program of Work, and ultimately adopted a position in support of the 2015 Program of Work. See [here](#) (page 84) for background materials presented to the PIC in 2015.

The King Conservation District Advisory Committee (KCDAC) is comprised of 15 members, including SCA representatives, King County Council staff, and other King County program staff related to conservation and natural resources. KCDAC advises and steers the creation of each year's Program of Work and budget documents. Based on the ILA, KCD's Programs of Work are required to contain the same types of programs at similar levels of funding throughout the five-year ILA period.

KCD receives most of its funding from a system of "Rates and Charges." Rates and Charges are collected on a per parcel basis, ranging from a low of \$7.70 per parcel per year on vacant or undeveloped land to a high of \$10.00 per parcel per year on agricultural lands within District boundaries. These Rates and Charges are outlined in the [KCD Resolution on Rates and Charges](#) adopted in July 2014 and were developed to stay consistent through the five-year ILA with King County. There are no plans to increase KCD per parcel Rates and Charges within this timeframe. However, KCD staff have indicated that a change in the structure of Rates and Charges may be considered after the expiration of the current ILA in 2019. Any alteration to these Rates and Charges would be reviewed by the KCDAC, and would need to be approved by the King County Council. The current statutory cap is \$15 per parcel in King County. (Other counties are capped at a lower rate.)

Throughout 2017 and 2018, KCD will undertake exploring a “Theory of Change” to greater understand the range and impact of their services. This exercise will include an evaluation of their current rate structure and an extensive analysis of any potential changes thereto. There will be heavy involvement from the KCDAC in this process.

2018 Program of Work

The King Conservation District Advisory Committee approved the draft 2018 Program of Work on June 21, 2017, with some suggested changes before it will be presented to the King County Council for final approval. The draft approved by the KCDAC is can be found [here](#).

Along with minor technical corrections, KCDAC members recommended that the 2018 Program of Work include more specific details about the context of this year in the five-year plan and the relationship between this year’s Program of Work and previous years’. Members also suggested that during the presentation to the King County Council, KCD emphasize the focus on equity and social justice within the District’s programs. Mayor John Stokes of Bellevue, Chair of the KCDAC, also requested that KCD staff include more detail on the connection of the work of the KCD to urban communities and not just the impact in rural or agricultural communities.

Per the requirements of the ILA, types of programs and funding levels have stayed consistent when compared to previous years’ Programs of Work. Within each type of program, KCD has included benchmarks established in the five-year Implementation Plan with direction from the ILA. More details and specifics can be found in the approved draft [here](#).

- **Regional Food System**: The Regional Food System Program is based on the King County Executive’s local food initiative known as the Kitchen Cabinet and action plans of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), working to increase access to local farm products and encourage more local farmers. Much of this work is done through providing grants to farmers, local governments, farmers markets, and other nonprofit organizations. The total proposed expenditure for this program is \$1,096,500.
- **Rural Agriculture**: KCD will continue to provide staffing assistance, outreach, and consulting to rural farmers to improve water, soil, and habitat quality, focusing in particular sub-basin areas. The total proposed expenditure is \$725,814.
- **Urban Agriculture**: Partnering with member jurisdictions, KCD focuses on expanding opportunities for urban farming. Programs and services include soil fertility, farm friendly cities, and food growing in low income communities. The total proposed expenditure is \$191,800.
- **Rural Small Lot Forest Health Management**: KCD promotes forest health on privately owned lands through workshops, education, and technical and financial assistance. These programs reduce forest fragmentation and increase ecological benefits of small-lot forests. The total proposed expenditure is \$165,023.
- **Urban Forest Health Management**: Working with member cities, KCD works to maintain urban forests, tree canopies, and street trees. They also focus on expanding green infrastructure in urban yards and public open spaces. The total proposed expenditure is \$154,631.

- Shorelines and Riparian Habitat: This program works to improve near-shore habitats and shorelines in freshwater and marine areas and inland streams. KCD provides technical and financial assistance, consultation, and education. The total proposed expenditure is \$1,278,584.
- Landowner Incentive Program: KCD supports best practices on private land by allowing cost sharing to protect streams and wetlands, planting native buffers, and educating landowners on proper composting. The total proposed expenditure is \$837,182.
- Community Engagement: This program supports the above KCD programs by increasing awareness of KCD's services, educating the public on conservation efforts, and partnering with other local nonprofits in ongoing projects. The total proposed for community engagement, outreach, and the Advisory Committee is \$404,999.
- Member Jurisdiction Grants: KCD provides grants to cities, nonprofits, tribes, and other local governments to support high-impact projects in urban and rural communities. These grants are often matched or leveraged for additional outside funding. The total proposed expenditure for Member Jurisdiction Grants and Services Programs is \$1,296,507.

Next Steps

KCD staff will present the 2018 Program of Work to the King County Council's Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee sometime during the months of July or August 2017. If approved by the Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee, the full King County Council will act on final adoption of KCD's 2018 Program of Work. Based on the 2018 Program of Work, KCD will then develop a more detailed budget document with input from the KCDAC. The KCD 2018 budget will also go through the King County Council for final approval.