



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194
TTY Relay: 711
www.kingcounty.gov

December 7, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if approved, adopt the Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County Community Service Area Subarea Plan as an element of the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed legislation amends King County Code (KCC) 20.12 and 21A regarding this plan and proposes implementing land use and zoning map amendments. The proposed legislation also includes a report and map amendment resulting from Ordinance 19613, adopted on May 16, 2023, directing completion of a work program regarding residential subdivision regulations within the Rural Town of Fall City.

Adoption of this proposed legislation would support King County's service delivery to the rural unincorporated communities of Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County. Further, adoption of these proposed subarea-specific policies and the land use and zoning map amendments will guide growth, development, and investments in these areas for the next 20 years.

The development of this plan included robust and inclusive community engagement involving a broad spectrum of community members, especially those community members who have been historically left out of government planning processes. Engagement included County-sponsored community meetings, interviews with community members, focus group discussions, attendance by County staff at community-sponsored meetings and events, and several online surveys. Language translation and interpretation services, as well as direct mailings to residents in the three most commonly used languages in this subarea (English, Spanish, and Mandarin), were among the methods used to ensure that the process was accessible and that as many people as possible felt welcome and comfortable engaging in dialogue with County staff.

The Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County subarea planning process began in late 2020. Knowledge sharing and relationship-building activities between King County and community

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

December 7, 2023

Page 2

occurred from June 2021 to June 2022. Visioning and concept development with the community occurred from June 2022 to May 2023. Plan drafting took place from March to May 2023. A 45-day public review draft comment period was held from June 1 to July 15, 2023. During this time, community members provided input through a variety of engagement opportunities. Input received through this engagement guided the final recommended plan. The overall goal of the engagement process was to ensure the plan reflected community members' highest priorities and provided direction for the County to the areas where the needs were greatest.

Efforts related to the Rural Town of Fall City residential subdivision work program occurred between June and October 2023, with work plan-specific engagement occurring with the Fall City community in late August and early September 2023.

In response to a request from Council staff, this proposed ordinance was updated during pre-transmittal review to align with new changes adopted in Ordinances 19687 and 19690.

The proposed legislation and the subarea plan advance King County's pro-equity policy agenda by focusing on upstream impacts such as improved access to health and human services.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This proposed legislation will help King County make equitable improvements to the quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and plays in Snoqualmie Valley and Northeast King County.

If your staff have questions, please contact John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services, at (206) 477-4602.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services