King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay
Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

November 19, 2026

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

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Motion that, if passed, would adopt the scope of work for the 2029 midpoint update to the King County Comprehensive Plan. Approval of the scope of work will allow the Executive to start work on the 2029 midpoint update, for which the Executive will transmit an Executive Recommended Plan by June 30, 2028. The proposed scope includes the topical areas to be addressed in the 2029 update, as well as the work programs for environmental review and public participation.

The 2029 midpoint update is an opportunity to make limited substantive policy changes that address our community's long-term needs and advance the County's policy goals. The scope of work includes three key focus areas: Climate Change & Resiliency, Shoreline Master Program Updates, and Housing; the scope of work also includes several necessary General updates to the Comprehensive Plan. As noted in the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code, the midpoint update is intended to be limited scope midpoint update to address a smaller range of time sensitive issues prior to the next ten-year update which is scheduled to occur in 2034.

The primary work in the 2029 midpoint update will include:

- Compliance with House Bill 1181, which requires a new Climate Change and Resiliency element in the Comprehensive Plan. This will support the County in building on the work already done to address climate change, primarily through the King County 2025 Strategic Climate Action Plan.
- The County's 10-year periodic update to the Shoreline Master Program. The Department of Ecology is currently in the rule making phase to establish the minimum requirements

for this update, but at a minimum will include responding to sea level rise and storm severity related to climate change.

As part of the 2029 midpoint update, the County will complete a State Environmental Policy Act Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. We will also complete an equity impact analysis of the proposed update prior to adoption.

Please be aware that while King County Code (K.C.C. 20.18.030) requires this proposed Motion to be transmitted later in the year, the Executive is transmitting at this time, and requesting Council approve the scope of work by the end of February 2027, in order to give staff the maximum amount of time to produce plan proposals, complete robust community engagement, and deliver an Executive Recommended Plan to the Council by June 2028. Previously, Proposed Ordinance 2025-0357 was transmitted, which would move the required transmittal and adoption dates for midpoint update scope of work.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Motion.

If your staff have questions, please contact Erin Auzins, Regional Planning Lead, at 206-848-0121.

Sincerely,



for

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive
Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive
Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive
Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive
Leon Richardson, Director, Department Local Services
Mo McBroom, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Valerie Smith, Comprehensive Plan Manager, Department of Local Services