

August 13, 2020

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue Room 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104
Telephone (206) 477-0860
hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE
METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources and Parks file no. **E19CT035**
Proposed ordinance no. **2020-0219**
Parcel no. **3523069134**

LYNN HOWLAND

Open Space Taxation Application (Public Benefit Rating System)

Location: 24649 SE 184th Street, Maple Valley

Applicant: **Lynn Howland**



King County: Department of Natural Resources and Parks
represented by **Megan Kim**
201 S Jackson Street Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: (206) 477-4788
Email: megan.kim@kingcounty.gov

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department's Recommendation: Contingent approval 6.74 acres for 50% of assessed value
Examiner's Recommendation: Contingent approval 6.74 acres for 50% of assessed value

PRELIMINARY REPORT:

On July 22, 2020, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) submitted its report on file no. E19CT035 to the Examiner.

PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the preliminary report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a public hearing on the application on July 30, 2020.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner’s Office.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. General Information:

Owner:	Lynn Howland 
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Location:	24649 SE 184th Street, Maple Valley
STR:	SW 35-23-6
Zoning:	RA5
Parcel no.:	3523069134
Total acreage:	7.51 acres

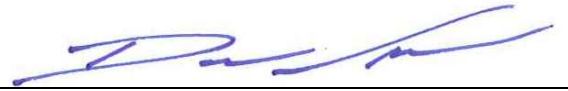
2. Ms. Howland timely filed an application to King County for the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS) program current use valuation of the property to begin in 2020. As required by law, notification of the application occurred.
3. Ms. Howland requested credit for the farm and agricultural conservation land category for 7.00 of her property’s 7.51 acres. DNRP recommends approval for 6.74 acres, contingent on Ms. Howland completing her work with the King Conservation District (KCD) and submitting a complete farm management plan to DNRP by December 31, 2020. At hearing, Ms. Howland stated that she had recently spoken to KCD, which expects to have a plan finished by the end of October.
4. The DNRP-recommended score of 5 points would result in a current use valuation of 50% of assessed value for the enrolled portion of the property. Because the property is not eligible for any other PBRS resource category, failure to qualify as farm and agricultural conservation land precludes the property from enrollment in the PBRS program. (Enrollment acreage is the entire parcel less the excluded area, as calculated by DNRP. In the event the County Assessor’s official parcel size is revised, the PBRS acreage shall be administratively adjusted to reflect that change.)

5. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in DNRP's preliminary report and testimony at the July 30, 2020, public hearing are correct and incorporated herein by reference. Copies of this report and DNRP's report will be provided to the Metropolitan King County Council for final approval.
6. Approval of 5 points and a current use valuation of 50% of assessed value for the enrolling 6.74 acres would be consistent with KCC Chapter 20.36 and with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve, and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE a current use valuation of 50% of assessed value for the 6.74-acre enrolled portion of the property, **CONTINGENT** on submitting a complete farm management plan to DNRP by **December 31, 2020**.

DATED August 13, 2020.



David Spohr
Hearing Examiner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

A person appeals an Examiner recommendation by following the steps described in KCC 20.22.230, including filing with the Clerk of the Council a sufficient appeal statement and a \$250 appeal fee (check payable to the King County FBOD). Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal. KCC 20.22.230 also requires that the appellant provide copies of the appeal statement to the Examiner and to any named parties listed on the front page of the Examiner's recommendation.

Prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on *September 7, 2020*, an electronic copy of the appeal statement must be sent to Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov and a paper copy of the appeal statement must be delivered to the Clerk of the Council's Office, Room 1200, King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. If the Office of the Clerk is not officially open on the specified closing date, delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

Unless both a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *September 7, 2020*, the Clerk of the Council shall place on the agenda of the next available Council meeting a proposed ordinance implementing the Examiner’s recommended action. At that meeting the Council may adopt the Examiner’s recommendation, defer action, refer the matter to a Council committee, or remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

If a timely and sufficient appeal statement and filing fee are filed by *September 7, 2020*, the Examiner will notify all parties and interested persons and provide information about “next steps.”

MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 2020, HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF LYNN HOWLAND, FILE NO. E19CT035

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Megan Kim participated in the hearing on behalf of the department.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the hearing record:

Exhibit no. 1	DNRP report to the Hearing Examiner
Exhibit no. 2	<i>Reserved for future submission of the affidavit of hearing publication</i>
Exhibit no. 3	Legal notice and introductory ordinance to the King County Council
Exhibit no. 4	Arcview/orthophotograph and aerial map
Exhibit no. 5	Application signed and notarized

DS/jf

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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I, Jessica Oscoy, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that I transmitted the **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL** to those listed on the attached page as follows:

EMAILED to all County staff listed as parties/interested persons and parties with e-mail addresses on record.

placed with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to the non-County employee parties/interested persons to addresses on record.

DATED August 13, 2020.



Jessica Oscoy
Office Manager

Akada, Irene

Department of Assessments

Bernstein, Bill

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Clark, Debra

Department of Assessments

Howland, Lynn

Hardcopy

Kim, Megan

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Ngo, Jenny

Metropolitan King County Council

Pedroza, Melani

Metropolitan King County Council