

April 8, 2021

**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](mailto:hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov)  
[www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner](http://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner)

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

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources and Parks file no. **E20CT039**  
Proposed ordinance no. **2021-0097**  
Parcel nos. **2522029024 and 2522029165**

**BERNADETTE LACARTE AND CHARLES BEYER**

Open Space Taxation Application (Public Benefit Rating System)

Location: [REDACTED] Vashon

Applicants: **Bernadette LaCarte and Charles Beyer**

[REDACTED]  
Vashon, WA 98070

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

King County: Department of Natural Resources and Parks

*represented by* **Bill Bernstein**

701 S Jackson Street Suite 701

Seattle, WA 98104

Telephone: (206) 477-4643

Email: [bill.bernstein@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.bernstein@kingcounty.gov)

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Department's Recommendation:

Approve 10.19 acres for 20% of assessed value

Examiner's Recommendation:

Approve 10.19 acres for 20% of assessed value

## PRELIMINARY REPORT:

On March 11, 2021, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) submitted its report on file no. E20CT039 to the Examiner.

## PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the preliminary report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a telephonic public hearing on the application on March 25, 2021.

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:

Owners: Bernadette LaCarte and Charles Beyer  
26333 Vashon Hwy SW  
Vashon, WA 98070

Location: 26333 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon  
STR: NW-25-22-2  
Zoning: RA10SO  
Parcel nos.: 2522029024 and 2522029165  
Total acreage: 11.21 acres

2. The Applicants timely filed an application to King County for the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRS) program current use valuation of the property to begin in 2021. As required by law, notification of the application occurred.

3. A summary of relevant PBRS categories follows below. (Plain text represents a category an applicant requested an award for and that DNRP agrees is warranted. Any ~~strike through~~ represents a category an applicant requested an award for but that DNRP disagrees is warranted. Any *italics* represents a category an applicant did not request an award for, but that DNRP nonetheless concludes is warranted. And any \*asterisk\* represents a category where DNRP finds an award is warranted, but only if certain contingencies or conditions are met.)

PBRS categories:	<u>Open Space Resources</u>	
	Aquifer protection area	5
	Buffer to public or current use classified land	3
	*Forest stewardship land	*
	<i>Rural open space</i>	5
	<i>Significant wildlife or salmonid habitat</i>	5
	Watershed protection area	5

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Bonus Categories

<del>Contiguous parcels under separate ownership</del>	0
Total	23

The DNRP-recommended score of 23 points results in a current use valuation of 20% of assessed value for the enrolled portion of the property.

4. Additional credit may be awarded administratively under the forest stewardship land category, subject to DNRP's approval of Applicants' draft for stewardship plan by **August 1, 2021**. Award of credit under this category will increase the point total by five points, with no change to the acreage or the current use valuation; it may, however, allow approved forestry activities to occur on the property.
5. As to the land area recommended for PBRS enrollment, the Applicant requested 10.58 acres and DNRP recommends 10.19 acres. (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.)
6. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in DNRP's preliminary report and testimony at the March 25, 2021, 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.
7. Approval of 23 points and a current use valuation of 20% of assessed value for 10.19 acres, and conditional approval of five additional points (same acreage, same assessed value), are 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:

1. APPROVE a current use valuation of 20% of assessed value for the 10.19-acre enrolled portion of the property.
2. CONDITIONALLY APPROVE additional credit for the forest stewardship land category, subject to DNRP's approval of Applicants' draft for stewardship plan by **August 1, 2021**. Award of credit under this category will increase the point total by five points, with no change to the acreage or the current use valuation; it may however allow approved forestry activities to occur on the property.

DATED April 8, 2021.



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 *May 3, 2021*, an electronic copy of the appeal statement must be sent to [Clerk.Council@kingcounty.gov](mailto: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 *May 3, 2021*, 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 *May 3, 2021*, the Examiner will notify all parties and interested persons and provide information about “next steps.”

### **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2021, HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF BERNADETTE LACARTE AND CHARLES BEYER, FILE NO. E20CT039**

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Bill Bernstein 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

April 8, 2021

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources and Parks file no. **E20CT039**  
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**BERNADETTE LACARTE AND CHARLES BEYER**  
Open Space Taxation Application (Public Benefit Rating System)

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 April 8, 2021.



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Jessica Oscoy  
Office Manager

**Akada, Irene**

Department of Assessments

**Bernstein, Bill**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

**Charles Beyer, Bernadette LaCa**

Hardcopy

**Clark, Debra**

Department of Assessments

**Kim, Megan**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

**Ngo, Jenny**

Metropolitan King County Council

**Pedroza, Melani**

Metropolitan King County Council