

Letters of Support to KCD Board of Supervisors

July 2014

King County Resident/Collaborators		Cities	Agencies/Business	
Urban	Rural	Urban/Rural	Urban	Rural
11	20	Duvall Recap SCA PIC Vote	19 PCC Natural Markets Food Lifeline Fresh Bucks Cascade Harvest Coalition (2) Friends of Yesler Swamp Seattle Farmers Markets Earth Corps City Fruit Washington CAN! New Roots Organics Seattle Tilth Washington Farmers Market Food Lifeline WRIA 9	9 PCC Farmland Trust Vashon Island Growers Carnation FM American Farmland Trust (2) Mary Olson Farm Stewardship Partners King-Pierce Farm Bureau WSCC
31		2	28	
Total Letters of Support: 61				



Letters of Support

from

King County

Cities



**SCA Public Issues Committee
DRAFT MINUTES**

July 9, 2014 – 7:00 PM
Kirkland City Hall
Peter Kirk Room
123 Fifth Ave, Kirkland 98033

Action Item:

Sound Cities Association (SCA) supports the 2015 King Conservation District (KCD) Program of Work as recommended by the KCD Advisory Committee, and supports adoption of a budget to support the Program of Work in its entirety.

The motion passed 22-1-2.

YES: Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Sammamish, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Tukwila, and Woodinville voted yes.

NO: Redmond voted no.

ABSTAIN: Lake Forest Park and Duvall abstained from the vote.



Small Town. Real Life.

July 17, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

It has been our privilege to work with King Conservation District (KCD) on several projects and policies and at the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum. The City of Duvall has been the recipient of several KCD grants and has enjoyed working collaboratively with the District.

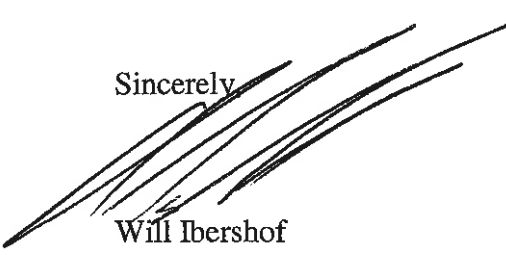
I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to respond to a nearly one and a half year stakeholder process by submitting an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1, which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel.

Building on the recommendations of the 2013 King County/King Conservation District Conservation Panel and Task Force, King Conservation District convened a diverse Advisory Committee comprised of both elected officials and senior staff in early 2014. The recommendations of that committee are front and center in KCD's proposal and are solidly grounded in the work of the Conservation Panel and Task Force. I commend KCD for putting forth innovative, collaborative strategies for working with cities, the County, and non-profit organizations to address pressing natural resource needs in our region.

Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow you to increase and leverage your conservation efforts throughout the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD leverage existing and new partnerships to respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,


Will Ibershof
Mayor



Letters of Support
from
King County
Urban
Agencies/Businesses



July 8, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair of King Conservation District Board
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

I'm writing today in support of the King Conservation District's proposal to increase rates and service fees to fund their Program of Work.

In 2013 Food Lifeline sourced and distributed 36 million pounds of food to 275 food banks, emergency shelters and meal programs in Western Washington. Our work last year served 745,000 low-income individuals 82,000 meals per day, including 15 million meals to low-income King County residents. The number of people we serve and the number of meals we provide would not be possible without the close relationships we have with farmers throughout our state.

We receive thousands of pounds of food every year from farmers. We pay for some of the product and others are generously donated. This ensures that nutritious, fresh and edible produce is not plowed under or placed in landfills, but is instead placed on the tables of families struggling with hunger.

Our organization understands the power and necessity of building a robust and diverse food system. We lobby for funding and programs that promote the health of low-income populations, improve access to nutritious food and support local economies. We strongly support farmer's markets and the use of EBT cards (food stamps) at markets. This gives farmer's a place to sell their locally grown and sustainable product and help turn a profit, while improving access to healthy, fresh produce for low-income individuals. It's one great example of a more holistic approach of investing in our local food system while bringing fresh produce deeper into communities, particularly underserved areas with high need.

The proposal by the King Conservation District to increase funding for local food systems from \$20,880 to \$1,096,500 will make a significant and lasting positive impact on farmers, local economies, the environment and low-income people who are food insecure. It's a wise investment and a responsible use of public dollars, and I urge support for this increase.

Sincerely,

Gina Clark
Director of Public Policy



1702 NE 150th Street • Shoreline, WA 98155 • www.FoodLifeline.org
1-877-404-7543 Fax 206-545-6600 Fax 206-545-6616 • info@FLL.org



July 14, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen

Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057



Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As the Executive Director of Seattle Tilth I wish to express my support for King Conservation District's (KCD) proposed focus areas and funding rate increase.

We at Seattle Tilth feel strongly that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

In our own organization, all of the farmers in our Farm Works agricultural training and incubator program have benefited from the technical assistance and expertise provided by KCD's staff of consummate professionals. Because of this they are able to grow healthy, sustainably raised produce that we provide to low-income people who would not otherwise have access to it. The increased access to fresh, culturally-appropriate food means better nutrition and positive health benefits for our most vulnerable community members.

In addition to acting as a resource and providing technical support, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continue to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmers as well as providing healthy, local food to both the rural and the urban consumer. As an organization dedicated to building a better food system, we understand the importance of this work and heartily support KCD's efforts.

Without KCD's assistance, many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate change, and limited marketing opportunities. We have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing our partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Dwyer
Executive Director
Seattle Tilth



Washington State Farmers Market Association

July 28, 2014

Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County and as executive director of the Washington State Farmers Market Association (WSFMA), I want to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on the ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow them to double their conservation efforts throughout the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

This new work is very important to the farmers market community because it will provide much needed funding that will strengthen local residents' connections to and purchase of King County grown food. Many farmers in King County rely on farmers markets to direct-sell a large percentage of the food they grow. It is by earning a retail price for their product, they are able to generate enough revenue to cover their costs of production, land and infrastructure. The KCD's vision for supporting the food system in King County and western Washington is innovative and represents the type of thinking we need to develop a long term, sustainable solution to ensuring a local supply of Washington grown food that will keep farmland in production and allow farmers to stay in business.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. The KCD proposal fills gaps that are not being met by other organizations and will generate stable funding over the long term. The WSFMA is committed to working with you to ensure this plan provides the best services to King County's farmers markets and the farmers that sell at them.

Sincerely,

Karen Kinney
Executive Director



July 10, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County, I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD).

I recently became aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel.

Increasing the funding ceiling provides the potential for more grant opportunities to partner organizations within the local food system and will place expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents who are demanding more and more local food from local farms.

This new work is important to our organization, our network of city based farmers markets and the increasing number of local farms who direct market in Seattle. Our NFM farmers markets are continuing to see annual growth in the amount of direct dollar sales to local farmers, the number of local small and mid-size farms who participate and the number of shoppers who attend. Even with this success (please see enclosed), markets are still only capturing a small percentage of the total food dollar spent in King County. I believe there is potential for increased local consumption of local farm product that could easily be doubled over the next 10 years. Specific programs aimed at creating more awareness of and demand for local food, stabilizing direct market venues, increasing local food access to low income residents and creating cold storage infrastructure for local farms are just a few of the examples of how KCD funds could support a stronger, more stable small farm economy in King County.

As demand and consumption of local food increases, the importance of having an agency committed to the preservation, economic stability and environmental maintenance of our local farms will become increasingly important in the coming years.

I have appreciated KCD's services and programs for many years and feel the assessment on my property tax statement provides incredible value for the cost. I am looking forward to continuing our relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,



Chris Curtis, Executive Director, Neighborhood Farmers Markets

July 23, 2014

Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, Wash. 98057



4201 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105
pb: 206-547-1222
fx: 206-545-7131
pccnaturalmarkets.com

Dear Mr. Knutsen,

PCC Natural Markets is very pleased to hear about the King Conservation District's proposed plans to support a sustainable, local food system.

Nine of our 10 stores are in King County and a good part of our mission is to support access to high quality, healthful food that is fairly priced, and to have a local focus in our business. It's exciting to see the District's attention on funding fully a focused program for regional food systems and sustainable agriculture, rural and urban farm plans, shoreline and riparian management — and with landowner incentives.

PCC Natural Markets believes there are many ways a vibrant local food economy serves to anchor stable, healthy communities. The Conservation District's coordinated approach to strengthen regional food systems will help ensure our regional food security, especially in the decades ahead as more severe weather from climate change challenges current models of how and where food is grown.

We look forward to working with King Conservation District toward these common goals,

Sincerely,

Randy Lee
Interim CEO



*Community-owned
and operated*



July 11, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

It has been my privilege to work with King Conservation District (KCD) as a nonprofit partner receiving grant funds and partnering on projects. I am writing with my strong support for a \$10/parcel request to support KCD programs.

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to respond to a nearly one and a half year stakeholder process by submitting an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10 per parcel.

Building on the recommendations of the 2013 King County/King Conservation District Conservation Panel and Task Force, King Conservation District convened a diverse Advisory Committee comprised of both elected officials and senior staff in early 2014. The recommendations of that committee are front and center in KCD's proposal and are solidly grounded in the work of the Conservation Panel and Task Force. I commend KCD for putting forth innovative, collaborative strategies for working with cities, the County, and non-profit organizations to address pressing natural resource needs in our region.

Through on the ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow you to increase and leverage your conservation efforts throughout the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD leverage existing and new partnerships to respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Dubiel".

Steve Dubiel
Executive Director

LOCAL RESTORATION | GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 201E Seattle, WA 98115 phone 206.322.9296 fax 206.322.9312 www.earthcorps.org



July 14, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

City Fruit is pleased to voice our support for the King Conservation's District (KCD) proposed expansion into six essential areas that include Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, Urban and Rural Farm Planning, and Urban and Rural Forestry. As a Seattle-based organization dedicated to making the best and full use from the urban orchard, we understand the importance of this work.

Our partnership with KCD is part of this emerging effort. Through the Master Fruit Tree Steward Program, we are developing a team of community experts. These individuals will help train their neighbors on the care and maintenance of fruit trees. Healthier trees mean healthier fruit. And healthy food builds healthy communities.

City Fruit strongly endorses KCD's proposal to move forward on a food system and sustainable agriculture agenda. Please contact me with any questions at catherine@cityfruit.org or 618.363.2457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Morrison".

Catherine Morrison, MPH
Executive Director
City Fruit



Washington Community Action Network
La Red Activa Comunitaria de Washington
1806 East Yesler Way, Seattle, WA 98122
P: 206-389-0050 F: 206-389-0049
www.washingtoncan.org

7/15/14

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

It has been our privilege to work with King Conservation District (KCD). As a grant recipient we are aware of King Conservation District's plan to respond to a nearly one and a half year stakeholder process by submitting an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel.

Building on the recommendations of the 2013 King County/King Conservation District Conservation Panel and Task Force, King Conservation District convened a diverse Advisory Committee comprised of both elected officials and senior staff in early 2014. The recommendations of that committee are front and center in KCD's proposal and are solidly grounded in the work of the Conservation Panel and Task Force. We commend KCD for putting forth innovative, collaborative strategies for working with cities, the County, and non-profit organizations to address pressing natural resource needs in our region.

Through on the ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow you to increase and leverage your conservation efforts throughout the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD leverage existing and new partnerships to respond to increased demand for local food, better access to healthy foods, healthy forests, clean water, and healthy communities.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. We have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing our relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Pittz".

Will Pittz
Executive Director





7/10/14

Chair, Board of Supervisors

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1107 SW Grady Way

Suite 130

Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

I am a resident of King County and work with all 16 Seattle farmers markets and two farm stands to implement that Fresh Bucks SNAP-matching program, and offer support to all King County farmers markets interested in food access efforts. I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I was recently made aware of the King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1, which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on the ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow them to double their conservation efforts throughout the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

This new work is important to the farmers market community as King County farmers markets are not only a vehicle for food access efforts on the ground in communities that desperately need sources of fresh, healthy produce, but they are also a source of economic growth and development for our region's agricultural economy. Ensuring that there is funding to support the viability of farmers markets is paramount to the preservation of Washington farm land, as many small scale farmers rely on farmers markets as the only direct-marketing venues for them to reach consumers. In turn, farmers markets are great hubs to connect potential shoppers, social service providers, healthcare professionals, and other community partners to maximize food access for those that need it most.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasing important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Sophie Kauffman, Fresh Bucks Coordinator, Seattle Fresh Bucks Program

The Adopt A Stream Foundation

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600 - 128th Street SE
Everett, WA 98208-6353
425-316-8592
fax: 425-338-1423
www.streamkeeper.org



July 22, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

It has recently come to my attention that the King Conservation District (KCD) plans to expand their Program of Work to include a request to reinstate your legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. We support that effort since grants from that funding source provide benefits to the environment.

KCD grant funding has helped us carry out our mission "to teach people to be stewards of their watersheds." With your support, during the last five years, the Adopt A Stream Foundation completed in-depth stream ecology trainings in Bothell and Lake Forest Park, numerous streamside and wetland native plantings, and several in-stream wood restoration projects with support from the KCD Member Jurisdiction and WRIA grants. We have already applied to the 2015 Seattle Community Partnership Grant to identify and install rain gardens on private properties to improve water quality for the most degraded Seattle stream—Thornton Creek. Currently, KCD is one of the few local funding sources able to support this proposal, since Seattle's Rain-Wise program does not extend into this watershed.

Through on the ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow you to increase and leverage your conservation efforts throughout the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD leverage existing and new partnerships to respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

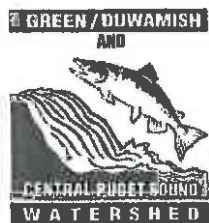
The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will increase in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. The Adopt A Stream Foundation has appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and looks forward to continuing our relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Murdoch
Executive Director

environmental education • stream enhancement

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM FORUM



Algona
Auburn
Black Diamond
Burien
Covington
Des Moines
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Kent
King County
Maple Valley
Normandy Park
Renton
SeaTac
Seattle
Tacoma
Tukwila

King Conservation District
Vashon/Maury Island
Community Council
Covington Water District
Port of Seattle
Washington Department
of Ecology
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department
of Natural Resources
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Washington
Environmental Council
Green/Duwamish
Watershed Alliance
Trout Unlimited/Mid-Sound
Fisheries Enhancement Group
Save Habitat and Diversity of
Wetlands (SHADOW)

The Boeing Company
Master Builders Association
King County Agricultural
Commission

July 31, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057



Dear Mr. Knutsen:

It has been the privilege of the Management Committee of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) to work with the King Conservation District (KCD) as the Salmon Recovery Lead Entity for Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (WRIA 9).

We are aware of the KCD plan to respond to a nearly one and a half year stakeholder process by submitting an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1, which includes a request to reinstate your legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel.

Although the WRIA 9 WEF was not directly involved in the KCD Advisory Committee that helped inform the proposed Program of Work, we are pleased that the proposed work will support implementation of habitat actions identified in the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan, ***Making Our Watershed Fit for a King***. Most notably, the proposed *Rural Small Lot Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Development* and *Shoreline and Riparian Habitat* programs are closely aligned with the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan implementation strategies.

Funding to support the expanded Program of Work will enhance leveraging of funds and collaboration with WRIA 9. In particular, there is enhanced opportunity to leverage existing and new partnerships in the urban areas of WRIA 9 to respond to increased need for healthy forests, functioning freshwater and marine shorelines, and clean water.

We appreciate the services and programs of the KCD and look forward to increased collaboration with you on ***Making Our Watershed Fit for a King***.

Sincerely,

Dennis Robertson
Chair, WRIA 9 Management Committee of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum
Councilmember, City of Tukwila

Financial support provided by signers of Watershed Planning Interlocal Agreement for WRIA 9 including:
Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
 EXTENSION

Master Gardener Program

July 30, 2014

Bill Knutsen
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As coordinator of the Master Gardener Program in King County, I have been fortunate to work with King Conservation District (KCD) for the past several years.

The Master Gardener Program in King County is made up of approximately 650 expert gardeners, whose mission is to educate the public about environmentally friendly gardening practices. Many of them have found KCD's free soil testing service to be extremely valuable. A large number of the problems clients bring to us cannot be properly diagnosed without a soil test being done first. Accurate soil tests are a way of determining what amendments may or may not be needed. The ability to prevent the use of unnecessary amendments is one way to protect water quality, because an excess of amendments leaches into the groundwater and also contaminates runoff.

Master Gardeners are aware of the problems we in the Puget Sound area face with water pollution, and we focus on informing the public about ways to minimize the effect gardening practices have on the problem. We stress the importance of soil testing and continually refer people to the service provided by King Conservation District.

We are very appreciative of the role KCD plays in helping us provide education about sustainable gardening practices.

Sincerely,



Elaine Anderson, Coordinator
Master Gardener Program in King County

WSU Extension Master Gardener Program * 206-685-5104 * 206-221-2649, fax
elaine.anderson@wsu.edu * kingcountyMG.org
Center for Urban Horticulture * Box 354115 * Seattle WA 98195-4115
*Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.
Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.*

**Friends of Yesler Swamp
3905 NE Belvoir
Seattle WA 98105
yeslerswamptrail@gmail.com**

July 12, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

It has been my privilege to work with King Conservation District (KCD) as a recipient of a grant to enhance the shoreline of Lake Washington. I serve on the Board of Friends of Yesler Swamp. The KCD grant has enabled our volunteer group to restore a significant segment of the Union Bay shoreline and begin construction of an ADA-accessible boardwalk through Yesler Swamp.

Yesler Swamp is one of the few remaining true swamps in our area—a forested wetland—and the boardwalk will enable the public to visit and learn from this unique habitat. Yesler Swamp is home to shore birds and other wildlife, including a beaver lodge. The restoration of the swamp enhances water quality by filtering pollutants from the surrounding urban area and gives the public a chance to see restoration in action.

We commend KCD for putting forth innovative, collaborative strategies for working with non-profit organizations like ours to address pressing natural resource needs in our region. King Conservation District's plan to respond to a nearly one and a half year stakeholder process by submitting an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel.

Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow you to increase and leverage your conservation efforts throughout the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD leverage existing and new partnerships to respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests, and clean water.

We have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing our relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,



Friends of Yesler Swamp
Carol Arnold, President

From: lori@bellevuefarmersmarket.org <lori@bellevuefarmersmarket.org>

Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2014 7:51 PM

To: Balducci, Claudia; Wallace, Kevin R; Chelminiak, John; Lee, Conrad; Robertson, Jennifer S.; Stokes, John; Robinson, Lynne

Cc: Jane Hague; McCormick-Huentelman, Mike; Jan Van Blaricom; Cindy Pigott; Jeri Prior; Pete Mc Dowell; Annie Vander Pol Duncan; Van Van Blaricom; Bill.Vadino@kingcounty.gov

Subject: King County Conservation District Proposal

Greetings Mayor Balducci, Deputy Mayor Wallace and Bellevue Councilmembers,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying our glorious summer!

At this time, I am in the San Juans, but understand a proposal by the KCD will be on the agenda tomorrow night and I would like the opportunity to share my thoughts concerning their proposal. I apologize for not being able to be present at the meeting.

My hope is that the Bellevue City Council will support the KCD proposal as it will benefit and strengthen our local food system as well as improve food access to those who are financially challenged in our community.

This is a new focus and direction for the KCD and those of us who are advocates for Washington agriculture, urban farming and concerned about food deserts and healthy communities applaud their efforts and creative strategizing.

This proposal will directly benefit the Bellevue Farmers Market. The Council has been a tremendous support for the market over the years and you know how we have leveraged our resources and scrambled to make ends meet. It has been a challenge each year as we strive to serve our community and small family farms.

The KCD proposal will directly benefit our farms who operate in King County by helping them with regulatory issues, infrastructure and more.

The proposal also would set aside funds for Urban Farming which is taking off in Seattle, but virtually untouched in Bellevue. This past spring, I visited the Crescent City Farmers Market in New Orleans and they had a fantastic urban farm program for city kids. Educated them on food, farming practices, commerce, but most importantly gave them a vision and a purpose. We could easily be doing this in Bellevue. There is possible farm land under the power towers/lines that run through our city, but this is a conversation for another time. Many possibilities.

Late in 2013, the BFM completed the long and tedious process with the USDA to become certified to accept EBT/SNAP at our markets. We are thrilled to see EBT dollars being processed through our markets this season despite the added cost in administrative overhead to track and account tokens, etc.

Emily Bishton
Magnuson Community Center Nature Programs
7110 62nd Ave NE
Seattle, WA, 98115

7/30/14

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

It has been my privilege to work with King Conservation District (KCD) as Director and Lead Educator for Magnuson Community Center Nature Programs. Through our umbrella organization, the Associated Recreation Council (ARC), we have received two grants from KCD in the past several years:

- A 2011 grant funded the creation of the Magnuson Community Center Resource Conservation Landscape, a 3000 sq. ft. garden that demonstrates how to build healthy soil, prevent soil erosion on slopes by using native plants with slope-holding root systems, and use water wisely. This landscape provides public education through interpretive and interactive signage, and is also used for classes, camps, and field trips for children and adults.
- A 2013 grant funded a new "Habitat Connections" field trip program, which provided free field trips and bus transportation to 2nd and 3rd grade classes from 4 NE Seattle public schools that have a low-income student population of 40% or more. These field trips educated students on the importance of healthy soil, water conservation and protection, wetland ecology, and more.

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to respond to a nearly one and a half year stakeholder process by submitting an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel.

Building on the recommendations of the 2013 King County/King Conservation District Conservation Panel and Task Force, King Conservation District convened a diverse Advisory Committee comprised of both elected officials and senior staff in early 2014. The recommendations of that committee are front and center in KCD's proposal and are solidly grounded in the work of the Conservation Panel and Task Force. I commend KCD for putting forth innovative, collaborative strategies for working with cities, the County, and non-profit organizations to address pressing natural resource needs in our region.

Public Meeting Tuesday July 15, 2014

PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Cava
Program Assistant, Green Kirkland Partnership
CITY OF KIRKLAND
505 Market Street, Suite A
Kirkland, WA 98033

My name is Katie Cava and I work for the City of Kirkland and we get jurisdictional [grant] funds from King Conservation District and I work for the Green Kirkland Partnership. We are fully in support of the rate increase. Funding through KCD has allowed are program to continue, we do restoration in natural areas and city parks. We work with volunteers and KCD's funding has allowed us to do on the ground restoration and helped us fund larger volunteer projects to implement our 20-Year Forest Restoration Plan. Restoration is direct engagement with our volunteers who are working on pulling out ivy or pulling out blackberries but anyone from the City of Kirkland or anyone who recreates in Kirkland parks benefits from having healthy forested areas and healthy natural areas. I can't tell you how many times I have walked through the parks and hear people say 'where did all the blackberry bushes go? It's so beautiful. There's new birds here'. So even if they are not there volunteering, people are noticing that the bald eagles have better foraging ground and we are bringing in native food for birds. So despite what people care about – whether it is having really, big old conifers in their forests or food for wildlife or having their kids be able to see natural areas everybody in our city is benefiting and King Conservation District has been a major funding partner for over 8 years.

Sheryl Wiser, Puget Sound Fresh Program Manager
Cascade Harvest Coalition
4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Room 123
Seattle, WA 98103

July 24, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

On behalf of Cascade Harvest Coalition, a non-profit agency operating in King County, I wish to express my full support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD) and for KCD's proposed scope of work and rates and charges moving forward. This is a crucial and necessary direction needed by King County in order to protect King County's farmlands and forests, promote a thriving local food economy and provide better access to healthy food for all residents, particularly our underserved communities.

We fully believe supporting sustainable agriculture and healthy food consumption in King County is an essential way for King Conservation District to ensure that King County has a thriving and healthy environment. It is a core value of our organization that healthy farms, healthy food and healthy communities are inextricably linked and the deep work of building, sustaining and growing these systems takes work; numerous and complex issues make the reality of "farm to fork" a tall order. A sustainable food system means having local production and distribution, and for that, we need healthy ecosystems, as well as strong connections between farmers and eaters. Since 1999, the Cascade Harvest has been at the forefront of these issues, working to address the realities and challenges we face, and the KCD has been a valuable partner in many areas of this work.

King Conservation District's proposed program direction will continue and expand this good and essential work. Additionally, the KCD has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. Their proposed program outcomes to strengthen direct market connections at farmers markets is right on target with current website analytics for Puget Sound Fresh, www.pugetsoundfresh.org which shows a significant increase in the number of consumers searching for farmers markets, particularly in King County.

The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address so many critical issues - this is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing access to healthy, local food to all consumers, especially those in need, throughout King County.

As a non-profit agency working with farmers and consumers, we appreciate KCD's support and look forward to continuing our partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Wiser

Sheryl Wiser, Puget Sound Fresh Manager
Cascade Harvest Coalition

Sarah Lowry, WA FarmLink Program Manager
Cascade Harvest Coalition
4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Room 123
Seattle, WA 98103

July 11, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

On behalf of Cascade Harvest Coalition, a non-profit agency operating in King County, I wish to express my full support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD) and for KCD's proposed scope of work and rates and charges moving forward. This is a crucial and necessary direction needed by King County in order to protect King County's farmlands and promote a thriving local food economy.

We fully believe supporting sustainable agriculture in King County is an essential way for King Conservation District to ensure that King County has a thriving and healthy environment. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance. This program direction will continue and expand this good and essential work.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to consumers in King County.

As a non-profit agency working with farmers, we appreciate KCD's support and look forward to continuing our partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lowry, WA FarmLink Program Manager
Cascade Harvest Coalition

Via email:

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 10:53 AM

To: [Deirdre Grace](#)

Public Support letter on behalf of Cascade Harvest Coalition

As resident of King County and the owner of an organic produce home delivery company and a member of the board of directors for Cascade Harvest Coalition,

I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD).

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District and they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food. For example, KCD's work to introduce a pilot food voucher program in Auburn is helping low income residents overcome this issue. KCD's state commitment to supporting our local food economy in an investment in our region.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. Funding is crucial to continue to support existing programs and continue to grow our local food economy.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Boyle

--

Carolyn Boyle
New Roots Organics
(206) 261-2500



Letters of Support
from
King County
Rural
Agencies/Businesses



KING-PIERCE FARM BUREAU

P.O. Box 1222, Enumclaw, WA 98022

22 July 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

The King-Pierce Farm Bureau Board of Directors represents the hundreds of Farm Bureau members in Pierce and King counties, many of whom have benefitted from King Conservation District (KCD) programs and services throughout the years. Farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support, financial assistance—each and every type of assistance that KCD has offered helps the small and mid-size farms that comprise the farm community in our urban-fringe farming areas.

The work proposed in KCD's "Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative" is a continuation of the beneficial presence that KCD represents to our members. We at the King-Pierce Farm Bureau Board of Directors support this initiative, as we have supported KCD programs and services in the past that are consistent with our mission of helping family farms. These programs encourage our members and their families to continue farming despite the obstacles and hard work that are inherent to this chosen profession.

Our members have enjoyed this shared support with KCD for many years and the King-Pierce Farm Bureau Board of Directors looks forward to many future opportunities to continue in this partnership. Thank you for all that you have done for our members and we wish you success in this latest effort to offer real programs of substance that will improve the livelihoods of our farm families supplying healthy, local foods to local consumers.

Sincerely,

Mary Schlacter

Mary Schactler
President, King-Pierce Farm Bureau



STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

July 31, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way; Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Bill:

It has been my privilege to serve King Conservation District since 1996 as the Puget Sound Regional Manager for the Washington State Conservation Commission. As you know, in that capacity I assisted you and your predecessors on the KCD Board of Supervisors on many, many issues. As you *also* know, I've moved on to statewide responsibilities and Shana Joy began serving KCD on July 1 of this year.

I want to congratulate you on your efforts over the past 18 months to bring stakeholders together to learn about KCD and agree on a path forward. I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to respond to that process by submitting an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. It is to your credit that the recommendations of that committee are front and center in KCD's proposal. Those recommendations provide the framework for KCD to put forth innovative, collaborative strategies for working with cities, the County, non-profit organizations, as well as state, federal, and Tribal government to address pressing natural resource needs in our region.

Through KCD's on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this needed funding will allow you to increase and leverage conservation efforts throughout the district. As a member of NACD's Urban and Community Conservation Policy Group, it's especially exciting to me personally to see the expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban partners. It will be exciting to watch KCD leverage existing and new partnerships to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an active conservation district devoted to the principles of locally led conservation, preservation, and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years. So, again, congratulations on a job well done!

Sincerely,


Stu Trefry
Manager, Conservation District Development and Capacity
Southwest Regional Manager

Cc: Mark Clark, Executive Director
Shana Joy, Puget Sound Regional Manager



PCC FARMLAND TRUST

Saving local organic farmland forever

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

July 17th, 2014

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a nonprofit land trust dedicated to permanently preserving our State's most important farmlands for future generations, PCC Farmland Trust has relied on KCD's expertise to assist the farmers and landowners we work with to implement best land management practices that protect our region's vital natural resources.

PCC Farmland Trust deeply believes that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District is the best resource in the County to help the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance. Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues.

This work is of critical importance to the continued viability of King County's local and regional food system. In our work to permanently conserve farmland, one of our most serious challenges today is ensuring that the farmland, once protected, remains in sustainable, productive agricultural use. This relies on two key factors: 1) developing a new generation of trained and supported farmers, and helping those farmers overcome current barriers to accessing farmland, and 2) providing a strong set of regional services that support the continued economic viability of the local farming community. KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative's work to address the current barriers to profitable and sustainable farming in King County will play a key role in ensuring that our region is able to protect our valuable natural resources, sustain a healthy agricultural economy, and provide our local communities with healthy, fresh food for generations to come.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. PCC Farmland Trust deeply values KCD's support to King County's farmers, and we fully support the full funding and implementation of the Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Sadinsky
Executive Director
PCC Farmland Trust





Ms. Lindsay Nessel
P.O. Box 48
Carnation, WA 98014

July 11, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As the manager of the Carnation Farmers Market, I have utilized KCD's assistance in increasing revenue to King County Farmers and creating more awareness of the benefits of supporting locally grown food.

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District and they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food. For example, KCD's work to introduce a pilot food voucher program in Auburn is helping low income residents overcome this issue. KCDs state commitment to supporting our local food economy in an investment in our region.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Nessel



July 15, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

I am writing to express the support of American Farmland Trust (AFT) for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD) and specifically their proposed program of work and budget for 2015.

We are particularly supportive of KCD's proposal to expand current pilot efforts to focus farm planning services in targeted sub-basins with a nexus of natural resource impairments and significant commercial farming land use. This approach is similar to the one used by AFT in the Ames Creek basin of the Snoqualmie Valley where we partnered with KCD and others to encourage farmers to implement a suite of restoration practices to improve water quality and salmon habitat. An enhanced Landowner Incentive Program would be extremely useful to better leverage other funding sources.

We are also pleased to see that KCD is proposing to expand its work to support the emerging regional food system through expanded grant opportunities and infrastructure for farmers, farmers' markets and food access programs. Such efforts will strengthen the local food economy and, in turn, the motivation for farmland preservation.

We are aware of KCD's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on the ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much needed funding will allow them to strengthen and expand their conservation efforts throughout the District.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. AFT is supportive of KCD's services and programs and we look forward to future collaborative efforts on farmland protection, environmental restoration and food system projects, policies and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Christy Carr
Conservation Program Manager



AN AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF AUBURN AND THE WHITE RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 15, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Chairman Knutsen and KCD Supervisors:

I have had the pleasure to work with and learn from the King Conservation District for well over 15 years. First I took a series of workshops, and then worked to develop a Farm Plan for my small acreage horse farm in Enumclaw—and the resulting project by project site improvements that are spelled out by that Plan. Then I went on a bunch of Farm Tours. Then we worked together to create a Farm Plan and educational offerings for a site I manage professionally, the Mary Olson Farm in Auburn. Over the years the Mary Olson Farm has been awarded Jurisdictional Grants to improve the stream ecology, remove invasive species and host workshops and fieldtrips.

My personal life has been changed SIGNIFICANTLY with the knowledge and skills that the KCD has provided. I proudly tell others of the great conservation resources available at the KCD. I am a true advocate, user and totally committed to the Best Management Practices taught and supported by the KCD. And due in part to funding assistance, these Practices have been implemented on my 3.8 acres and on the 67 acres I manage for the City of Auburn. All of their funding programs are vital to growing a conservation conscious county.

I hope that you and the KCD are able to continue with all of your programs and to grow them by increasing the per parcel fee. The work that results from these modest investments is broad and vital to the cleaning of our environment and education of all of the County residents to be better stewards.

Thank you for all that you do!

Patricia Cosgrove
Director, White River Valley Museum

King County Resident
43017 234th Place SE
Enumclaw WA 98002

White River Valley Museum
918 H Street SE
Auburn WA 98002

Mary Olson Farm
28728 Green River Road
Auburn WA 98092

Telephone: 253-288-7433 • Fax: 253-931-3098 • www.wrvmuseum.org

Ordinary People, Extraordinary History

STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS



Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment

July 15, 2014

King Conservation District Board of Supervisors

RE: KCD 2015 Program of Work

Stewardship Partners, founded in 1999, helps private landowners implement environmental conservation practices and habitat restoration while simultaneously meeting their economic needs through sustainable land management. Our focus is on maintaining the working rural landscape of farms and forestland throughout Washington State and much of our work is in King County.

We fully support the 6 areas of concern that the program of work covers. We have been working in King County, assisting local farms in restoring fish and wildlife habitat and implementing best management practices as well as helping landowners build rain gardens. In addition, the Salmon-Safe eco-label is managed by Stewardship Partners in Puget Sound and is a great fit under sustainable agriculture. The King Conservation District has served as a valuable partner and resource for funding and technical assistance for the conservation efforts of these programs.

On behalf of Stewardship Partners, I'm endorsing the KCD 2015 Program of Work.

Thank you again for all that you do for conservation.

Sincerely,



David Burger
Executive Director

July 12, 2014
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

The Vashon Island Growers Association (VIGA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization devoted to the promotion and protection of farms and gardening operations on Vashon-Maury Island. We manage the Vashon Island Farmers Market, support open space for the promotion of agriculture, and work to increase the number and quality of growing operations as a viable livelihood.

The board and membership of VIGA know that the work and services of King Conservation District (KCD) are critical for Vashon Island farms and rural properties. We are aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1, which will include a request to reinstate KCD's legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this essential funding will allow KCD to double their conservation efforts across the district. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of their urban constituents, we look forward to KCD's response to increased demand for local food, healthy forests, and clean water.

KCD plays many active roles to promote ecological farming practices and support Vashon farmers in their work to conserve our limited natural resources. Programs like the shared manure spreader, cover crop reimbursement program, free soil testing, and others are simple and effective steps towards making responsible farming more viable. We need these resources to ensure we have productive farmland here and elsewhere in King County long into the future. Many farms on Vashon have worked with KCD to develop Farm Plans, leveraging funds for critical projects that allow farmers to prosper while protecting soil and water resources. Without KCD, much of this work would not have happened.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will only grow as we face the impacts of increased population, more extreme weather, and greater demand for local food. VIGA has appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past. We look forward to more successful and creative collaboration in the future.

Sincerely,

Greg Reed
for the Board of Directors
Vashon Island Growers Association



Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

July 22, 2014

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

I am writing to express the strong support of American Farmland Trust for the proposed 2015 Program of Work for the King Conservation District. The proposal is particularly adept at balancing the urban and rural interests in King County and proposing a high level of service to all ratepayers. I appreciate your continued focus on the traditional services of conservation districts to farmers and rural landowners and feel that the addition of more highly developed programs in urban farming and food systems are an astute response to the KCD's diverse geography and constituency.

I am particularly excited about the new initiatives proposed in the Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture section of the plan. There is tremendous potential to expand food production, processing, and distribution within King County and the Central Puget Sound region, but the challenges for food system entrepreneurs are substantial. Land is costly, supplies and services are expensive, and there is very significant competition for local food dollars from producers and suppliers from outside the region.

If we want a thriving local food economy, it is essential that we find ways to support local farmers, processors, and distributors, particularly as they get started in the marketplace. The combination of grants and staff services proposed in the work plan is exactly what is needed to support this burgeoning sector and, properly invested, is likely to have economic and social benefits far in excess of the modest cost.

Thank you for your and your staff's continued leadership on agricultural and conservation issues in the region. You are doing great work. It's exciting to see the District expand on this record of success with the continuing and new initiatives proposed in the 2015 Program of Work.

Sincerely,



Dennis Canty
Pacific Northwest Director



Letters of Support
from
King County
Urban Residents

Marty McDonald
4507 SW College St.
Seattle, WA 98116

July 23, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). Over the last 10 years, I have been engaged with issues concerning local economies, local food and farms, through my extensive work with the following organizations and in the following capacities: the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), Cascade Harvest Coalition (as a board member), as a local foods marketing expert lecturer with WSDA and WSU, as a vendor at several King County farmers markets, and finally, as a very passionate local eater, and I can't emphasize enough the value of the work that King Conservation District is doing to support and advance the critical cause of building a healthy, local, sustainable food system.

On a personal note, I started buying produce at the West Seattle farmers market when they first began, recognizing the quality and benefit of locally grown food, and I have remained a loyal shopper ever since. Turning the tables, as a vendor at both the University and Ballard markets, I got to see both sides of the coin, and the incredible value that farmer's markets can bring to a region's people, its health and communities.

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Marty McDonald

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a farmer, I have utilized KCD's help through farm plan, vegetation planning and development along creek, and manure pad planning and financial support.

I agree that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,
Nayab Khan

Heidi Siegelbaum
3018 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA. 98117

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors, King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident and small business owner of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a small firm which works to support the local food system, I had the great pleasure of working with KCD staff over several years. They are exceedingly bright, practical, delightful and their work is an essential part of the long term viability of the County as a place-based economy. With stars in our eyes regarding high-tech, biotech and aerospace, the KCD's work on the land-based, place-based economy is absolutely indispensable.

Farmers markets and other avenues for direct sales to consumers are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District and they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food. This is not just an issue for the privileged. This is a local economic development priority, an issue of national security (local food and water control are paramount to local control and security) and a basic human right. For example, KCD's work to introduce a pilot food voucher program in Auburn is helping low income residents overcome the issue of local access to local food. KCD's stated commitment to supporting our local food economy is an investment in our region.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future. I also appreciate KCD's dedicated commitment, smarts, and creative approaches, all attributes of a healthy organization that learns with the tides.

With best regards,
Heidi Siegelbaum



**King County Committee of the Whole Meeting Letter of Testimony from Kate Kruller
- July 16, 2014**

Re: King Conservation District Proposal

King County Council Committee of the Whole Vice Chair Hague, Council members and members of the Public:

I became involved in this effort as a representative of Sound Cities Association - participating on the King Conservation District (KCD) Conservation Panel and, subsequently, the KCD Advisory Committee. This, for me, has been an exciting journey toward positive change. I think you will find that many of us who joined up to usher in the transformation of the KCD model are very passionate about the process that took place and the improvements as a result.

Fundamentally, we know that there are three (3) key things that the King Conservation District provides that fulfill what thousands of constituents expect and need from their elected leaders:

1. Better access to local food
2. More healthy forests and urban trees
3. Clean water

Over a year-and-one-half of careful planning led to what is being proposed today, utilizing specialized government staff and consultants, along with representatives from all over the region - all working together in a highly transparent process. The proposal includes a carefully identified and evaluated set of six subcategories of services that will be of great benefit to those who live in jurisdictions within the King Conservation District boundaries - as well as addressing regional needs for collaboration across and between jurisdictions (this is inclusive of unincorporated King County areas). The cost of bringing these high quality services across the region asks each property owner for an increase that's equal to the price of one gallon of gas. One gallon of gas!

In order to help us be better stewards of where we live and how we live, the service our King Conservation District provides is simply is not being achieved any other way. This is intended to go to those who in our region that are underserved, otherwise unable, or in great need of learning how to do things better in our communities. These services and expertise to help those who yearn to enhance their quality of living are not implemented by **performing** the work, but by **sharing what the King Conservation District knows**, using proven methods that have the highest probability for success and providing solid frameworks to follow in implementing what needs to be done. This is an irreplaceable resource to help us protect our forests, build strong and healthy farm to urban food chains, and provide ways to balance how the natural environment and urban areas are best integrated.

None of those on the KCD Conservation Panel, the Advisory Committee, and specifically myself, ever heard a single jurisdiction ever once complain of the services they **actually received** from the King Conservation District - during the entire time this proposal was being produced. Mostly, what we heard was that stakeholders wanted: (1) to see and understand how priorities are set for determining what services are made; (2) that they have a need for these vital services; and (3) that they want more of these services.

That is powerful testimony!

Alyson Garland
6512 Woodlawn Ave N
Seattle, WA 98103-5428

July 17, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD).

I agree that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past to make farmers markets and local food possible.

Sincerely,

Alyson Garland

Alex Ko
1411 4th Ave Suite 1425
Seattle, WA 98101

7/18/14

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD).

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District and they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food. For example, KCD's work to introduce a pilot food voucher program in Auburn is helping low income residents overcome this issue. KCDs state commitment to supporting our local food economy in an investment in our region.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,



Alex Ko
Salmon-Safe Program Manager

STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS



Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment

1411 Fourth Ave Suite 1425 Seattle WA 98101
www.stewardshippartners.org

Karen Siefert
28649 SE 225th St.
Maple Valley, WA. 98083

July 24, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- Native Plant Sale Purchase
- Workshop/Class on Climate Change & Horse Keeping Conference
- Farm Tours
- Volunteer Events

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Karen Siefert

Merry Ann Peterson
20315 Marine View Drive SW
Normandy Park WA 98166

July 24, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- Soil Testing
- Native Plant Sale Purchase Yes, we bought 500 plants
- Workshop/Class on _biodigester in Enumclaw
- Farm Tour
- Technical Advice re: _overseeing our grant for invasive removal

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Merry Ann Peterson



July 15, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). For 13 years I have purchased my produce through Community-Supported Agriculture programs, which source locally grown products.

The KCD has helped farms of all sizes with assistance that includes farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical aid and financial support. Now we have a real opportunity to promote environmental best practices and create a more efficient food-supply system.

The King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in processing, storage, and the distribution infrastructure that pose real barriers to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional approach that will support the livelihoods of rural farmers while assuring healthy, local food for urban consumers like my family.

My colleagues work for the Cascade Harvest Coalition and I am a longtime donor to the organization. I hear regularly from them about the struggles of farmers, who live year to year with lean margins, unexpected climate events (from overly cool seasons to mudslides), and not enough technical skills or resources to market their products. I have appreciated KCD's leadership in the past and encourage King County Council to approve the KCD Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative on August 1.

Sincerely,

Rhenda Meiser
6524 Sycamore Ave NW
Seattle WA 98117
(206) 323-5562

26 July 2014

Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

I am a resident of King County and support the Auburn International Farmers Market activities in South King County. I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1, 2014 that will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per property parcel. Through added services and grants to partner organizations, this funding will allow KCD to increase conservation efforts, provide enhancements for agriculture and local food needs and increase emphasis on water quality and healthy forests throughout the county.

This new work is important to my community because it will help generate more revenue for King County farmers and help them stay on their land, enrich their agriculture food supply, assist in the buy locally food plan and lastly, help sustain the economy for the coming years.

The importance of having an agency, such as, KCD committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the future years as we face the challenges of climate change and increased population. I appreciate KCD's services and programs and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District.

Sincerely,

Bill Peloza

South King County Citizen

Resent-From: <Deirdre.Grace@kingcd.org>

From: Jae Easterbrooks <jeasterbrooks@beneficialstate.com>

Date: July 29, 2014, 9:21:05 AM PDT

To: "'Deirdre.Grace@kingcd.org'" <Deirdre.Grace@kingcd.org>

Subject: Letter of Support for King County Conservation District on behalf of Cascade Harvest Coalition

Dear Mr. Knutsen, Chair, Board of Supervisors of the King County Conservation District:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a banker in Seattle focused on financing a healthy food system, clients we have worked with (and through my own personal food purchases) have utilized KCD's assistance through purchasing fresh produce, using the Good Bucks voucher, providing places to sell produce and more.

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District as they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food. For example, KCD's work to introduce a pilot food voucher program in Auburn is helping low income residents overcome this issue. KCDs state commitment to supporting our local food economy in an investment in our region.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and look forward to the continuing work of the King Conservation District and its benefits for residents of the County and businesses working within the healthy food system.

Best regards,

Jae Easterbrooks

Jae Easterbrooks

Vice President, Relationship Manager

O: 206-812-8891 | F: 206-241-9916

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build something beautiful.



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July 27, 2014

Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 S.W. Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a Board member of Cascade Harvest Coalition and a supporter of the Lake City Farmers Market, I wish to express my support for the work, leadership and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD).

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to midsize farmers in King County, and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to markets throughout King County.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District, and they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and strongly hope their important work continues for many years.

Sincerely,
Valerie Campbell
Board of Directors
Cascade Harvest Coalition



Letters of Support
from
King County
Rural Residents

From: Shannon Leighton [<mailto:sleighton4@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:13 PM
To: Nicolette Marschke
Subject: Re: King Conservation District Letter of Support

Hi Nicolette -

I also participated in the stream maintenance program with Jacobus. His info is below. Jay Mirro for my Farm Plan and I received Farm grants which match or pay you back for a percentage of materials & services to make improvements.
Love these programs!!!!

Jacobus Saperstein

Senior Resource Specialist

King Conservation District | 1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130 | Renton, WA 98057 | (425) 282-1912 | (206) 890-8212 cell

jacobus.saperstein@kingcd.org | www.kingcd.org

Thanks,
Shannon Leighton

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As an eater, and farmer and farmland advocate I have utilized KCD's help by referring farmers to the district for information and assistance. I have also referred many gardeners to KCD for services that support sustainable practices.

I agree that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance. It is critical that all farmers have access to these services in order to succeed. A farm plan gives them the start they need in order to maintain a long-term operation.

Other than KCD, another vital organization that supports local agriculture, is Cascade Harvest Coalition. This organization helps piece together vital needs for farmers such as funding, marketing, land access and access to a host of other resources. For farmers who already fight an uphill battle in order to be viable, the support of one organization that helps them when they most need it can help keep them in business. The success of KCD leads to the success of CHC and therefore a safety net for farmers and our food future.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmers as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future. As our region grows it is so important that Agriculture grows along with that growth in order to feed us all.

Sincerely,

Julie Kintzi

Marie Bradley

13321 SW Camp Sealth Rd

Vashon, WA. 98070

July 29, 2014]

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- Soil Testing
- Native Plant Sale Purchase
- Workshop/Class on Manure Management and Farm Planning
- Farm Tours
- Technical Advice re: Farm planning

T

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Marie Bradley

Kurt & Debbie Stranne

24835 SE 239th St.

Maple Valley, WA 98038

July 29, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- ***Farm Tour***

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Kurt & Debra Stranne

Jeff C Dunham
32517 NE 77th Street
Carnation, WA 98014

July 29 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a farmer, I have utilized KCD's help through several programs. These include two extensive buffer planting projects. One of these protects a salmon spawning stream and the other a wetland flood area. Other projects include fencing, cross fencing, compost facility for livestock waste management. The amount of technical advice provided in the preparation of a farm plan is unparalleled. KCD has partnered with several agencies to make projects on my farm possible. These include Mountain to Sound Greenway, Eastside Prep School, Washington Conservation Corp. and others. The projects simply would not have been possible for me without the assistance of King Conservation District. I am currently involved in the KCD Cover Crop program, and am looking into others,

I agree that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Jeff C Dunham

Laura Gieber

31404 SE Issaquah Fall City Rd.

Fall City, WA 98024

July 29, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a land owner I have benefitted from your blackberry removal program with native plantings restoration. The employees and volunteers have always been excellent workers. The King County staff is very knowledgeable about all aspects of their work and implications to the 'big picture'. It's a joy to have them come out and work on my property!

I agree that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Laura Gieber

Terle-Lee Taylor-Smith

13910 – 21th Ave SE

Issaquah, WA 98027

29 July 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a farmer, I have utilized KCD's help through a farm plan, manure spreader rental, and LIP project.

I agree that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,



Terle-Lee Taylor-Smith

Public Support Letter - FARMER

Melissa Lang

From: Melissa Lang
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:24 PM
To: John Stokes
Subject: Letter of Support KCD

From: billziehl@comcast.net [<mailto:billziehl@comcast.net>]

To Whom it may concern,

I wanted to express my admiration and support for the King County Conservation District. The district has helped me for years through visits to my site, workshops and my calls. On the property we raise and board horses and it now has a farm plan. Once receiving it we've followed it to build our facility and structures on site. Pasture management has also been of assistance through the workshops, advice and most recently the use of the compost spreader. A lot of what was learned in classroom workshops has also been applied in other areas of the farm. The classes that I've been to are of collage level in quality. I've learned so much from them for a better facility and more in harmony with nature. A few of the suggestions I originally disagreed with yet after construction found value in them. This is a help to all of us in the community who want to better our own lives and nature as well. I give my highest recommendation for all they do for King County.

Sincerely,

William Ziehl

206-478-0709

Melissa Lang

From: Nicolette Marschke
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 11:34 AM
To: Melissa Lang
Subject: FW: Support for the KCD

-----Original Message-----

From: Marcie Cleaver [<mailto:gairhart@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Nicolette Marschke
Subject: Support for the KCD

Nicolette,

I am writing to tell you how much I value being able to attend farm tours sponsored by the KCD.
The tours demonstrate best practices, seeing them in person helps me to better incorporate them into my cattle operation. Alayne Bickle is a wealth of information and does a nice job of MC'ing the events.

I have learned new methods to manage manure and rain run off.

Seeing equipment is great! I learn about possible implements that may work on my property. Where else can a farmer go to see all this in action with a narrative of the pro's and cons?

Thank you for the the KCD services!

Cordially,

Marcie Cleaver
Cattle Rancher

Sent from my iPad

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4716 / Virus Database: 3986/7901 - Release Date: 07/22/14

Sara Clark
834 210th Ave NE
Sammamish, WA

7/25/14

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- Native Plant Sale Purchase
- Workshop/Class on Permaculture
- Workshop/Class on Pasture Management
- Farm Tour

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

I feel so fortunate to live in King County and enjoy this incredible resource. The work that KCD does provides such a vital service to this community. It benefits the people, the land, and the animals- both wild and domestic. I rely on KCD as a much-needed resource for my farm and garden, and I will continue to rely on them, hopefully far into the future.

Sincerely,

Sara Clark

Sarah and Brian Lowry
9131 Gorsuch Rd SW
Vashon, WA 98070

July 9, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As both farmers and residents of King County, we appreciate the work that KCD does to assist land owners with being responsible and ecologically attentive land stewards.

Our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices and we believe supporting sustainable agriculture in King County is an essential way for King Conservation District to ensure that King County has a thriving and healthy environment. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah and Brian Lowry
Residents, land owners and farmers on Vashon Island, King County

Bill and Becky Evans
26920 SE 411 St
Enumclaw, Wa 98022

July 22, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- Farm Tour
- Technical Advice re: Managing surface water runoff

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

William and Rebecca Evans



July 22, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As residents of King County we wish to express our support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). We have used the following KCD services:

- Soil Testing - 20+ acres
- Native Plant Sale Purchase –c reek bank fill
- Workshops/Classes in Black Diamond, March, 2012 and Auburn, 2013
- Farm Tour – several from 2012 to present
- Technical Advice re: Manure Management bin construction; pasture fencing materials and manure spreader equipment loan
- Volunteer Event – attended and participated in Boise Creek water testing

We are aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1st which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

We believe in the importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasing important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. We have appreciated KCD's services and programs in the past and look forward to continuing our relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Bryan & Susan Heiser
Trinity Ranch
PO Box 1262
Enumclaw, WA 98022-1262

Dennis and Jan Monstad

38520 251st Pl. SE

Enumclaw, WA 98022

7/21/2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen

Chair, Board of Supervisors

King Conservation District

1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130

Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- Soil Testing
- Workshop/Classes: 2012, 2013 and 2014
- Farm Tour
- Technical Advice re: a possible Farm Plan

I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to greatly increase your conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

The importance of having an agency committed to the preservation and maintenance of our natural resources will become increasing important in the coming years as we face

Claire Foster
10721 296th Ave ne
Carnation, WA 98014
July 25, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a supporter of the Carnation Farmers Market, I have utilized KCD's assistance through purchasing fresh produce and seeing increased revenue coming into my community. As a steward of over 100 acres I have used KCD's services to craft a farm plan and access CREP funds for restoration work along critical salmon habitat. As a member of the Board of Directors for SnoValley Tilth, I appreciate all of the support the KCD gives to small farmers and would like to see the KCD better able to address the needs of produce growers as well as livestock owners, many of whom owns horses for recreation rather than for food production.

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District and they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food. For example, KCD's work to introduce a pilot food voucher program in Auburn is helping low income residents overcome this issue. KCDs state commitment to supporting our local food economy in an investment in our region.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasing important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,



Claire Foster



28901 N.E. Carnation Farm Road • Carnation, Washington 98014
Phone: 206-788-1511 Fax: 206-788-6007

7/24/14

Dear Mr. Knutson:

as a resident of King County
I am supporting KCD, I have used
KDC's assistance through purchasing @
Carnation Farmers Mkt. and increased revenue
coming into Duwamish and Carnation.

But of all is the fresh produce, I am so
lucky.

The Farmer's Markets are vital to the farmers
and KCD is instrumental in providing
assistance & marketing to a network of
markets throughout King County.

Thanks

Danny Redman
27313 NE 116th St.
Duwamish, WA.
98019

Hannah Cavendish-Palmer
12721 277th Place NE
Duvall, WA 98019

July 24, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a supporter of the Carnation Farmers Market, I have utilized KCD's assistance through purchasing fresh produce and seeing increased revenue coming into my community.

Farmers markets are a vital outlet for many small to mid size farmers in King County and KCD is instrumental in providing financial and marketing support to a network of markets throughout King County. Often a small infusion of capital is all that is needed to get a quality farmers market up and running.

Helping to build a healthy, local, sustainable food system is a real priority for King Conservation District and they are working with farmers markets to help identify and resolve barriers that may keep our neighbors from enjoying fresh, locally grown food. For example, KCD's work to introduce a pilot food voucher program in Auburn is helping low income residents overcome this issue. KCDs state commitment to supporting our local food economy in an investment in our region.

The importance of having a robust and sustainable food system will become increasingly important in the coming years as we face the challenges of severe weather events and increased population moving into our area. I have appreciated KCD's support of farmers markets in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,



Hannah Cavendish-Palmer

Maureen Sunn
5507 258th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98053

July 10, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). I have used the following KCD service:

- Native Plant Sale
- Technical Advice, support and project completion re: wetland restoration

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I am aware of King Conservation District's plan to submit an expanded Program of Work to the King County Council on August 1 which will include a request to reinstate their legislative funding ceiling of nearly \$10.00 per parcel. I fully support this request and suggest that it is a small amount to pay for helping landowners improve or maintain healthy environments in our increasingly urban and compressed space.

I am an example of a property owner straddling the rural/suburban boundary. Properties like mine, filled with trees and swamp land provide an important resource for wildlife, privacy, air quality and drainage especially when surrounded by housing developments filled with large lawns and driveways. This area, just east of Redmond, has that mix of development. There are 5 acre parcels surrounded by developments with large homes, many small hobby farms of an acre or two and the occasional mobile home pinched between. Pesticide use, water use, waste management and noxious weed control are programs that the entire area is in need of. An expanded KCD program would certainly be a benefit.

An example of need comes to mind. Just this week, King County has started a fairly expensive project which will replace a culvert on Union Hill Road to reduce flooding and meet the requirements for fish passage. It seems like a good idea to make sure that the properties that drain in Patterson Creek do not spoil these efforts. KCD services are exactly the kind needed to educate and support these landowners. I would like to see this fee include not only the services of KCD to help these people, I would also like to see a coordinated effort by KCD and King County agencies to proactively provide outreach regarding waste management and runoff control when projects like this are put in place. More information about KCD services is needed not less. The only way to do this is to have a budget that includes reaching out to people that would otherwise not look into these services.

Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to double conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on

Public Support Letter – General

July 9, 2014

Donevan and Rachel Dexheimer
26827 SE 216th St.
Maple Valley, WA 98038

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen,

We have owned a small farm in Hobart for nine years and worked extensively with KCD to develop our property both for our benefit and the benefit of the community. When we bought our farm, the previous owners had turned one of the pastures into a mud bog with just two horses. We worked with KCD to develop a farm plan to manage our herd of seven horses, which resulted in green, lush pastures with no mud at all. KCD has also helped us to reestablish native plants in the wetland areas of our property to increase the biodiversity and water quality in a stream which flows across our property and, eventually, into Issaquah Creek and Lake Sammamish.

Just this year, we have seen an increased frequency of wildlife on our property, including increased visits from the local elk herd, more deer than usual, and bird species that we have never seen at our farm previously. We believe that this is due to the careful stewarding of our farm and credit the assistance that we've have received from KCD for our success.

While we generally manage our property for our herd of horses, we have explored the possibility of farming organic produce or raising organic stock but have not considered it to be financially viable. We hope that KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative would help us and other land owners to make local agriculture sustainable. We believe that growing and buying local, sustainable foods is of value to the entire community and believe that KCD can help local farmers in that endeavor.

We support KCD's initiative to be fully funded so that it can continue to help the environment and the community. We urge you to support KCD as it works to restore the funding cuts of the last few years.

Thank you for the work that you and your board do.

Sincerely,

Donevan and Rachel Dexheimer

Mary Celigoy
The Red Barn
10736 154th PL SE
Renton, WA 98059

July 19, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1107 SW Grady Way
Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

As a resident of King County I wish to express my support for the work and services provided by King Conservation District (KCD). As a farmer, I have utilized KCD's help through the creation of a farm plan, making possible a major matching funds project that resulted in graveled 1-acre holding pen, also coordinated and implemented a major planting project on our farm along May Creek.

I agree that our local environment is better served when small, mid and large scale farmers are using environmentally responsible practices. King Conservation District helps the farming community achieve this goal through farm plans, waste management, forestry planning, technical support and financial assistance.

Additionally, King Conservation District has identified significant gaps in the areas of processing, storage and the distribution infrastructure that continues to pose a real barrier to local farmers getting their products to market. The work proposed in KCD's Rural Sustainable Agriculture Initiative will help to address those issues. This is a regional benefit that improves the livelihood of rural farmer as well as providing healthy, local food to the urban consumer.

Without KCD's assistance many of our local farms run the risk of folding under the weight of lean margins, climate changes, and limited marketing opportunities. I have appreciated KCD's support in the past and look forward to continuing my partnership with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Celigoy
The Red Barn

Maureen Sunn
5507 258th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98053

July 10, 2014

Mr. Bill Knutsen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

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- Native Plant Sale
  - Technical Advice, support and project completion re: wetland restoration
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Through on-the-ground services and grants to partner organizations, this much-needed funding will allow KCD to double conservation efforts throughout the District. With an expanded emphasis on

serving the needs of urban constituents, it will be exciting to watch KCD respond to increased demand for local food, healthy forests and clean water.

I have benefited from KCD's services and programs in the past and appreciate their good work. I look forward to continuing my relationship with King Conservation District in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Sunn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Maureen Sunn