

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 11-009

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING A STATE CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND.

Title: State Conservation Enhancement Fund

Problem: Many residents of the state would like to make dedicated investments towards the conservation efforts in the state of Washington. There currently is no good method that would allow for such a collection. Residents would like to have a choice if they would like to invest in these programs as well. Many revenues that have supported the conservation efforts in the past are decreasing and yet the ongoing conservation efforts and investments are at a point where we need to be able to apply those investments to on-the-ground work.

Several newspaper articles in the past year have indicated that the average family in United States feels that an annual investment of \$20.00 per family would be very acceptable.

Recommendation: That each county include on its property tax bill an “OPT-OUT” contribution for the **Conservation Enhancement Fund** for the amount of Seven Dollars (\$7.00) per tax statement. The Seven Dollar (\$7.00) would be added to the Tax bill with the option to not make the contribution which then could be deducted from the total shown on the tax bill. Washington State Conservation districts are allowed per RCW 89-08 to receive donations and qualify as non-profits.

The Funds collected within that taxing authority’s jurisdiction would be distributed as follows:

78.8 percent shall be distributed to the Conservation district associated with that where the funds were collected. Each conservation district with its board of supervisors would utilize those funds for activities within district and per state rules within that taxing authority’s jurisdiction where those funds were collected.

1.2 percent shall be retained by the taxing authority for administrative cost of the collection and distribution of the voluntary contributions.

20 percent shall be distributed to the State Conservation Commission. Of those funds received by the State Conservation Commission, 49% of those funds would be determined and utilized by the Conservation Commission for use and 49% to be placed in a Grants Program to be awarded to those districts that do not have an assessment in place and 2% to be used for administrative cost by the Conservation Commission.

Presented by: King Conservation District and Max Prinsen, Supervisor