



**Signature Report**

**June 11, 2008**

**Ordinance**

**Proposed No.** 2008-0270.1

**Sponsors** Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to agriculture, adding a  
2 definition for "farm pad," amending the definition of  
3 compensatory storage, allowing greater range of flexibility  
4 in providing compensatory storage, allowing farm pads and  
5 nonresidential agricultural accessory buildings in the  
6 Federal Emergency Management Agency floodway,  
7 providing the option for wet flood-proofing of some  
8 agricultural buildings, providing limited agricultural  
9 exceptions to the depth and velocity standards, establishing  
10 a compensatory storage bank; amending Ordinance 10870,  
11 Section 85, and K.C.C. 21A.06.225, Ordinance 10870,  
12 Section 454, as amended, and K.C.C. 21A.24.070,  
13 Ordinance 10870, Section 471, as amended, and K.C.C.  
14 21A.24.240, Ordinance 10870, Section 473, as amended,  
15 and K.C.C. 21A.24.260, Ordinance 3688, Section 404 and  
16 K.C.C. 25.16.040 and Ordinance 3688, Section 414, as

17 amended and K.C.C. 25.16.190 and adding a new section to  
18 K.C.C. chapter 21A.06.

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20 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

21 1. Motion 12559, passed on July 30, 2007, directed the King County  
22 executive to convene a task force to undertake the review of measures  
23 intended to encourage viability of agriculture within the Snoqualmie  
24 valley agricultural production district. The focus of the task force was to  
25 identify programmatic or regulatory changes to floodplain regulations that  
26 will benefit agriculture while simultaneously maintaining strong  
27 floodplain management standards to assure no adverse impact to upstream  
28 and downstream property owners from flooding or impact salmon habitat.

29 2. The task force included representatives from the agricultural  
30 community, including the Hmong farmers, the King Conservation District,  
31 the King County agricultural commission and staff from the King County  
32 departments of development and environmental services and natural  
33 resources and parks.

34 3. The task force met for approximately three months and made sixteen  
35 recommendations, including changes to county code that will provide  
36 more regulatory flexibility to area farmers while maintaining strong  
37 floodplain management standards.

38 4. The King County executive transmitted the task force report to the  
39 King County council on February 1, 2008.

40           5. This ordinance represents the code amendments recommended in the  
41           Snoqualmie Flood-Farm Task Force Report, which will apply within all of  
42           King County's agricultural production districts.

43           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

44           NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 21A.06 a  
45           new section to read as follows:

46           Farm pad: an artificially created mound of earth or an elevated platform placed  
47           within a flood hazard area and constructed to an elevation that is above the base flood  
48           elevation to provide an area of refuge for livestock or small animals, and for storage of  
49           farm vehicles, agricultural equipment((;)) and shelter for farm products including, but not  
50           limited to, feed, seeds, flower bulbs and hay.

51           SECTION 2. Ordinance 10870, Section 85, and K.C.C. 21A.06.225 are each  
52           hereby amended to read as follows:

53           Compensatory storage: new, excavated storage volume equivalent to any flood  
54           storage ((which)) that is eliminated by building filling or grading within the ((flood  
55           plain)) floodplain. ((For the purpose of this definition, equivalent flood storage capacity  
56           is that which is replaced by equal volume between corresponding one-foot contour  
57           intervals which are hydraulically connected to the floodway through their entire depth.))

58           SECTION 3. Ordinance 10870, Section 454, as amended and K.C.C. 21A.24.070  
59           are each hereby amended to read as follows:

60           A. The director may approve alterations to critical areas, critical area buffers and  
61           critical area setbacks not otherwise allowed by this chapter as follows:

