

9/21/11

Sponsored By: Executive Committee

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GMPC MOTION NO. 11-2

A MOTION adopting a work plan to create a School Siting Task Force.

WHEREAS, in the 1990's and into the 2000's, with rising land costs in urban areas and rapid growth, many school districts in King County purchased rural land for future school sites; and

WHEREAS, since that time, demographic and policy changes have occurred and there are examples of best practices that reflect a more community-based approach to school siting; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to address the changing environment and support school districts in their obligation to provide quality education for the children of King County; and

WHEREAS, VISION 2040 states that "The multicounty planning policies are designed to be broad. They provide overall guidance and direction for planning processes and decision-making at both regional and local levels" (page 31); and

WHEREAS, VISION 2040 further states: "Given the strong integration across the various policy sections in VISION 2040, the full body of multicounty policies is to be considered in decision-making for various programs, projects, and planning processes" (page 31); and

WHEREAS, VISION 2040 further states: "The multicounty policies also serve as planning guidelines and principles as required by state law to provide a common framework for regional and local planning, particularly in the area of transportation planning and its relationship to land use" (page 31); and

WHEREAS, VISION 2040, in the context of providing for sewage treatment capacity, also states that, "With very few exceptions – generally provided only for schools or for specific health, safety, or environmental concerns – sanitary sewer service is allowed only in urban areas" (page 91); and

40 WHEREAS, VISION 2040 also states that “Schools should be encouraged to
41 become the cornerstones of their communities by locating in more urban settings and
42 designing facilities to better integrate with their urban neighborhoods” (page 94); and
43

44 WHEREAS, PS-Action-6 in VISION 2040 directs counties and cities to collaborate
45 with special service districts to review district location and design criteria for new schools
46 to ensure that growth management goals and the regional vision are addressed (page 95);
47 and
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49 WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act (GMA) states that “In general, it is not
50 appropriate that urban governmental services be extended to or expanded in rural areas
51 except in those limited circumstances shown to be necessary to protect basic public health
52 and safety and the environment and when such services are financially supportable at rural
53 densities and do not permit urban development”; and
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55 WHEREAS, the GMA definition of “urban governmental services” does not
56 include schools but does include sewer systems; and
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58 WHEREAS, certain School Districts believe that the June 15 2011 draft
59 Countywide Planning Policies that relate to constructing new schools in the rural area
60 make it difficult for them to fully utilize the fifteen properties in their inventories that are
61 located within the Rural Area; and
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63 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the King County Growth Management Planning
64 Council (GMPC) that the financial stability and programmatic functions of the school
65 districts be maintained while adhering to growth management rules and regulations at the
66 state, regional, and local level; and
67

68 WHEREAS, the School Siting Task Force to be established in accordance with
69 Attachment A to this motion will provide periodic reports to the GMPC and will submit its
70 report to the King County Executive who will then transmit the report to the GMPC for
71 their deliberation:
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73 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Growth Management Planning
74 Council of King County hereby adopts the School Siting Task Force work plan, included
75 with this motion as Attachment A.
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Dow Constantine, Chair, Growth Management Planning Council

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81 Attachment A: School Siting Task Force Work Plan