

RE: Proposed State Legislation

Your agenda tonight deals with regional and state issues. I request you provide staff direction regarding two diametrically opposed pieces of legislation; one in the house and one in the senate.

HB-2335, attached, would require the use of independent, peer reviewed science in policy decisions involving fish and wildlife and ecology. As you'll recall, residents of Bellevue (and many other jurisdictions) have raised issue with the lack of such science in decision making regarding the shoreline management program. I encourage the City's support in moving this bill forward.

SB-6369, also attached, would invoke what's called the *precautionary principle*. Under it, the demands for public funds would increase astronomically. This bill would have you abandon sound scientific reasoning and fact in favor of projects and programs based on conjecture. Couched as efforts to save the environment and insure public health, any perceived threat would be added to a never ending list of similar demands.

Residents don't object to environmentally oriented projects and programs. But such projects and programs must be based on sound, scientifically-based reasoning and risk assessment. Examples? I've brought to your attention where Bellevue's shorelines on Lake Sammamish have been damaged by placement of ill-conceived blockages created at its outlet on the Sammamish River. Consideration of sound engineering was abandoned by the perceived need for environmental restoration plantings that now block outflow.

Last fall you heard reports from King County Flood District staff regarding settlement of a case involving drowning that was attributable to a similar "precautionary" project placed by the County in the Cedar River. Again, facts were abandoned and an environmental restoration project created a liability that cost us \$8 million.

Reason and prudence coupled with analysis, such as EIS's, and budget consideration have worked. We should stay with that approach, using factual, science-based information, not conjecture, where public expenditures are concerned. Please register Bellevue as opposed to this SB 6369.

Thanks!

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