

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2007 - 422 A

<i>CLEARANCES</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Date Received in Council Office</i>	<i>Agenda Date</i>	<i>Assigned to:</i>
<i>Originator:</i>		11/7/2007		11/07/2007	Introduction
<i>Division Head:</i>				11/20/2007	Hearing
<i>Dept. Head:</i>					
<i>Prosecutor:</i>					
<i>Purchasing/Budget:</i>					
<i>Executive:</i>					

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Ordinance authorizing the Levy of Taxes for County Conservation Futures Purposes

ATTACHMENTS:

<i>SEPA review required?</i> () Yes () NO	<i>Should Clerk schedule a hearing ?</i> () Yes () NO
<i>SEPA review completed?</i> () Yes () NO	<i>Requested Date:</i>

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

An ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County conservation futures purposes in Whatcom County, Washington, for the Year of 2008 pursuant to Home Rule Chart Section 6.10

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

11/07/2007: Introduced
 11/20/2007: Council Adopted 4-3, Nelson, Crawford & Brenner opposed Ord. 2007-063
 NOTE: On 11/28/2007 Executive Pete Kremen vetoed this ordinance - See attached memo

<i>Related County Contract #:</i>	<i>Related File Numbers:</i> AB2007-422	<i>Ordinance or Resolution Number:</i> Ord. 2007-063
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Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

SPONSORED BY: Consent
PROPOSED BY: Caseky-Schreiber & Weimer
INTRODUCTION DATE: November 7, 2007

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-063

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR COUNTY
CONSERVATION FUTURES PURPOSES IN WHATCOM COUNTY,
WASHINGTON, FOR THE YEAR OF 2008 PURSUANT TO HOME RULE
CHARTER SECTION 6.10**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Home Rule Charter Section 6.10 the County Executive is required for submit to Council consideration a budget and proposed tax and revenue ordinances necessary to raise sufficient revenues to balance the budget; and,

WHEREAS, the County Council has approved a budget, for the 2007-2008 biennium, including all sources of revenues and anticipated expenditures; and,

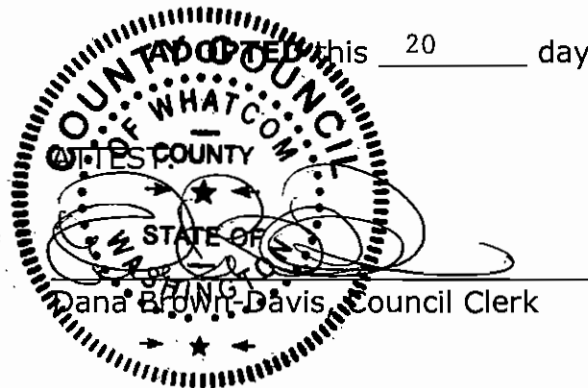
WHEREAS, the biennial budget provides detailed listings of various revenues including property taxes; and,

WHEREAS, the County Council has held a public hearing concerning the biennial budget, the property tax rates, and revenues included therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by the Whatcom County Council that an increase in the regular Conservation Futures property tax levy, in addition to any amount resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property and any increase in the value of state-assessed property, is hereby authorized for the 2008 levy in the amount of \$57,684.43, which is a percentage increase of 6.39% from the previous year.

this 20 day of November, 2007

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Karen Frank
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Carl Weimer
Carl Weimer, Chairperson

() APPROVED (X) DENIED

Pete Kremen
Pete Kremen, Executive

Date: 11-28-07

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225-4082



Pete Kremen
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Carl Weimer, County Council Chair
County Council Members

cc: Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

From: Pete Kremen, County Executive

Date: November 28, 2007

Subject: Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County Conservation Futures purposes for 2008

I am writing to advise you that I am exercising my right of veto as allowed by Whatcom County Charter article 2, section 2.30. I am vetoing the passage of a tax levy for the County Conservation Futures program at the Whatcom County council meeting held on November 20 (Ordinance #2007-063). This is sent to you to be entered into the journal of council proceedings.

It is my position that before the County increases revenue via a tax levy we must first fulfill the following:

1. Identify a clear and compelling rationale
2. Develop a well supported plan that will address the matter with adequate justification for additional revenue.
3. Obtain meaningful public involvement either through public hearings or a vote of the people.

We have used this fund appropriately, efficiently and effectively. I am proud of the track record that the council and my administration has in utilizing these funds to preserve thousands of acres of natural and special open spaces for posterity.

Currently there is a fund balance of nearly \$3 million in the Conservation Futures Fund and an annual property levy that adds approximately \$1 million to that fund each year. Therefore, there is no compelling reason for a tax increase. Adding additional revenue may be well intentioned. However, we need to ensure that there is thorough rationale for any tax increase we wish to put in place. I am not convinced that we have met that test and thus have vetoed the ordinance.

PK/ah