

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Pierce County Council Finds:

1. Section 2.96.080 of the Pierce County Code (PCC) requires that the Conservation Futures Program be reviewed every five years and amended, if deemed in the public interest to do so.
2. During the months of May and June 2008, the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and Technical Advisor Committee (TAC) for the Pierce Count Conservation Futures Program reviewed the program and related Pierce County Code (PCC) Chapters, 2.96 and 2.97.
3. The CAB and TAC issued its “2008 Program Review and Recommendation” in a final report dated June 24, 2008.
4. Among other things, the June 24, 2008 report makes specific recommended changes to PCC 2.97, “Conservation Futures Fund Allocation and Selection Criteria.”
5. The Pierce County Council adopted Resolution No. R2008-130 on October 7, 2008 requesting the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services Department to coordinate with the Planning and Land Services Department, and the Pierce County Assessor Treasurer’s Office in the preparation of amendments to Chapters 19D.170, 2.97, 2.114 and Title 18A PCC. The Resolution also requested the Planning Commission to review the proposed amendments and forward its recommendation to the Council.
6. On March 24, 2009, the Planning Commission reviewed proposed changes to Chapters 19D.170, 2.97, 2.114 and Title 18A PCC and accepted public testimony on the changes.
7. On March 24, 2009, the Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend approval of the proposed amendments, but expressed concern with the absence of specific text in Section 2.114.060 1.1.e Prairies. The Commission asked that the Council require criteria language, rather than a placeholder, prior to final action.
8. Notice of the Planning Commission public hearing was published in The News Tribune on March 11, 2009, and the Puyallup Herald on March 12, 2009.
9. The Environmental Official has determined the proposed revisions are exempt from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under WAC 197-11-800(19).

