



DOW CONSTANTINE
Metropolitan King County Council
District Eight

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April 3, 2009

Ron Sims
King County Executive
401 Fifth Ave., Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Sims:

I am writing to call for the immediate removal of Puget Sound Park from the list of "Sustainable Communities and Affordable Housing Demonstration Projects" cited in the Department of Development and Environmental Services' March 31 notification letter.

I was dismayed to see this parcel listed along with several other non-park properties being prepared for conversion to housing use. I have previously stated in writing that I would not support any conversion proposal for any portion of this park that did not have the support of both the North Highline community and the city of Burien, which is pursuing the annexation of the surrounding neighborhood. As the city of Burien has registered its formal opposition and the community appears adamantly opposed to selling all or part of the park, it should be removed from the proposed ordinance.

Parks have immense value to their surrounding communities, and replacement of this park property in this immediate neighborhood would be difficult at best. Replacement at a site elsewhere in King County is, of course, wholly inadequate.

Our County's unmet need for workforce housing is of great concern, and I want to work with you in your new capacity to make this program a success. But, I do not feel that the conversion of public parks to housing sites is appropriate.

I cannot support the Sustainable Communities and Affordable Housing proposal until Puget Sound Park is removed from further consideration and, if it this legislation is introduced, I will take immediate action to amend it to protect this neighborhood park.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
Chair, King County Council
District Eight

cc: King County Council members
North Highline Unincorporated Area Council members
City of Burien