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**RESOLUTION NO. 00-303**  
**SUPPORTING THE DECISION OF THE SEATTLE METROPOLITAN**  
**AREA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO INVITE THE**  
**USDA -WILDLIFE SERVICES TO CONTROL THE POPULATION**  
**OF CANADA GEESE**

**WHEREAS**, the non-migrating population of Canada geese in the Puget Sound region has grown from almost zero to approximately 25,000 since the early 1970s and continues to grow at a rate of about 14% per year; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada goose feces contain disease-causing organisms which include salmonella, giardia and cryptosporidium; and

**WHEREAS**, the accumulation of goose feces at parks, beaches, children's play areas, playfields, moorages, reservoirs, and golf courses presents a public health concern throughout the region due to increased risk of exposure to disease organisms by humans who come into contact with the feces; and

**WHEREAS**, the incidence of human contact with Canada geese fecal materials is on the increase; and

**WHEREAS**, bacterial contamination traced to Canada geese feces has resulted in the closure of public swimming beaches and added non-point pollution (i.e., pollution that has no specifically identifiable source) to regional lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the high number of geese in the area, bacterial counts at some of the public swimming beaches are anticipated to be over the closure standards in the year 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to being the source of high bacterial counts at a number of regional swimming areas, Canada geese are an intermediate host for the parasite that causes swimmers' itch when the larvae burrow under a swimmer's skin. With increasing geese populations, more goose feces are excreted in the water, including the parasite's eggs, increasing the opportunity for the larval parasite to affect swimmers; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous methods have been employed to control the Canada goose population, including trapping, relocation to suitable sites, egg addling, repellants and harassment; however, the population of urban Canada geese continues to increase; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 14, 1999, Public Health - Seattle & King County provided a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Wildlife Services supporting the option of population reduction; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 22, 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a permit to USDA - Wildlife Services to kill up to 3,500 resident Canada geese from May 1 to September 1,

2000 in King, Pierce, Jefferson, Thurston, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Mason, Kitsap, Clallum, Island and San Juan Counties;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH** supports the unanimous decision of the Seattle Metropolitan Area Waterfowl Management Committee to invite the USDA - Wildlife Services to control the population of Canada geese in King County.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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s/Greg Nickels/s