



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**July 28, 2005**

**Ordinance 15242**

**Proposed No.** 2005-0097.2

**Sponsors** Constantine, Pelz, Patterson,  
Edmonds and Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to water facilities in rural areas;  
2 and amending Ordinance 11616, Section 13, as amended,  
3 and K.C.C. 13.24.138.

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6 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

7 SECTION 1. Ordinance 11616 Section 13, as amended, and K.C.C. 13.24.138

8 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

9 **Water facilities in rural areas.**

10 A. Standards and plans for utility services in rural areas and the design and scale  
11 of new water facilities that serve the Urban Growth Area but must be located in the rural  
12 area shall be consistent with the needs of long-term low-density residential development  
13 and resource industries in the rural area.

14 B. Consistent with RCW 90.54.020, 70.116, and 70.119A, existing Group A and  
15 Group B water systems with approved water system plans are the preferred means of  
16 water service within the Rural Area. New development in the rural area (~~may~~) must be

17 served by ~~((individual private wells,))~~ Group A water systems ~~((or)),~~ Group B water  
18 systems ~~((as follows))~~ or individual private wells in the following priority order:

19 1. By a Group A water system through direct service, ~~((if))~~ if the proposed  
20 development is in an approved service area that has been assigned to a Group A water  
21 system through a King County-approved coordinated water system plan or is within the  
22 approved service area in ~~((an))~~ the individual water system plan of a Group A water  
23 system that has been reviewed by the county and approved by the state ~~((, the proposed~~  
24 ~~development shall be served by that Group A water system through direct service, if))~~  
25 and direct service can be provided by that system in a timely and reasonable manner;

26 2. By a new public water system owned and operated a Group A water system  
27 or by a satellite management agency as provided in RCW 70.119A.060, until direct  
28 service can be provided by a Group A water system, ~~((if))~~ if:

29 a. the proposed development is within the approved service area of a Group A  
30 water system, as described in subsection B.1. of this section, and direct service cannot be  
31 provided by that system in a timely and reasonable manner; or

32 b. the proposed development is ~~((included))~~ in ~~((an))~~ the service area  
33 ~~((currently served by))~~ of a water system that the county has determined has known  
34 quality or quantity problems that threaten public health ~~((, or if direct service cannot be~~  
35 ~~provided in a timely and reasonable manner, then the county may authorize the creation~~  
36 ~~of a new public water system only if the new system is owned and operated either by the~~  
37 ~~existing system or by a satellite management agency as provided in RCW 70.119A.060~~  
38 ~~until direct service can be provided));~~ ~~((or))~~

39           3. By an existing Group A or Group B water system able and willing to provide  
40 safe and reliable potable water when it may be done with reasonable economy and  
41 efficiency, ((F))if the proposed development is ((included)) not in an approved service  
42 area that has been assigned to a Group A water system through a King County-approved  
43 coordinated water system plan((;)) and is not within the approved service area identified  
44 in ((an)) the individual water system plan of a Group A water system that has been  
45 reviewed by the county and approved by the state((, the county may require the new  
46 development to connect to an existing system able and willing to provide safe and  
47 reliable potable water when it may be done with reasonable economy and efficiency. If  
48 such a connection cannot be made, the county may authorize the creation of a new Group  
49 B water system, but only if it otherwise meets relevant land use and public health  
50 requirements, and the provisions of subsection E of this section, if applicable.)):

51           4. ~~((If water service cannot be provided under subsection B.1. through B.3. of~~  
52 ~~this section, the county may authorize the creation of a private well, only if the well~~  
53 ~~otherwise meets relevant land use and public health requirements and the provisions of~~  
54 ~~subsection E. of this section, if applicable)) By a new Group A or Group B water system  
55 that meets relevant land use and public health requirements and, if applicable, the  
56 provisions of subsection E of this section; or~~

57           5. By a private well that meets relevant land use and public health requirements  
58 and, if applicable, the provisions of subsection E. of this section. If the proposed  
59 development to be served by the private well is in an approved service area that has been  
60 assigned to a Group A water system through a coordinated water system plan approved  
61 by the King County council or is within the approved service area in ((an)) the individual

62 water system plan of a Group A water system that has been reviewed by the county and  
63 approved by the state, the county shall condition its approval upon the future connection  
64 of the development to the water system when service from that system becomes  
65 available.

66 C. Existing Group A water systems shall not be expanded beyond the total  
67 number of lots that the system is ultimately designed to serve, except as otherwise  
68 provided in subsection D. of this section.

69 D. A Group A water system may be established or expanded if:

70 1. The area has been assigned to a water purveyor through a King County-  
71 adopted coordinated water system plan; and

72 2. Before approval of the new system or system extension, the maximum  
73 number of connections has been specified based on the number of previously platted, or  
74 otherwise legally divided, lots and the zoning approved for the total rural area being  
75 served, and Group A service is financially feasible at the resulting density, as described in  
76 an approved water system plan.

77 E. In a closed basin, as defined by chapters 173-507, 173-508, 173-509, 173-510  
78 and 173-515 WAC, or on Vashon-Maury Island, a private well or a public water system  
79 created to provide domestic water for a proposed (~~(subdivision)~~) division or redivision of  
80 land and that uses an exempt well under RCW 90.44.050 shall meet the following  
81 standards:

82 1. The (~~(public water system may serve)~~) proposed division or redivision of land  
83 shall be for no more than six lots;

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84           2. Only one public water system may be created to serve the ~~((subdivision))~~ lots  
85 created by the proposed division or redivision of land;

86           3. ~~((The public water system may have a))~~ Only one exempt well may be created  
87 to serve the lots created by the proposed division or redivision of land, unless more than  
88 one exempt well is required to meet water flow requirements; and

89           4. The private well or public water system shall allow no more than one-half  
90 acre of irrigation.

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Ordinance 15242 was introduced on 3/7/2005 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 7/25/2005, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. Pelz, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms.  
Hague, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine  
No: 5 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Hammond and Mr.  
Irons  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

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APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

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**Attachments**     None