



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Date: January 7, 2016
Subject: 2016 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE #1

RECOMMENDATION:

Council should receive its first update on the 2016 legislative session.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

At its November 17, 2015 meeting, Council adopted the City's State Legislative Priorities for the 2016 legislative session (Attachment A). The regular 2016 legislative session is a short, 60-day session that begins on Monday, January 11 and ends on Thursday, March 10. The cutoff calendar for the 2016 regular session was not available at the writing of this memo. The legislature's adopted cutoff calendar for 2016 will be provided to Council once it is made available.

There is no significant update on session activities, as this first update on the City's legislative interests is being written January 7, while the session doesn't officially open until January 11. Staff will provide an oral update on legislative activities at Council's regular meeting on January 19.

Pre-Session Preparation

Since the adoption of the 2016 Legislative Priorities in November, Council's Legislative Workgroup, staff and the City's state legislative advocacy consultants have been working with stakeholders, legislators and committee staff on developing draft legislation associated with the City's adopted priorities. Beginning in mid-December, the City's subject-matter experts also began reviewing prefiled pieces of legislation. Finally, staff has been organizing logistics and details for the AWC's annual City Action Days that will be held on January 27 and 28.

Council's Legislative Workgroup

Beginning November 17 and ending January 11, the Council's Legislative Workgroup hosted its annual legislative coffees with the City's delegation members. These meetings provide an opportunity to thank delegation members for their service and past support and to discuss the City's 2016 legislative priorities before the start of the session.

Once the session opens, the Council's Legislative Workgroup (Mayor Walen, Councilmember Asher and Councilmember Marchione) will meet weekly on Friday's at 3:30pm throughout the session. In addition to the legislative breakfasts, the Council's Legislative Workgroup is scheduled to meet on January 8.

Kirkland's Legislative Review Process

Proposed legislative bills are introduced daily in the Senate, the House, or both through the first cut-off, which is anticipated in mid-February. The City's state legislative advocacy consultant flags and forwards relevant bills to intergovernmental staff for review with department(s) and subject-matter experts in an effort to determine potential impacts to the City. This process also includes staff making an initial recommendation on City's position (Support/Oppose/Neutral) on a given bill. Intergovernmental staff then bring bills, reports and recommendations to the Council's Legislative Workgroup for consideration, discussion and validation of staff recommendations. The Legislative Workgroup's decisions are guided by the legislative agenda's general principles, as well as the City Council's Goals. Intergovernmental staff then communicate the City's position on bills to out legislative lobbyist, Council Members and Department Directors.

Status Summary of the City's 2016 legislative priorities

- New policies and funding tools to address homelessness and create more affordable housing:
No update
- Capital budget funding for a multimodal safety improvement project connecting the Cross Kirkland Corridor with the Redmond Central Connector:
Both House and Senate capital budget request forms are completed.
- Allow both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap:
No update
- Facilitate greater access to rooftop residential and community solar installations by extending the timeframe for state solar incentives in the Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery program:
HB 2346, promoting a sustainable, local renewable energy industry through modifying renewable energy system tax incentives and providing guidance for renewable energy system component recycling, was prefiled on January 5 with Representative Morris (D-40th LD) as the prime sponsor.

If passed, the bill would reset the rates, ensure current payment to those customers already in the program, raise the cap and extends the program. It's not clear yet where all the interest groups are on this bill's language.

The installers (Solar Industry of Washington) are leading on this bill. HB 2346 is scheduled for hearing in the House Committee on Technology & Economic Development on January 12. The installers have asked the City to sign-in in support only at that hearing. The City's state advocacy consultants are prepared to do that. Assuming the bill is then referred to the House Finance committee, the City will likely be asked to testify at that hearing.

- Clarify records retention, disclosure, and use limitations of video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers:
HB 1917, concerning video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers, was reintroduced from last session. Representative Hansen (D-23rd LD) is the prime sponsor.

If passed, the bill would provide that video and/or sound recording, of any kind, made by uniformed law enforcement or corrections officers while in the course of their duty are not subject to provisions of the Privacy Act. Prohibits certain recordings from being made available to the public through a public records request, unless the request is for a specific incident and the request is made by either a person directly involved in the incident or a person with a court order. Amends the Privacy Act to allow law enforcement agencies to record private communications when the officer's presence is concealed if the officer has judicial authorization.

WASPC (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs) was the lead on HB 1917 in the 2015 session. At the Police Chief's recommendation, the City took a "neutral" position in 2015 to see how the issue played out in the legislature. HB 1917 is scheduled for hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday, January 14. Staff understands that a new version of the bill is being worked on. However, at the writing of this memo, the legislature's website links to the original bill. Thursday's hearing is an opportunity for the City to offer its stance on uses of body cams e.g., if they are used then what does a city need in order to be able to manage that record.

Bill Tracking and the Bill Tracker

Throughout the session, a bill tracker on positions that the City has taken will be attached to this memorandum. Matrices, updated on Fridays, of Kirkland's legislative priorities and the bill tracker will be emailed to Council in advance of regular council meetings.

If, during the session, a proposed bill (of concern to the City) is determined to be beyond the scope of the legislative agenda's general principles or not in sync with the Council Goals, then the Legislative Committee will bring the bill before the full Council for consideration and discussion at its next regular council meeting.

Week 1 (1/11 – 1/17)

The primary focus in week 7

1. City's subject-matter expert review of bills dropped
2. Preparing for AWC Lobby Day 1/27-28
3. Sign-in at hearing on renewable energy bill
4. Testify at hearing on body cams

Hearings and Correspondence

Bill	Short Title	Cmte	Dt/Time	City Rep.	Notes
HB 2346:	Promoting a sustainable, local renewable energy industry through modifying renewable energy system tax incentives and providing guidance for renewable energy system component recycling.	HTED	1/12	N/A	Sign-In Only
HB 1917:	Concerning video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers	HJud	1/14	TBD	Testify

Cmte (Committee) Legend

- HTED = House Committee on Technology & Economic Development
- HJud = House Judiciary Committee

Correspondence

None – as of the writing of this memo

City's State Legislative Delegation

Three legislative districts (LD) – 45th, 48th and 1st – have significant portions within the City of Kirkland. The City is represented in Olympia by the following:

- Senator Rosemary McAuliffe and Representatives Luis Moscoso and Derek Stanford of the 1st LD.
- Senator Andy Hill and Representatives Larry Springer and Roger Goodman of the 45th LD.
- Senator Cyrus Habib and Representatives Joan McBride and Patty Kuderer of the 48th LD.

AWC ANNUAL CITY ACTION DAYS CONFERENCE:

The AWC's annual City Action Days conference is scheduled for Wednesday January 27 and Thursday, January 28. See the attached conference agenda (Attachment B). Staff has handled basic logistics such as conference registration and lodging. Meetings with all members of the delegation are scheduled as well.

DRAFT SUPPORT ITEMS AGENDA:

As noted in the staff memo for Council's November 17 regular meeting, an annotated DRAFT 2016 Support Item Agenda is provided here for Council's consideration (Attachment C). While many of the City's ally organizations are still finalizing their respective 2016 legislative priorities, the attached draft illustrates some items of support that adopted now. Staff welcome's Council feedback on this draft. Under the assumption that most allies will have adopted their priorities by the start of session, Staff will return with a proposed final 2016 Legislative "Support" Agenda for adoption at Council's February 4 meeting.

- Attachments:
- A. City's adopted 2016 Legislative Priorities
 - B. AWC's City Action Days Conference Agenda
 - C. Proposed Draft (Annotated) 2016 Legislative Support Items Agenda



CITY OF KIRKLAND 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

General Principles

Kirkland supports legislation to promote the City Council's goals and protect the City's ability to provide basic municipal services to its citizens.

- Protect shared state revenue sources available to the City, including the State Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and provide new revenue options and flexibility in the use of existing revenues.
- Support long-term sustainability efforts related to City financial, environmental and transportation goals.
- Oppose unfunded mandates.
- Oppose any further shifting of costs or services from the State or County to cities.

City of Kirkland 2016 Legislative Priorities

- Kirkland supports new policies and funding tools to address homelessness and create more affordable housing, such as:
 - Allow local jurisdictions the option to impose a demolition fee to be dedicated toward construction of affordable housing;
 - Allow local jurisdictions to impose up to an additional 0.25% real estate excise tax (REET) specifically for investments in affordable housing;
 - Allow local jurisdictions to authorize a local option tax exemption to preserve affordability;
 - Allocate additional resources for mental health and substance use disorder treatment;
 - Restore the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to pre-recession levels;
 - Identify State-owned property to host authorized encampments, vehicle parking, emergency shelter, and housing; and
 - Ensure the rights of religious organization to host safe parking efforts for the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization
- Kirkland supports capital budget funding for a multimodal safety improvement project connecting the Cross Kirkland Corridor with the Redmond Central Connector.
- Kirkland supports allowing both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap, currently fixed at 1 percent, with a cap that is indexed to both population growth and inflation.
- Kirkland supports facilitating greater access to rooftop residential and community solar installations by extending the timeframe for state solar incentives in the Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery program.
- Kirkland supports clarifying records retention, disclosure, and use limitations of video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers.



2016 City Action Days

January 27 – Olympia Red Lion Hotel

January 28 – Capitol Campus

Conference schedule

(Subject to change)

January 27 – Red Lion Hotel

7 am	Registration opens		
7:30 – 9 am	<p>Newly-elected officials' welcome breakfast <i>This event is reserved for those who are new to city elected office in 2016.</i></p> <p>AWC extends a warm welcome to our newly-elected mayors and councilmembers. This interactive breakfast offers an opportunity for you to meet one another, learn more about AWC's services and resources, and get tips on how to make the best use of your first days in office.</p>		
<p>Early start sessions 9 – 11:15 am</p> <p><i>No charge</i></p>	<p>Advocacy Academy 101 9 – 10 am</p> <p>Exploring exactly what "advocating" is and how to do it well. The session also provides an overview of the legislative process and how to make the best use of your time in Olympia.</p>	<p>Advocacy Academy 102 10:15 – 11:15 am</p> <p>Dig deeper into advocacy by learning how to adopt year-round advocacy goals. Get tips on how to build long-term legislative relationships, how to develop policies that reflect city and AWC priorities, and how to make the most out of programs and training already available to you.</p>	<p>Capitol grounds & AWC office tours <i>Available upon advance request by contacting Regina Adams at 360-753-4137 or reginaa@awcnet.org.</i></p>
<p>Opening session 11:30 – 12:15 pm</p> <p><i>Lunch provided</i></p>	<p>Washington is 281 cities strong! In order for legislators to make informed policy decisions they need to know about the issues that affect you and your community. You are the voice of your city or town and together, we will ensure that every state policymaker knows that Washington is only as strong as its cities and towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rally around your five city priorities. • Get insider information about what's happening in Olympia and what we can expect from this session. • Learn how to help legislators understand that strong cities make a great state. 		
<p>General session 12:15 – 1 pm</p>	<p>Governor's address AWC welcomes Governor Jay Inslee to talk with city leaders about his agenda for the year and plans to work with cities. Submit your questions to hear the Governor's view on city issues.</p>		
1 – 1:20 pm	Dessert break (desserts will be available in each of the breakout rooms)		
<p>Breakout sessions 1:20 – 2:35 pm</p>	<p>Meet AWC's Lobbyists This jam-packed favorite is back by popular demand to bring you insights from the AWC Government Relations staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a seat in one of three breakout rooms and our lobbyists will come to you. • Get updates on the city-related legislation that stretches the spectrum from high profile to under the radar. • Find out which bills are likely to move and which are not. 		
2:35 – 3 pm	Break		

General session 3 – 4 pm	Crafting and partnering to find solutions to homelessness, affordable housing and human services issues Cities around the state, both urban and rural, are grappling with how to serve rising at-risk populations. Cities are seeing increases in homelessness, more affordable housing issues and strains in our mental health system, and we are struggling to deal with the impacts and costs related to these issues. This panel discussion will shed light on how cities can partner to enhance the provision of much needed human service programs and affordable housing.		
4 – 4:15 pm	Break		
Breakout sessions 4:15 – 5:15 pm	Working to strengthen the Public Records Act One of your city legislative priorities is to strengthen the Public Records Act in response to changing technology and burdensome requests. Learn what might be accomplished during this short legislative session and how your voice and data can help move the issue forward.	Providing tools for emergency response Washington State is reeling from two consecutive years of the worst wildfires on record, yet cities don't always have the needed tools to respond proactively. Find out about potential legislative changes that could help, or hinder, city operations in times of emergency.	The courts' impacts on legislative outcomes It seems newspapers are full of stories about how court decisions could impact where the Legislature devotes its time. But how might high-profile issues like McCleary and I-1366 impact cities? This session explores the possibilities.
5:30– 7 pm <i>Light appetizers and drinks provided; Dinner on your own</i>	Legislative Reception This popular legislative session provides an opportunity to network with legislators, cabinet members, and fellow local officials. Remember to personally invite your legislators and consider connecting with them afterwards for dinner and discussion.		

January 28 – Capitol Campus

We encourage you to make your appointments with legislators on this day. Shuttle services are available to and from the Red Lion and Capitol Campus throughout the day. Capitol Campus parking is limited.

7 – 8 am <i>Breakfast provided</i>	City networking breakfast Grab your AWC scarf, a cup of coffee in the Red Lion lobby, and hop on the shuttle to the Capitol Campus for a networking breakfast with your city colleagues and legislators. Event in heated tent on Capitol grounds. Tent open for networking until 1:30 pm.		
Legislative Champion Check-In 8 – 8:30 am	Operation: Strong Cities – Preparing for a day on the hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hear from several Legislative City Champions on how to help them help you, and tips on grooming more Champions in 2016. Queue up your questions for legislators and presenters that center on the most pressing city legislative issues. Learn about how to make the most of your time on the hill, including the key hearings to attend, and tips on how and where to meet up with legislators. 		
Leadership Panels 8:30 – 10 am	Conversations with legislators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority and minority caucus leadership from both the House and Senate are invited to share their perspectives on what can and can't get accomplished in the 60-day session and how that impacts cities. Budget writers from the House, Senate, and Inslee Administration are invited to share their views on the state's fiscal health and what to expect on key funding and spending issues important to cities. Hear what's on the horizon to address, or not, infrastructure funding needs for cities of all sizes across the state, and discuss possible ideas to create stable and reliable infrastructure assistance accounts. 		

10 – 10:15 am	Break
On the Capitol Campus 10:15 – 12:15 pm	Take advantage of your time on the Capitol Campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a legislative hearing and consider testifying in support of city issues. • Meet with your legislators. Remember, it's best to schedule your meeting in advance or connect with them out in a hall if they're in a hearing. • Tour the capitol grounds.
Buffet Lunch 12:30 – 1:30 pm <i>Lunch provided</i>	This is a good opportunity to invite your legislator to chat!
1:30 pm – onward	Meet with your legislator, attend hearings, and final send-off.



CITY OF KIRKLAND 2016 LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AGENDA

Kirkland generally supports the policy principles of the items below, however, formal City support is contingent upon reviewing and approving the specific language of any legislative proposal drafted to advance a particular item.

2016 Legislative Support

Select Legislative Support and carryovers from Kirkland's 2015 Support agenda

- Support vested rights legislation that keeps predictability and certainty for local governments, real estate developers and environmental and community advocates.
- Support legislation to enable local funding sources for multi-benefit watershed projects.
- Support providing cities with financing options to support public/private partnerships.
- Support brown grease to energy conversion legislation and programs.
- Support an amendment to RCW 46.68.090 that would allocate gas tax revenues between counties and cities based on a per capita allocation rather than the current fixed percentages.
- Support Hi-Tech Industry through the "Washington Tech Cities Coalition" (WTC²)

Support for Infrastructure Funding

- Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) / Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA)
- Safe Routes to Schools & Complete Streets program Funding
- Transportation Investment Board Funding (TIB)
- Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
- Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)
- Regional Mobility Grant Funding Program - Preserve
- Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board Funding
- Support Healthy & Sustainable Communities Initiative

Additionally, Kirkland supports selected items from the 2016 legislative agendas led by the following ally organizations:

Association of Washington Cities

- **Infrastructure:** Halt the diversion from critical infrastructure programs to help cities grow and prosper.
- **Fiscal Sustainability:** Ensure sufficient and flexible revenue for essential city services.
- **Emergency Responsiveness:** Help cities prepare for and address impacts of natural disasters and other emergencies.
- **Public Records:** Strengthen the Public Records Act in response to changing technology and burdensome requests.
- **Human Services, Homelessness and Affordable Housing:** Enhance the provision of much needed human service programs to address issues that drive increased homelessness and public safety costs.

Transportation Issues

Transportation Choices Coalition *(The priorities below are TCC's DRAFT 2016 Legislative Priorities)*

With the passage of the 16-year, \$15 billion Connecting Washington Transportation package, our legislative efforts will be focused on:

- Maintaining commitments to the record level of multi-modal investments to fund important transit, bicycle, pedestrian projects and the Safe Routes to Schools program.
- Implementation of practical design concepts to realize project savings for important maintenance needs. *The 2015 package set up new requirements around practical design that will create new flexible funding that should be prioritized for important maintenance projects over new capacity. These funds could also be used to address significant unmet transit capital needs around aging bus fleet replacement statewide.*
- **405 Tolling: Oppose SB 6152 and HB 2312:** TCC strongly supports the implementation of the new Express Toll Lanes on Interstate 405 to manage congestion and improve traffic flow. We oppose efforts to reduce the number of express toll lanes or to limit the duration of tolling. *Pricing is an effective way to manage travel demand in this highly congested corridor and efforts to limit or undermine the intent of these toll lanes will impact the efficient movement of people and goods.*

Eastside Transportation Partnership *(ETP anticipates adopting a 2016 priorities Jan. 8, 2016)*

Washington Bikes -

- **Investments that get Washingtonians where they want to go**

Retain historic funding levels made by 2015 Legislature for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program, Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Grant Program, Complete Streets Grant Program, as well as the bicycle and pedestrian project list.

- **Protecting Trails Statewide**

Washington State has some of the longest and most iconic trails in the nation for biking, walking. Washington Bikes is committed to keeping trails open and accessible. Washington Bikes will monitor and explore the potential for additional investments that connect and improve trails for neighboring residents, visitors, and neighboring communities that benefit from the economic opportunities that trails bring via the \$3.1 billion that bicycle riders spend in Washington State.

- **Strengthen Washington State's Distracted Driving Laws**

Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) agency request legislation improves upon the current law by broadening the definition so that any person (with much narrower exceptions) operating a motor vehicle while holding a personal wireless communications device is guilty of a traffic infraction. It closes loopholes such as being able to use one's phone while stopped at an intersection or stoplight (currently legal), it also expands the definitions of handheld uses to ban texting and email use on smart phones. Additional violations receive twice the penalty, plus violations go on one's driver record for insurance purposes. Finally, distracted driving would be included in Department of Licensing exams (currently they are not).

* Note: The boards of directors of Washington Bikes and Cascade Bicycle Club have merged. As of Jan. 1, 2016, Washington Bikes, will serve as the organization's 501(c)4 arm and address statewide policy and outreach, selected statewide events and activities, and candidate endorsements. Cascade Bicycle Club

will serve as the 501(c)3 tax-deductible wing, focused on education, diversity and inclusion programs, most of the signature events, and other advocacy work.

Human Services Issues

Eastside Human Services Forum *City staff has inquired with EHSF for its 2016 Legislative Priorities*

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance *City staff has inquired with WLIHA for its 2016 Legislative Priorities*

Environmental Issues

King County-Cities Climate Collaborative

- **Colstrip and Puget Sound Energy (PSE)** - support efforts to accelerate Puget Sound Energy's complete transition from coal to clean renewable energy by 2025 while providing certainty to rate payers on timing and cost. Legislation authorizing increased ownership of Colstrip should include provisions to minimize ratepayer liabilities and accelerate GHG emissions reductions.

Environmental Priorities Coalition *WEC plans to finalize EPC Legislative Priority information by Jan. 8*

Northwest Product Stewardship Council (While the NPSC does not develop a legislative agenda, the NPSC does advocate in support of the principles of product stewardship and producer responsibility in policies and legislation.)

- **Support Paint Stewardship legislation.**

Water Issues

WRIA 8

- **Capital Budget: During the 2016 Supplemental Legislative Session, communicate support for salmon recovery capital funding priorities, including:**
 - **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Fund** – PSAR funds support implementation of the highest priority habitat protection and restoration projects throughout Puget Sound. The program includes two components: 1) Base funding allocated among Puget Sound watersheds for a habitat projects grant round, and 2) Funding for a prioritized list of specific large-scale, high-priority capital projects submitted by Puget Sound watersheds. Funds are derived from State general obligation bonds (RCW 77.85).
 - **Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)** grant program to protect and restore salmon habitat – SRFB funds are a combination of state and federal funds that support annual grant rounds for salmon habitat protection and restoration projects in watersheds around the state. This funding is a cornerstone of WRIA 8's annual grant round.

- **Policy Legislation: Support continued efforts to explore new watershed-based funding authorities to support multiple-benefit projects that address salmon habitat protection and restoration, water quality, stormwater management, and flood management.**

Public Safety Issues

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

- **Improve the State’s Mental Health System**

Mental health is quickly becoming Washington’s greatest public safety challenge. Without an effective state mental health system, law enforcement officers will continue to be forced into violent confrontations with the mentally ill, and local jail beds will continue to be filled with those who suffer from mental illness. Sheriffs and police chiefs believe that individuals who suffer from mental health challenges deserve an effective state system that provides evaluation and treatment to all who need it.

- **Increase DNA Testing Capacity**

Technological developments continue to pave the way for more efficient and effective crime fighting techniques. This is particularly the case in the field of DNA testing, where justice in Washington is limited not by technology, but by the WSP Crime Lab’s DNA testing capacity, and the Legislature’s limitation on the offender samples allowed into the CODIS database.

- **Address Unintended Consequences of the Public Records Act**

The state of Washington’s public records law enables and rewards blatant abuse and harassment. Furthermore, the law punishes, rather than encourages, the use of transparent and accountable technologies such as body-worn cameras. The current state of public records has far exceeded the intent and expectations of 1972. The Public Records Act is in need of an update to reflect the realities of today’s technology and privacy expectations, and to remove provisions that reward harassment and abuse.

- **Ensure Sufficient Funding for Statewide Public Safety Programs**

WASPC administers a number of important public safety programs on behalf of the State of Washington, including Uniform Crime Reporting, Jail Booking and Reporting, Crime Victim Notification, Auto Theft Prevention, and Sex Offender Address Verification. These programs are essential public safety programs for state and local law enforcement and help those agencies provide community safety services. These programs are also widely used by the general public in their efforts to remain safe.

Washington Fire Chiefs Association

- **Sustainable Fire/EMS funding (examples)**

- Raise the E.M.S. levy cap to \$.75 /\$1000 of A.V.
- Change fire levy funding to mirror port authorities which are outside the \$10 constitutional limit
- Simple majority for RFA benefit service charge renewal
- Restructure the 1% Lid Limit
- Tax exempt facilities required to enter contract for fire protection

- **RFA structural equity with fire districts Statewide CBRNE response planning & funding Capital improvements for Fire Training Academy Support recommendations from volunteer recruitment & retention incentives committee (examples)**

- Volunteer FF’s opt into employer medical insurance pool
- Employer tax credit for volunteer FF response during working hours

Parks Issues

Washington Recreation and Parks Association

- **Support Updates & Refinements to WWRP While Preserving Structure, Integrity of Program**

(Capital Budget/Policy Bill) WRPA played an active role in the legislatively-directed review that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) undertook to update and revise the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP). The WRPA strongly supports recommended steps to update and improved this 25-year-old program – for example, with recommendations to push more local parks funding into development projects that will upgrade and renovate existing facilities. However, the WRPA will join other stakeholders in working to ensure that the basic structure and integrity of the WWRP remains intact through any 2016 legislative overhaul of the Program.

- **Boating Facilities Program -- Appropriation in 2016 Supplemental Capital Budget**

(Capital Budget) WRPA will strongly support a Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) initiative to appropriate \$4.7 million in the Fiscal Year 2016 Supplemental Capital Budget from marine-fuel portions of the "Connecting Washington" gas tax package enacted by the 2015 Legislature. An FY 2016 supplemental appropriation of 2015-authorized tax proceeds would allow more state-operated and locally-operated boating facilities to be funded, sooner, under the Boating Facilities Program (BFP).

- **Clarifying and Reinforcing Recreational Liability Immunity for Multi-Purpose Trails**

(Policy Bill) WRPA will support 2016 legislation being promoted by the City of Mercer Island to reinforce recreational liability immunity for trails used by bicyclists. This issue has been clouded by the recent *Camicia vs. Howard S. Wright Construction and City of Mercer Island* case. WRPA will work to ensure that in any legislation, no current recreational immunity protection is undermined.

- **Governor's "Healthiest Next Generation" Initiative**

(Operating Budget) The WRPA will support a 2016 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal from the Governor's Office to add permanent funding for staffing associated with the "Healthiest Next Generation" initiative. However, the WRPA wants to ensure that for purposes of the 2017-19 budget, the Governor's Office and the Department of Health are working toward "built environment" and parks/recreation investments that can enhance public health, guard against obesity, and improve access to the outdoors and to open space for those who need it most.

Planning Issues

Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association

Not finalized yet (as of 1/7/16)