



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Erin Leonhart, Public Works Facilities & Administrative Manager
Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director

Date: June 5, 2008

Subject: ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER AT BRIGHTWATER WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY – ENDORSEMENT LETTERS TO WASHINGTON STATE DELEGATION REGARDING FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council:

1. Make an overall endorsement of the Friends of the Hidden River educational proposal for the Brightwater Energy Technology Demonstration Facility; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign letters to 1st Congressional District legislators supporting a Federal appropriation to equip laboratory spaces for graduate and retraining work in new energy technology and environmental sciences at the Brightwater Energy Technology Demonstration Facility.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

An Energy Technology Demonstration Facility is being developed at King County's new Brightwater wastewater treatment facility near Woodinville, WA. The Friends of Hidden River, a community-based group comprised of area teachers, is pursuing a Federal appropriation to build a Sustainable Energy and Environment Suite for the Regional Community Environmental Center at Brightwater. This proposal has much to offer Kirkland area students of all ages. The Friends of Hidden River's goal is for students from University of Washington -Bothell and Kirkland's Lake Washington Technical College to use these precious resources. In addition to providing laboratory space for educational research, the grant request would also help to plan energy exhibits for the public that would inspire citizens to incorporate green technology in their own homes.

The City of Kirkland supports development of alternative energy sources and this project would help educate our community about emerging technologies. Marie Hartford from the Friends of Hidden River (a teacher at Thoreau Elementary School in Kirkland) will make a special presentation at the June 17th Council meeting about this project and the request for grant funding. Attachment 1 is the draft letter to be mailed to the 1st Congressional District's Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray and Representative Inslee. Attachment 2 is a list of groups and individuals who have endorsed this effort as of mid-April as posted on the Friends website (<http://www.friendsofhiddenriver.org/>).

Attachment 1 – List of Endorsements

Attachment 2 – Draft Letter to Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray and Representative Inslee

Friends of the Hidden River

Groups & individuals who have passed resolutions or endorsed the Task Force proposal to create a Regional Community Environmental Education Center with transportation, operations funding, and an outreach program.

- US Representative Jay Inslee
- US Representative Rick Larsen
- US Representative Jim McDermott
- Governor Gary Locke
- City of Bothell
- City of Mill Creek
- Snohomish County Workforce Development Council
- Snohomish County League of Women Voters
- South Snohomish Chamber of Commerce
- Northshore Chamber of Commerce
- Woodinville Chamber of Commerce
- Snohomish County Labor Council
- NW Washington Building and Construction Trades Council
- Seattle - King County Building and Construction Trades Council
- Master Builders of King and Snohomish Counties
- Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative
- University of Washington, Bothell
- Seattle University
- Cascadia Community College
- WSU Snohomish County Extension
- WSU King County Extension
- Northshore Utility District
- Woodinville Water District
- Northshore Rotary
- Bellevue Breakfast Rotary
- Association of Washington State School Principals
- Washington State OSPI Science
- Northshore Education Association
- Northshore School District

Friends of the Hidden River

- Skyview Junior High PTSA
- Northshore Public Education Foundation
- Northshore PTA Council
- Lake Washington Education Association
- Lake Washington School District
- Snohomish School District
- Monroe School District
- Shoreline School District
- Edmonds School District
- Riverview School District
- Bellevue School District
- Washington State Audubon Society
- East Lake Washington Audubon Society
- Pilchuck Audubon Society
- Water Conservation Coalition of Puget Sound
- Little Bear Creek Protective Association
- Maltby Neighborhood Alliance
- Environmental Education Association of Washington
- Northwest Environmental Education Council
- Cispus and Chewelah Peak Learning Centers
- Vancouver Water Resources Center
- Cedar River Watershed Center
- Seattle Parks and Recreation & Environmental Learning Centers
- Washington Native Plant Society
- Islandwood
- Mountain to Sound Greenways
- Nature Vision Inc.
- National Association for Interpretation
- Pacific NW Region, National Association for Interpretation
- Jackson Bottoms Wetland Preserve, OR
- The Environmental Science Center, Burien, WA

Friends of the Hidden River

Washington State Legislators who have supported state funding

- Al O'Brien
- Mark Ericks
- Roger Goodman
- Jeff Morris
- Mike Sells
- John McCoy
- Marco Lias
- Hans Dunshee
- Ross Hunter
- Fred Jarrett
- Larry Springer
- Dawn Morrell
- Kevin Van De Wege
- Joyce McDonald
- Rosemary McAuliffe
- Eric Oemig
- Steve Hobbs
- Karen Fraser

Snohomish County Council Supporters

- Dave Sommers
- Brian Sullivan

King County Council Supporter

- Larry Phillips

June 16, 2008

DRAFT

United States Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

The Kirkland City Council would like to express our support of acquiring federal funds for the Friends of the Hidden River proposal to build the Sustainable Energy and Environment Suite for the Regional Community Environmental Center at the Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant. As you may know, "Friends" is a steadfast group of educators and community members committed to seek funding and sustain the operations of an environmental education center to be co-located on the Brightwater site. The City of Kirkland supports the educational opportunities and community commitment the Center would bring to students and citizens of local, regional and possibly national areas.

Fulfilling this request would equip two Sustainable Energy and Environment Laboratories that will provide environmental stewardship education and training to local students. It will also further the design of indoor and outdoor energy exhibits planned for Brightwater. These interactive displays will highlight breakthroughs in new energy technology and sustainable practices. Your support ensures a center that provides the highest possible quality energy and environment educational programs for the Northshore, Lake Washington and surrounding communities. The Center also supports the State's goals for environmental recovery of Puget Sound.

The Center would serve students and citizens of Snohomish and King Counties and most likely gain the attention of other communities within the State and beyond. It will be dedicated to teaching, informing and motivating the public to act on vital new ideas involving energy innovation and conservation to inspire our region's citizens to solve the tough problems we all face today. The City of Kirkland is committed to some of these same sustainable initiatives and would appreciate being able to direct today's and future generations to the new Center.

This project is unique in uniting educators, government agencies and business groups with a five year history of shared ideas and strategies. Because similar critical issues of urban growth, water and energy use flow through every community in the United States, this Center would also serve as a national model. The Friends team has generated a high level of support including nearly a million dollars in state funding and \$7 million in King County funding.

The Kirkland City Council recognizes the significant contribution this education center can make and hopes that you can pursue federal appropriations to support its development and eventual operation.

Sincerely,
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

By James L. Lauinger
Mayor

cc: Erin Leonhart, Public Works Facilities & Administrative Manager

June 16, 2008

DRAFT

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

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June 16, 2008

DRAFT

United States Representative Jay Inslee
The House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4701

Dear Congressman Inslee:

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