SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING PACKET

BUDGET ORDINANCE 2	2-039 Conservation District Rates and Charges
ECAF:	2022-0886
Date/Time:	October 25, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Staff Person:	Jim Martin
DPA:	Rebecca Guadamud

EXHIBIT LIST

Click on Exhibit No. to view document

Exhibit #	Date	Exhibit Description
1.	09/08/22	Staff Report
2.	09/06/22	2023 Budget Proposal
3.	09/06/22	Ordinance Introduction Slip - signed
4.	09/09/22	Presentation provided at Finance Committee 09/13/22
5.	09/13/22	Link to Finance and Economic Development Committee Meeting and Video 09/13/22

Exhibit #	Date	Public Testimony
Α.	07/06/22	Letter from Mark Craven
В.	09/16/22	E-Mail from Adam Farnham
C.	09/22/22	Letter from Shannon Tarrach

1	
1 2	SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
3	Snohomish County, Washington
4	
5	ORDINANCE NO. 22-039
6	
7	APPROVING A SYSTEM OF RATES AND CHARGES PROPOSED BY THE
8	SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURSUANT TO RCW 89.08.405 FOR
9	NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PURPOSES ON ALL NON-EXEMPT REAL
10	PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND
11	SNOHOMISH COUNTY FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING IN 2023
12	
13	WHEREAS, the Snohomish Conservation District (hereinafter "District") was
14	formed in 1941 to undertake a variety of activities relating to the management and
15	conservation of natural resources; and
16	
17	WHEREAS, the boundaries of the District include most of Snohomish County
18	(hereinafter "County") and Camano Island, which is part of Island County; and
19	
20	WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 89.08.405(1), the county legislative authority may
21	in its discretion consider a proposal by a conservation district for a system of rates and
22	charges as an alternative to, but not in addition to, a special assessment provided by
23	RCW 89.08.400; and
24	
25	WHEREAS, RCW 89.08.405(3)(a) states that the proposed system of rates and
26	charges may include an annual per acre amount, an annual per parcel amount, or an
27	annual per parcel amount plus an annual per acre amount and the maximum annual per
28	acre amount not exceeding ten cents per acre; and
29	5 1 ,
30	WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 89.08.405(4), the consideration, development,
31	adoption, and implementation of a system of rates and charges shall follow the same
32	public notice and hearing process and be subject to the same procedure and authority
33	under RCW 89.08.400(2); and
34	
35	WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 89.08.400(2), special assessments to finance the
36	activities of a conservation district may be proposed by the district and imposed by the
37	county legislative authority in which the district is located for a period or periods each
38	not to exceed ten years; and
39	
40	WHEREAS, RCW 89.08.400(2) directs the supervisors of a conservation district
41	proposing a special assessment to hold a public hearing on the proposed system of
42	assessments prior to the first day of August in the year prior to the year in which the
43	initial assessment would be collected and file the proposed system of assessments and
44	a proposed budget for the succeeding year with the county legislative authority; and
45	

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2022, after holding a public hearing on July 6, 2022, the 1 2 District filed with the Snohomish county council a system of rates and charges to be 3 imposed by council beginning in 2023, which included a proposal of the same rates and 4 charges for the next ten years to ensure service continuation; and 5 6 _____, the council held a public hearing on the WHEREAS, on District's proposed system of rates and charges pursuant to RCW 89.08.405; and 7 8 9 WHEREAS, the council intends by this ordinance to accept the system of rates 10 and charges as proposed by the District on July 7, 2022, for natural resource conservation purposes on all non-exempt real property located within the District and 11 county for a ten-year period beginning in 2023, as provided herein; 12 13 14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED: 15 16 Section 1. The Snohomish county council makes the following findings and 17 conclusions: 18 19 A. The foregoing recitals are incorporated as if fully set forth herein. 20 21 B. The District is a governmental subdivision of the State of Washington 22 authorized by chapter 89.08 RCW to conserve natural resources. 23 24 C. As acknowledged by the legislature in RCW 89.08.010(4), there is a pressing 25 need for the conservation of natural resources in all areas of the state, whether urban, 26 suburban, or rural, and the benefits of resource practices, programs, and projects 27 carried out by the state conservation commission and local conservation districts should 28 be available to all such areas: and 29 30 D. District activities and programs to be funded by the proposed system of rates and charges include promotion of sustainable agriculture and farmland preservation, 31 32 including supporting efforts to reduce the conversion of farmland to other uses and 33 educating urban, suburban, and rural residents (including youth) on the importance of 34 local agriculture and the value of farmland preservation; farm planning and water quality 35 improvements, including providing farm planning and technical assistance in best management practice (BMP) implementation and enhancing financial support; natural 36 37 resource management, including providing permit and other assistance to enhance 38 critical resource management areas and participating in salmon recovery and other 39 natural resource conservation planning efforts; county-wide information and education, including providing youth education programs, assisting the county and governmental 40 41 entities, educating landowners regarding wildland fire prevention and risk through the "Firewise" program, and promoting stewardship, backyard conservation, and 42 sustainable living; urban conservation, including providing technical services and 43 44 financial assistance to urban and suburban landowners and supporting city natural 45 resource conservation efforts; and 46

E. All lands within the District subject to the proposed system receive a special 1 2 benefit from the activities and programs of the District that are financed by the rates and 3 charges; and 4 5 F. The public interest will be served by the imposition of rates and charges as 6 proposed by the District and imposed by this ordinance; and 7 8 G. The system of rates and charges imposed on any land by this ordinance will 9 not exceed the special benefits that the land receives or will receive from the activities 10 and programs of the District; and 11 12 H. The system of rates and charges imposed by this ordinance will not apply to 13 areas within the District that are not located within the county, including Camano Island 14 for which special assessments may be imposed by the legislative authority of Island 15 County pursuant to WAC 135-100-040; and 16 17 I. RCW 89.08.405(6) authorizes the county treasurer to deduct an amount from 18 the collected rates and charges to cover costs incurred by the county assessor and county treasurer in spreading and collecting the rates and charges, as established by 19 20 the Snohomish county council, but not to exceed the actual costs of such work. 21 22 Section 2. Pursuant to RCW 89.08.405, subject to the limits for certain forest 23 lands provided therein and the exemptions for non-assessed property and duration 24 stated below, the county council hereby accepts the system of rates and charges 25 proposed by the District and imposes annual rates and charges on all land within 26 Snohomish County located within the boundaries of the District for the purpose of 27 financing the programs and activities of the District. The system of rates and charges 28 are imposed annually in the following manner: \$10.00 per parcel plus \$0.10 per acre. 29 30 Section 3. The following are classified as non-assessed property and are exempt from the system of rates and charges imposed by this ordinance: 31 32 33 A. Parcels not taxed by the county, including publicly-owned and Native 34 American lands: 35 B. Parcels zoned Forestry (F) under chapter 30.21 SCC; 36 37 C. Parcels located within the county but outside the boundaries of the District; and 38 39 40 D. Personal property. 41 42 Section 4. The system of rates and charges imposed by this ordinance shall be collected in 2023 and each year thereafter for a total of ten years. 43 44 45 Section 5. Pursuant to RCW 89.08.405(6) the system of rates and charges imposed by this ordinance shall constitute liens against the parcels assessed and shall 46

be subject to the same conditions as tax liens, collected by the treasurer in the same
manner as delinquent real property taxes, and subject to the same interest rate and
penalty as for delinquent property taxes.

Section 6. Pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, chapter 39.34 RCW, the county and the District may enter into agreements providing for county review and approval of District work plans and budgets to coordinate programs for managing and conserving natural resources funded by the system of rates and charges imposed by this ordinance.

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- 12

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[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

PASSED this day of	, 2022.
	SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL Snohomish County, Washington
	Council Chair
ATTEST:	
Asst. Clerk of the Council	
() APPROVED() EMERGENCY() VETOED	
	DATE:
ATTEST:	County Executive
Approved as to form only:	
PCJ202 09-06-2022	
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney	

1



EXHIBIT #

FILE ORD 22-039

Snohomish County Council

Committee:	Finance	Analyst:	Jim Martin
ECAF:	2022-0886	-	
Proposal:	Ordinance 22-039	Date:	September 8, 2022

Consideration:

Approving a system of rates and charges proposed by the Snohomish Conservation District pursuant to RCW 89.08.405 for Natural Resource Conservation purposes in all non-exempt real property located within Snohomish Conservation District and Snohomish County for a ten-year period beginning in 2023.

Background

RCW 89.08.405 indicates that Council may, at its discretion, consider a conservation district proposal for a system of rates and charges as an alternative to, but not in addition to, a special assessment as provided by RCW 89.08.400. Consideration, development, adoption, and implementation of a system of rates and charges shall follow the same public notice and hearing process and be subject to the same procedure and authority under RCW 89.08.400(2).

On July 6, 2022, Snohomish Conservation District held a public hearing, and subsequently filed with the Snohomish County Council, a system of rates and charges to be imposed by Council beginning in 2023, which included a proposal of the same rates and charges for the next ten years to ensure service continuation. The proposed system of rates and charges to be imposed annually are \$10.00 per parcel, plus \$0.10 per acre. For the last three years the rates have been set at \$8.00 per parcel, and \$0.08 per acre.

Current Proposal

Ordinance 22-039 would adopt the system of rates and charges proposed by the Snohomish Conservation District, at a rate of \$10.00 per parcel and \$0.10 per acre, effective January 1, 2023.

Duration: January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2032

Fiscal Impacts: NONE

2022 Budget: N/A

Future Budget Impacts: N/A

Handling: Normal

Approved-as-to-form: YES.

Risk Management: N/A

Executive Recommendation: N/A

Analysis: This request is consistent with RCW and SCC

Attachments: See ECAF packet

Amendments: NONE.

Request: Move to GLS on September 21st to set time and date for a public hearing.

Annual Rates and Charges Budget



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT # 2

FILE _____ORD 22-039

Priorities	Over-arching Natural Resource Priorities and Strategies
	 Assist landowners and land managers in the consistent implementation of management practices that address: Water quality and quantity resource concerns Soil health resource concerns Restoration and maintenance of natural habitats and working lands Climate resiliency (adaptation and mitigation)
	 Partner with landowners/managers, tribes, organizations, educational institutions, and agencies that value the complexity of our heritage and natural resources, and that strive to work together to address common goals and desired outcomes Provide educational opportunities for the public about the importance of maintaining healthy and productive natural resources and local food systems Support an agricultural industry that is profitable, viable, and a good steward of the natural resources that it maintains Implement resource management plans as important tools to address the complex issues faced throughout the county

		Rates and Charges		ual for 10 Years, eginning 2023
Program	Activities		\$10/P	arcel Max Rate
Farm Assistance/Planning	• Provide technical assistance: site visits, farm and resource conservation plans, TA letters, events and classes.	Staff Funding	\$	375,000.00
	 Promote equipment sharing program (cooperatives or partnerships with private companies) 	Cost Share	\$	50,000.00
	Implement best management practices to protect natural resources and improve agricultural resiliency			
	 Promote Sound Horsekeeping program (certify 10 landowners/year) 			
	 Continue to update and implement Agriculture Resilience Plan. Convene steering committee, prioritize, design, and implement procession of continue scoping and implementing landscape-scale resilience projects for agriculture to withstand impacts of climate change Provide risk management tools and education to farmers including modeled impacts to hydrology, precipitation, and temperature Continue to partner with land-trusts to develop and implement farmland conservation programs Continue to partner with WSU to provide succession and business planning (Cultivating Success) Enhance riparian buffer restoration efforts utilizing working buffer models such as agroforestry Continue to provide permitting assistance to farmers through collaboration with PDS Continue to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy program for farmers and rural businesses (REDA) Increase outreach to farmers - providing education on climate resilience, soil health, water storage, succession planning, business planning 			
Program	Activities	5		
Habitat Restoration and Floodplain Management	• Provide technical assistance to landowners and residents, including site visits, technical assistance letters, events and classes, and restoration plans.	Staff Funding	\$	425,000.00
	 Improve salmon habitat: Reduce water temperature, improve water quality, improve streamflow, and remove fish passage barrier in priority watersheds. o Continue stream and river riparian restoration program. Plant 65 acres per year (includes site preparation, plant installation and o Continue to remove fish passage barriers, up to four per year Maintain native plant nursery and contract grow with private nurseries Continue Living with Beavers program to promote wetland and habitat restoration Continue partnership with the county and tribes to implement large multi-benefit floodplain projects (i.e. Community Floodplain S 		\$	50,000.00

	• Provide forest stewardship planning for forest landowners and continue to support WSU Extension forestry education and res	earch program	
	 Launch water storage program to restore wetlands and reduce flooding 		
-	Continue Free Trees program - providing 3,000 free native plants to residents/year		
Program	Activities		
Community Conservation/Urban	Support urban tree planting programs	Staff Funding	\$ 400,000.0
Agriculture, Backyard Wildlife Habitat, Green Stormwater	• Continue the Rain Catchment Program- disseminating 200 rain barrels and at least 1 cistern cost-share project per year.		
Infrastructure	Provide Lawns to Lettuce program for urban residents	Cost Share	\$ 50,000.0
	 Provide customized support and programming to jurisdictions 		
	 Providetechnical assistance and cost-share to community based urban agriculture projects 		
	Participate in food system resiliency partnerships		
	Integrate LID into habitat and farm planning efforts		
	Provide broad-scale stormwater outreach and education		
	Provide retrofits and stewardship opportunities for multi-family residences and under-represented audiences		
	 Design, test, and implement innovative LID techniques, including rain gardens and bioswales 		
	 Provide maintenance services and training for school and other demonstration projects 		
	Provide professional level training opportunities for rain gardens and detention pond maintenance		
Program	Activities		
Outreach and Communications	Publish e-news monthly. Continue District's social media presence.	Staff Funding	\$ 275,000.0
	• Serve as communications support for Sustainable Land Strategy, PSCD, the Conservation Commission, and other partners		
	 Coordinate and provide educational in-person workshops and online webinars (at least 40 annually) 		
	Participate in and support local fairs and conferences		
	 Implement targeted social marketing and program evaluation 		
	 Maintain the Better Ground website and outreach campaign 		
	 Implement Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan to engage under-represented audiences 		
Program	Activities		
Youth Education	 Provide classroom instruction for salmon recovery, wetlands, and water quality 	Staff Funding	\$ 100,000.0
	Implement service learning projects with local students	Project Costs	\$ 15,000.0
	• Provide stewardship opportunities for extra-curricular groups like YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, 4H, FFA, and Scouts		
	Implement Agriculture Education program		
	 Coordinate with local and regional partners to provide field trip opportunities 		
	 Support local high schools participation in Envirothon 		
	 Provide technical support and cost-share to schools for stormwater retrofits and outdoor classrooms 		
Expense Category	Item		
Reserve Account	Build reserve account for contingency funding	Reserve	\$ 100,000.0
Snohomish County Treasurer Fee	 Fee assessed by Snohomish County for collection of rates and charges funds 	Fee	\$ 215,441.0
Business Operations/Administration	Programmatic oversight on all District programs, Financial audits, District strategic planning, Day to day operations	Staff Funding	\$ 462,548.4

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION SLIP

TO:

Clerk of the Council

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

2022-0886

09/06/22

EXHIBIT # 3

ECAF NO.:

ECAF RECEIVED:

FILE _____ORD 22-039

THE SNOHOMISH CONS 89.08.405 FOR NA PURPOSES ON ALL N WITHIN SNOHOM	OF RATES AND CHARGES PROPO SERVATION DISTRICT PURSUANT TURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATIO ON-EXEMPT REAL PROPERTY LOO IISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT AN FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD BEGINI 2023	TO RCW ON CATED ID
	MgnDm	09/06/22
	Councilmember	Date
Clerk's Action:	Proposed Ordinance No.	22-039
Assigned to: Finance and Economic I	Development Committee Date:	9/13/22
10/04/22 re-assigned to Committee	e of the Whole	
STANDING COMMI	TTEE RECOMMENDATION	N FORM
On <u>10/04/22</u> , the Comm <u>5</u> Yeas and <u>0</u> Nays, made the		Consensus /
X Move to Council to schedule pu	ublic hearing	
Public Hearing Date <u>10/2</u>	5/22 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.	
Move to Council as amended to		
Move to Council with no recom	nmendation	
This itemshould/should not consent agenda may be used for routine it discussion at General Legislative Session)	▲	0

This item _____should/____should not be placed on the Administrative Matters Agenda (Administrative Matters agenda may be used for routine action to set time and date for public hearings)

Committee Chair

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

EXHIBIT #	4
FILF C	RD 22-039

Rates and Charges Proposal



About Us



We are a team of 35 dedicated staff, two field crews, and five elected and appointed board members from our community.



We have been working with farmers, city residents, rural and suburban landowners on a voluntary basis since 1941.



RCW 89.08: Our mission is to work cooperatively with others to promote and encourage conservation and responsible use of natural resources.



Green Stormwater Infrastructure







Our staff and Conservation Crew are in the field spring through fall installing green infrastructure projects:

- Rain Gardens
- Rain Barrels
- De-paves
- Bio-swales
- Urban Trees







Lawns to Lettuce



70 RAISED GARDEN BEDS INSTALLED To help feed our community, we installed raised garden beds for private residents and community organizations who grow food for food banks and local residents.

Forest Stewardship Program



In the past year, we assisted 31 landowners and provided management recommendations for 700 acres of forestland

Broadening	Increasing	Delivering
Broadening partnerships in Snohomish County	Increasing services for landowners, including cost share funding	Delivering community wildfire resilience planning and project implementation

Forest Ecological Goals



Restore forest-related ecosystem functions



Improve fish and wildlife habitat



Protect water quality



Reduce stormwater runoff



Habitat Restoration





We provide jobs and career training

- Washington Conservation Crew
- Community Conservation Crew

Our staff and crews:

- Plant native trees and shrubs
- Restore riparian habitat
- Remove invasive species
- Install livestock exclusion fencing



Riparian Reforestation and Stewardship



In 2021, SCD worked with private landowners to remove 4 fish passage barriers and open 8.2 miles of habitat for salmon and other wildlife





Ebey Island DD1

DD13

Former DD6

Swan Trail Slough

Swan's Trail Slough

	Drainage Base Map
	Snohomish County DD13
	Snohomish Conservation District Everett/Snohomish/Washington
Natercourses DD13 maintained – intermittent flow DD13 maintained – perenial flow Private - intermittent flow Private - tiled drainage	● 6ft tidegate & 1ft hidrostal ☆ Beaver dam ■ Salatca Bridge
- Hvale - uned drainage	 House Roads Pipelines Waterline Levees Drainage districts 2019 parcels SCD survey points
	Prepared By Cardno Date: 11/3/2020 Imagery Source: Maxar 7/22/2018 COD Cardino Shaping the Future Bot Second Avenue Suite 1150 Seattle, Washington 98104 Seattle, Washington 98104 Seattle, Washington 98104
	NAD_1983_StatePlane_Washington_North_ FIP5_4601_Feet

Coastal Resilience/Floodplains by Design Washington - Beta

Find address or place



Alternatives

500 1,000

0

2,000



Agriculture Program

Provide nutrient management plans to certify dairies.	 Serve as liaison for dairy farmers during WSDA dairy inspections
Facilitate WCC and NRCS implementation of BMPs on commercial agricultural land to maintain viability and protect natural resources	 Manure pumps, slurry pits, manure transfer, gutters/downspouts, waste storage, heavy use areas, buffers, exclusion fencing
Conduct site visits and one on one technical assistance to farmers	 How to set up a farm, livestock management, composting, waste storage, heavy use areas, gutters/downspouts, pasture management, etc.
Developed one of the first agroforestry programs in PNW to conduct research, promote climate resilience, and meet the needs of farmers.	• Silvopasture, food forests, cover crops, soil health
On-going Sound Horsekeeping Program to meet the needs of our equine industry	 Site visits, technical assistance, workshops and education
Provide engineering and design for agriculture infrastructure.	 Improves and maintains water quality, protects natural resources, and enhances agriculture viability



Increase Resilience on Your Farm



Ag Resilience Fact Sheets









Enviroth on

Youth Education





- Regional Puget Sound wide event. BetterGround.org
- Over 100 participants last year in Mountlake Terrace
- October 15, 2022 planned in Marysville at Strawberry Fields Park



Business Operations Team



Rates and Charges Proposal

- Continue and sustain Snohomish Conservation District programs
 - \$10 per parcel
 - \$0.10 per acre
 - 10-year period

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL EXHIBIT # 5 FILE ORD 22-039

Ordinance 22-039

EXHIBIT 5

Finance and Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes – 09/13/22

Minutes and Video

Snohomish Conservation District

working together for better ground since 1941

528 91st Ave NE, Ste A, Lake Stevens, WA 98258-2538	425-335-5634	www.snohomishcd.org
July 6, 2022		SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL EXHIBIT # A
Snohomish County Council 3000 Rockefeller Avenue Everett, WA 98201		FILE ORD 22-039

Re: Snohomish Conservation District Rates & Charges Proposal

Dear Snohomish County Council,

On behalf of the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to submit the enclosed packet for the Snohomish Conservation District's Rates and Charges proposal.

This submittal includes:

- 2023 Work Plan and Budget
- The SCD Assessment Roll

The District Board of Supervisors and staff are excited to continue our work with Snohomish County, our numerous partners, and county residents and landowners to enhance and expand the services as outlined in this proposal. For over 80 years, the District has been on the forefront of productive agriculture, habitat restoration, and residential stewardship – by providing free services to private landowners. With a growing population and increased pressure on our natural resources, the District has developed programs and implemented projects to meet the demands of a diverse and changing environment.

We all greatly appreciate your efforts over the past few years to approve the \$1/parcel and \$0.01/acre incremental annual increase. We intentionally skipped the increase last year due to the pandemic with the understanding that we would include the increase in this year's proposal. This year, we propose a continuation of this incremental approach, to increase \$2/parcel and \$0.02/acre. This will be the final annual increase, to start in 2023 and continue at the same rate for a 10-year period. This proposal will ensure that services can continue to be provided for our local communities into the future.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Linda Lyshall at 425-327-9862.

Respectfully,

Mark Craven Snohomish Conservation District Board Chair

Cc: Dave Somers, County Executive

From: Sent:	Adam Farnham <enginerd.adam@gmail.com> Friday, September 16, 2022 8:06 AM</enginerd.adam@gmail.com>	SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
To: Cc: Subject: Attachments:	Contact Council Linda Lyshall Support for Conservation District Rate Proposal Farnham - Letter of Support.pdf	EXHIBIT # B FILE ORD 22-039

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

Please find attached a letter of support for the proposed rates and charges for the Snohomish Conservation District. Thank you for your assistance.

Adam Farnham 425.894.4389 Voice

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September 16, 2022

Snohomish County Council 3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 609 Everett, WA 98201 Email: <u>contact.council@snoco.org</u>

RE: Support for Snohomish Conservation District's Rates and Charges Proposal

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

I am writing in support of the Snohomish Conservation District's (SCD) proposal to increase their rates and charges to an annual \$10 per parcel and \$0.10 per acre.

SCD provides valuable technical and financial assistance to the residents, businesses, and farmers in Snohomish County. SCD designs and implements projects that restore habitat, protect water quality, and contribute to the viability of agriculture and food security. They assist with funding and provide educational services for projects which maximize water quality, groundwater recharge and carbon recapture. Their services are vital for a sustainable quality of life for Snohomish residents, now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of SCD's proposal. Voting in favor of the proposed rates and charges will ensure SCD can continue to provide valuable services to the residents of Snohomish County and achieve sustainable outcomes in conserving our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Adam Farnham 21225 Meadow Lake Rd Snohomish, WA 98290

Cc: Lynda Lyshall E: https://www.uyshall@snohomishcd.org

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

September 22, 2022

Snohomish County Council 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA

RE: Support for Snohomish Conservation District's Rates and Charges Proposal

EXHIBIT # C FILE ORD 22-039 RECEIVED OCT 0 3 2022 Snohomish County Council

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I am writing in support of the Snohomish Conservation District's (SCD) proposal to increase their rates and charges to \$10 per parcel and \$0.10 per acre annually. The support that SCD offers the Monroe School District Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs through participation on both our General Advisory and Program Advisory Committees. These committees are partnerships between district teaching staff and industry partners such as SCD to inform and develop our CTE programs to keep them up to date on industry standards. SCD has specifically had representation on our committees for several years both as active members and as our Committee Chair. The input provided has helped us to identify equipment and facility needs, to further develop academic programs and to provide further opportunities for our students.

SCD provides valuable technical and financial assistance to the residents, businesses, and farmers within Snohomish County. In addition, they implement projects that restore habitat, protect water quality, and contribute to the viability of agriculture and food security. Their services are incredibly important and appreciated.

In rural areas of Snohomish County, SCD works to conserve farmland, plant riparian buffers to restore salmon habitat, and support farmers and rural landowners. They develop farm plans to improve productivity and address natural resource concerns, and forest stewardship plans to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health.

In urban and suburban areas, SCD programs focus on increasing urban agriculture and backyard wildlife habitat and reducing stormwater runoff. SCD partners with cities, schools, organizations, and residents to install community gardens and green stormwater infrastructure such as rain gardens, bioswales, and street trees. In addition, they provide free technical assistance to homeowners and businesses to address flooding and drainage issues.

SCD provides extensive outreach and education throughout the county on multiple topics, such as Sound Horsekeeping, Lawns to Lettuce, Agroforestry, Wetlands, Watersheds, Climate Resilience, and Natural Yard Care. They also host numerous events, one of the most popular being the annual native plant sale where they provide thousands of plants to local gardeners at low cost.

Thank you for your consideration of SCD's proposal that will ensure SCD can continue to provide valuable services to the residents of Snohomish County and achieve tangible outcomes in conserving our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Monroe School District, Director of College and Career Readiness 14692 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272