

City Outreach and Engagement Questions

1. *Government Roles.* How do you describe your city's role and responsibility with respect to land conservation and preservation? How would you describe the county's role?
2. *Land Conservation and Public Health/Quality of Life.* The Advisory Group sees a connection between open space conservation and human health, quality of life and social equity. Does your city see similar connections; if so, is that reflected in your comprehensive plan?
3. *Identifying Conservation Lands in Cities.* Has your city identified conservation/open space priorities which could be acquired through a regional effort such as this proposal? Are those lands identified in an adopted plan? What criteria are important to you in identifying such lands?
4. *Proposed Categories of Land Conservation.* The Executive has proposed five conservation categories in the land conservation work plan (see enclosed summary):
 - 1 – Natural Areas
 - 2 – Regional Trails
 - 3 – Forests
 - 4 – Farmland
 - 5 – Rivers

Do these categories seem relevant to potential land acquisition within cities, and to improving environmental health, human health, social equity and economic development in your city? Would you propose different criteria or categories?

5. *Green Spaces in the Urban Environment.* The Advisory Group has preliminarily suggested adding a sixth category of land acquisition to the Executive's proposal, possibly called "urban open space" (due to how much more built-out cities are than rural areas, and the importance of promoting health benefits and social equity in urban areas). Does this make sense to you? If so, how would you like to see an "urban open space" category defined in the context of a regional initiative targeting the promotion of environmental health, human health, social equity and economic development?
6. *Funding and Maintaining City Parks and Open Space.* Does your city have challenges in funding parks and open space acquisitions and maintenance? How important is funding to maintain newly acquired lands?

7. *Funding.* The Executive has proposed a series of options for increasing funding available for land conservation/preservation. Most of these would require a countywide vote to increase countywide property tax levies or impose a new countywide tax:

- a county bond
- property tax levy lid lift
- increase in the conservation futures tax
- REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) 3

Other options the Executive has proposed and expanding philanthropy and new ecosystem markets to secure private funding for the proposed land conservation initiative. What feedback do you have for the Advisory Group's consideration when looking at these funding options?

8. *Allocation of Regionally Generated Funds.* One potential model for sharing regionally generated land conservation monies is in the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) allocation and award process (see enclosed summary). Would you encourage the Advisory Group to consider extending a model similar to the CFT model to allocation of new regional conservation funding? Why or why not?

9. *Other Feedback.* What other questions, considerations and concerns would your City have in deciding whether to support the County Executive's land conservation initiative as currently proposed?

Websites for more information:

Land Conservation Webpage: <http://kingcounty.gov/land-conservation>

Advisory Group Webpage: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/conservation-advisory-group>

