

March 23, 2001

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Seattle, Washington 98164
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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division File No. **E00CT030**
Proposed Ordinance No. **2001-0063**

Open Space Taxation (Public Benefit Rating System)
Application of **CHARLES AND SAMANTHA RITTER**
24711 SE 417th St.
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Location of Property: 24711 SE 417th St., Enumclaw, WA

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department's Preliminary:	Approve 7.0 acres for 50% of market value
Department's Final:	Approve 7.0 acres for 50% of market value
Examiner:	Approve 7.0 acres for 50% of market value

PRELIMINARY REPORT:

The Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division Report on Item No. E00CT030 was received by the Examiner on March 6, 2001.

PUBLIC HEARING:

After reviewing the Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division Report and examining available information on file with the application, the Examiner conducted a public hearing on the subject as follows:

The hearing on Item No. E00CT030 was opened by the Examiner at 9:30 a.m., March 20, 2001, in the Fifth Floor Conference Room, Union Bank of California Building, 900 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, and closed at 10:20 a.m.

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the office of the King County Hearing Examiner.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATION: Having reviewed the record in this matter, the Examiner now makes and enters the following:

FINDINGS:

1. General Information:

Owner: See "SUBJECT" above
 Location: See "SUBJECT" above
 Zoning: A35
 STR: NW-NW-14-20-06

Acreage:
 Property Total: 15 acres
 Requested for Open Space: 7 acres
 Recommended Open Space: 7 acres

Subject of Request:

Priority Resources:

HIGH PRIORITY RESOURCES

- Aquifer protection area
- Surface water quality buffer area
- Significant plant, wildlife or salmonid habitat area

MEDIUM PRIORITY RESOURCES

- Public lands or right-of-way buffer
- Special animal site

BONUS RESOURCE

- Contiguous parcels under separate ownership

PUBLIC ACCESS

- Limits public access – seasonal and/or upon special arrangement

2. Except as modified herein, the facts set forth in the King County Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division Preliminary Report to the King County Hearing Examiner for the March 20, 2001, public hearing are found to be correct and are incorporated herein by this reference. Copies of the said Report will be attached to the copies of this Report submitted to the King County Council.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Approval of current use valuation for 7 acres of the subject property, pursuant to the Public Benefit Rating System adopted by King County Ordinance No. 10511, would be consistent with the purposes and intent of King County to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of King County and its citizens.
2. Timely application has been made to King County for the current use valuation of the subject property to begin in 2002. Notice of said application was given in the manner required by law.

- 3. The subject property contains priority open space resources pursuant to the King County Public Benefit Rating System, which justify a total award of 5 points. The resulting current use value is 50% of market value for 7 acres of the subject property.

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE the request for current use valuation of 50% of market value for 7 acres of the subject property, subject to the conditions recommended in the Department of Natural Resources report for the March 20, 2001 public hearing.

Current use valuation shall be subject to all terms and conditions of RCW 84.34 and King County Code Chapter 20.36, as the same may be amended from time to time, and all regulations and rules duly adopted to implement state law and county ordinances pertaining to current use valuation.

RECOMMENDED this 23rd day of March, 2001.

R. S. Titus, Deputy
King County Hearing Examiner

TRANSMITTED this 23rd day of March, 2001, to the following parties and interested persons:

Charles and Samantha Ritter
24711 SE 417th St.
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Tom Beavers, Department of Natural Resources
Monica Clarke, Metropolitan King County Council
Susan Monroe, Department of Assessments
Ted Sullivan, Department of Natural Resources
Charlie Sundberg, Office of Cultural Resources

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL
AND ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED**

In order to appeal the recommendation of the Examiner, written notice of appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council with a fee of \$125.00 (check payable to King County Office of Finance) *on or before April 6, 2001*. If a notice of appeal is filed, the original and 6 copies of a written appeal statement specifying the basis for the appeal and argument in support of the appeal must be filed with the Clerk of the King County Council *on or before April 13, 2001*. Appeal statements may refer only to facts contained in the hearing record; new facts may not be presented on appeal.

Filing requires actual delivery to the Office of the Clerk of the Council, Room 1025, King County Courthouse, prior to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on the date due. Prior mailing is not sufficient if actual receipt by the Clerk does not occur within the applicable time period. The Examiner does not have authority to extend the time period unless the Office of the Clerk is not open on the specified closing date, in which event delivery prior to the close of business on the next business day is sufficient to meet the filing requirement.

If a written notice of appeal and filing fee are not filed within 14 days calendar days of the date of this report, or if a written appeal statement and argument are not filed within 21 calendar days of the date of this report, the Clerk of the Council shall place a proposed ordinance which implements the Examiner's recommended action on the agenda of the next available Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council may adopt the Examiner's recommendation, may defer action, may refer the matter to a Council committee, or may remand to the Examiner for further hearing or further consideration.

Action of the Council Final. The action of the Council on a recommendation of the Examiner shall be final and conclusive unless within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the action an aggrieved party or person applies for a writ of certiorari from the Superior Court in and for the County of King, State of Washington, for the purpose of review of the action taken.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2001 PUBLIC HEARING ON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FILE NO. E00CT030 – RITTER.

R. S. Titus was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing was Ted Sullivan.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the hearing record:

- Exhibit No. 1 Not Submitted
- Exhibit No. 2 Not Submitted
- Exhibit No. 3 Not Submitted
- Exhibit No. 4 Staff Report
- Exhibit No. 5 Legal Notice to Council
- Exhibit No. 6 Not Submitted
- Exhibit No. 7 Affidavit Of Publication Received
- Exhibit No. 8 Notification To Applicant Of Hearing Sent
- Exhibit No. 9 Affirmation Signed/Notarized
- Exhibit No.10 Legal Description of designated open space
- Exhibit No.11 Assessor Map (See exhibit #14)
- Exhibit No.12 Notice of Hearing, Office of Hearing Examiner
- Exhibit No.13 King County Assessors Database
- Exhibit No.14 Site Map
- Exhibit No.15 Arcview Map

This document is provided for information only. DO NOT complete and return. A completed copy will be furnished to the Applicant(s) by the Office of the Hearing Examiner after an application has been approved by the Metropolitan King County Council.

OPEN SPACE TAXATION AGREEMENT
Chapter 84.34 RCW

(To be used for "Open Space", "Timber Land" Classification or "Reclassification" Only)

Owner(s)
Granting Authority
Legal Description

Assessor's Property Tax Parcel or Account Number
Department of Natural Resources File Number
This agreement between

hereinafter called the "Owner", and
hereinafter called the "Granting Authority".

Whereas the owner of the above described real property having made application for classification of that property under the provisions of Chapter 84.34 RCW.

And whereas, both the owner and granting authority agree to limit the use of said property, recognizing that such land has substantial public value as open space and that the preservation of such land constitutes an important physical, social, esthetic, and economic asset to the public, and both parties agree that the classification of the property during the life of this agreement shall be for:

- Open Space Land
Timber Land

Now, therefore, the parties, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth herein, do agree as follows:

- 1. During the term of this agreement, the land shall be used only in accordance with the preservation of its classified use.
2. No structures shall be erected upon such land except those directly related to, and compatible with, the classified use of the land.
3. This agreement shall be effective commencing on the date the legislative body receives the signed agreement from the property owner and shall remain in effect until the property is withdrawn or removed from classification.
4. This agreement shall apply to the parcels of land described herein and shall be binding upon the heirs, successors and assignees of the parties hereto.
5. Withdrawal: The landowner may withdraw from this agreement if, after a period of eight years, he or she files a request to withdraw classification with the assessor. Two years from the date of that request the assessor shall withdraw classification from the land, and the applicable taxes and interest shall be imposed as provided in RCW 84.34.070 and 84.34.108.
6. Breach: After the effective date of this agreement, any change in use of the land, except through compliance with items (5), (7), or (9), shall be considered a breach of this agreement, and shall be subject to removal of classification and liable for applicable taxes, penalties, and interest as provided in RCW 84.34.080 and RCW 84.34.108.

- 7. A breach of agreement shall not have occurred and the additional tax shall not be imposed if removal of classification resulted solely from:
 - a) Transfer to a governmental entity in exchange for other land located within the State of Washington.
 - b) A taking through the exercise of the power of eminent domain, or sale or transfer to an entity having the power in anticipation of the exercise of such power and having manifested its intent in writing or by other official action.
 - c) A natural disaster such as a flood, windstorm, earthquake, or other such calamity rather than by virtue of the act of the land owner changing the use of such property.
 - d) Official action by an agency of the State of Washington or by the county or city where the land is located disallowing the present use of such land.
 - e) Transfer of land to a church when such land would qualify for exemption pursuant to RCW 84.36.020.
 - f) Acquisition of property interests by State agencies or agencies or organizations qualified under RCW 84.34.210 and 64.04.130 (See RCW 84.34.108(5)(f)).
 - g) Removal of land classified as farm and agricultural land under RCW 84.34.020(2)(d).
 - h) Removal of land from classification after enactment of a statutory exemption that qualifies the land for exemption and receipt of notice from the owner to remove the land from classification.
 - i) The creation, sale, or transfer of forestry riparian easements.
 - j) The creation, sale, or transfer of a fee interest or a conservation easement for the riparian open space program under RCW 76.09.040.
- 8. The county assessor may require an owner to submit data relevant to continuing the eligibility of any parcel of land described in this agreement.
- 9. Reclassification as provided in Chapter 84.34 RCW.

This agreement shall be subject to the following conditions:

It is declared that this agreement specifies the classification and conditions as provided for in Chapter 84.34 RCW and the conditions imposed by this Granting Authority. This agreement to tax according to the use of the property may be annulled or canceled at any time by the Legislature.

Granting Authority:

Dated _____

City or County

Title

As owner(s) of the herein-described land I/we indicated by my/our signature(s) that I am/we are aware of the potential tax liability and hereby accept the classification and conditions of this agreement.

Owner(s)

Dated _____

(Must be signed by all owners)

Date signed agreement received by Legislative Authority _____

To inquire about the availability of this notice in an alternative format for the visually impaired or in a language other than English, please call (360) 753-3217. Teletype (TTY) users may call (800) 451-7985.