



Sarah Perry
Councilmember, District 3
Metropolitan King County Council

June 10th, 2024

Mayor Katherine Ross
City of Snoqualmie
38624 SE River Steet
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Dear Mayor Ross:

Thank you so much for reaching out about the Community Center Expansion Project. We have heard from you and other community groups that this is an important project for the City of Snoqualmie and neighboring communities. I understand the value this project would bring to the Valley, especially as our youth population grows, and I want to work with you to address the service gap in public aquatic services.

It is important to invest in community projects, like the Snoqualmie Community Center Expansion, that will serve as a central connection point for residence and expand access to local services. King County Parks is mainly funded through a property tax levy and that revenue is invested into parks, trails, recreation, and open space protection for all King County residents to benefit from. The King County Parks Levy was created in 2002 when there was a significant General Fund crisis and faced the possibility of having to close its system of parks, pools, and recreational services. Since then, King County voters have approved the levy 4 times to continue the investment into these vital spaces. All of King County's funding for parks is tied to the Parks levy. As you mentioned, the King County Parks Levy provided \$1 million to this project, and I am excited about this investment being made into our community to increase access to health, wellness, and water safety education.

While this project will be an asset to our growing community, I wanted to note that General Fund dollars are not utilized for parks, including King County parks. King County Parks has not received General Fund support since 2010. King County's General Fund pays for the traditional functions of county government, including courts, the Sheriff's Office, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, public defense, jails, elections, and property assessments. Additionally, current forecasts show that the County faces a General Fund budget deficit of \$80 to \$100 million for the 2025-2026 biennium. This means that the King County Parks Levy is the best source of funding at King County for this project and I am glad that a strong partnership between the City of Snoqualmie and King County Parks has already been established.

The Parks levy goes through 2025 and after it goes on the ballot, King County will go through a deep review of the levy implementation plan. This will be an opportunity for the City of Snoqualmie to be an active participant in how the funding is distributed and what level of allocation between different categories. That being said, I want to make sure that you are connected to Warren Jimenez, the Park Director, and Doug Hodson, Deputy Parks Director, for the most updated information on the Parks levy and for more resources on how to get your feedback incorporated into future levy conversations. They are CC'd on this email. Please feel free to let us know if you have additional questions.

Again, thank you for reaching out about this important community project. I am excited about the future of this project and the lasting benefits it will provide to the City of Snoqualmie, District 3 and the greater King County area. I look forward to growing our regional community partnerships as this project develops.

Please keep our team updated on further developments and let us know if there are other ways we can assist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Perry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" and "P".

Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember District 3
Sarah.perry@kingcounty.gov/206-477-1003