



October 7, 2026

To: Leon Richardson (LRichardson@kingcounty.gov), Director, King County DLS

Cc: Girmay Zahilay (girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov), King County Executive
King County Council (council@kingcounty.gov)
City of Maple Valley (council@maplevalleywa.gov)
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Subject: Druids Glen—PREA25-0038

The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) supports the preservation of open space at Druids Glen Golf Course. The surrounding communities consider this a very valuable King County ecosystem, closely associated with Maple Valley, Covington, and Black Diamond.

The land is unique, providing multiple environmental benefits and critical wildlife habitat. It contains large wetlands that drain to Covington and Crisp creeks, tributaries to the Green River. Specifically, Crisp Creek provides the only source of water to the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's Keta Creek Salmon Hatchery. Developing this property should maintain the fragile environment in which it is being placed. Impacts could also occur to fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality. All critical areas should be identified and protected, as required by the Critical Areas Ordinance.

King County has mechanisms to preserve this property including Conservation Futures Tax and Parks Levy funds, and promoting development density along with extensive open space protection. King County has many examples of preserving large properties including:

- Meadowbrook (460-ac.) and Tollgate Farms (370-ac.) near Snoqualmie and North Bend.
- Manke Timber Company (1,100-ac.) near Hobart (now Taylor Mountain Forest)
- Weyerhaeuser Snoqualmie tree farm (90,000-ac.) through a Conservation Easement
- Issaquah Highlands (1,800-ac.) and Issaquah Talus developments (400-ac.).

Protecting Druids Glen would bring similar benefits.

We have been approached by many community members who have voiced strong concerns. Should King County be unable to employ the available conservation mechanisms described above, we urge that all applicable zoning and environmental policies and codes be followed to the letter. We further urge a robust SEPA review process resulting in a thorough EIS. Finally, we call for local meetings to be held in south King County throughout the process to keep the public well informed.

Prepared by:

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