

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 00-3003 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFINING A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING POTENTIAL GREENSPACES PROPERTIES FOR ACQUISITION

Date: October 20, 2000

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BACKGROUND

Since the passage of the Open Spaces, Parks, and Streams Bond Measure in 1995, Metro has acquired over 6,000 acres of land. Metro has been guided in its acquisition strategy by refinement plans within 14 natural regions. Occasionally Metro receives unsolicited requests from the public to evaluate potential properties for acquisition. Councilor McLain has expressed an interest in formalizing the review process for such evaluations to include an identifiable set of criteria, and opportunities for public and/or Council input or comment (as outlined in Resolution 00-3003). Councilor Bragdon proposes an alternative option to Councilor McLain's (as outlined in the attached memorandum).

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

When an unsolicited acquisition enquiry comes to Metro, the following broad questions are used as a framework by staff to evaluate the property:

1. Is the proposed property either inside of, or close to, the existing geographic boundary of a refinement area?
2. Would this acquisition help to achieve one or more of the overall goals of the program, as well as the particular goals of adjacent target areas?
3. Is the property close to an existing acquisition, where it would enhance contiguity and decrease fragmentation?
4. Is the property in a target area where goals have not yet been met?

If it is determined that a proposed property doesn't fit within an existing target area, staff considers the feasibility of creating a new target area. However new target areas may only be proposed when all the existing target area goals have been met, and funds are still available for acquisition; specific target area acquisition becomes cost prohibitive or infeasible; and new target areas would not diminish the goals of existing target areas.

Councilor McLain proposes to formalize the above actions in the form of an evaluation process, adding a public hearing at the Metro Operations Committee.

Councilor Bragdon offers an alternative to public hearing and review by the Operations Committee, recommending instead that staff evaluation and recommendations are forwarded to Council in the form of a 10-day response letter, and, if Council agrees with the recommendation, no further action is required. However, if there is disagreement, council would respond to staff with a requested action within the 10-day response period.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Council provide direction in regards to defining a process for evaluating potential greenspaces properties for acquisition by either adopting Resolution 00-3003 as written, or amending it to incorporate Councilor Bragdon's proposed alternative.