

Ordinance _____

An ordinance creating a chapter titled Conservation Futures Fund, of the Clallam County Code

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section xxx.010, Purpose, is created to read as follows:

It is hereby declared to be in the public interest and to be a County purpose to adopt and impose a property tax levy as authorized by RCW 84.34.230 and to create a special fund to which all such levy proceeds shall be credited. The purpose of the fund created is to acquire interests or rights in real property for the preservation of farms, agricultural land, and critical areas.

Section xxx.020, Property tax levy imposed, is created to read as follows:

Pursuant to RCW 84.34.230, there is hereby imposed a property tax levy to be applied against all taxable property within Clallam County. The levy shall be applied at a rate of two and three-quarter cents (\$0.0275) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation.

Section xxx.030, Fund established, is created to read as follows:

A special fund is hereby established, as provided for under RCW 84.34.230, which shall be known as the Conservation Futures Fund and to which will be credited all taxed levied under this chapter.

Section xxx.040, Use of fund, is created to read as follows:

Amounts placed in the conservation futures fund shall be used solely to acquire rights and interests in farm, agricultural land, and critical areas on a voluntary basis, as established in Chapter 84.34 RCW. The purpose is to protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve the property for public use or enjoyment. Included are debt issuances and debt service costs related to bond monies and repayment in instances where bonds are issued to further these purposes. Until withdrawn for such use, the monies accumulated in the fund may be invested in interest-bearing securities. It shall be the joint responsibility of the Clallam County Treasurer and the County Auditor to account for all aspects of this fund. Any money remaining in the fund upon fund closure shall be transferred as directed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section xxx.050 Establishment of a Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board, is created to read as follows:

Effective January 1, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners shall appoint a Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board to implement the provisions of this chapter. The Advisory Board shall recommend to the Board of County Commissioners criteria for selection of the projects to be funded. The Advisory Board shall also make annual or more frequent recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for projects to be funded as part of the conservation futures program and shall develop strategic, long-term plans for the program. All recommendations of the Program Advisory Board shall be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for final action.

The Advisory Board shall consist of xxx (#) voting members, who shall include one representative of the Clallam Conservation District, one representative from the North Olympic Land Trust, one citizen from each County Commissioner District, and one citizen-at-large member. The County

Chief Financial Officer and Director of the Extension Office shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of this board. Terms of the Advisory Board members shall be limited to four (4) years. Initial terms shall be staggered so that no more than thirty-three (33) percent of the board members' terms shall expire in any year.

Section xxx.060 Review Required, is created to read as follows:

No later than December 31, 2020, and every ten (10) years thereafter, the Board of County Commissioners shall hold a public hearing to consider public input regard the continued need for the tax collected pursuant to RCW 34.84.230. The Advisory Board shall submit a report to the Board of Commissioners, which includes an accounting of all funds collected and expended. After the public hearing, the Board of Commissioners shall determine whether to continue collecting the tax, whether to change the rate of the tax, or whether to repeal the tax. The Board of Commissioners shall consider, among other things, whether there is a continued need for funding, whether alternative funding sources exist and are adequate, and the success of past projects.

Section xxx.070 Severability, is created to read as follows:

If any provision of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances, is not affected.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2019

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mark Ozias, Chair

ATTEST:

Randy Johnson

Loni Gores, Clerk of the Board

Bill Peach