ORDINANCE 0-4791

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION THRESHOLDS IN GOAT HILL AND AMENDING SECTION 24.02.065 OF THE KIRKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 24.02 of the Kirkland Municipal Code contains the City's laws that implement the State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW), and is designed to aid the City in identifying and mitigating the significant adverse environmental impacts of projects; and

WHEREAS, the Goat Hill neighborhood currently contains significant environmental constraints, including but not limited to only two primary access points, steep and narrow streets, significant landslide hazards, a number of perennial and intermittent streams, and other critical environmental areas, including wetlands; and

WHEREAS, a geographically-focused amendment to the City's categorical exemption thresholds is needed to ensure that development projects containing more than four residential units in Goat Hill are evaluated for potential environmental impacts, due to ongoing concerns about vehicle and emergency access, soil and stormwater conditions, and other issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Kirkland do ordain as follows:

<u>Section 1</u>. Kirkland Municipal Code Section 24.02.065 is amended to read as follows:

24.02.065 Threshold levels for categorical exemptions.

WAC 197-11-800 establishes certain actions as exempt from SEPA. Under WAC 197-11-800(1)(c), the city establishes raised levels of exemptions for the following types of actions as exempt from SEPA except as provided in WAC 197-11-305 and 197-11-800(1)(a):

- (a) The construction or location of any residential structures of twenty or fewer dwelling units, except in Goat Hill as shown in Map X, where the exemption threshold is the construction or location of any residential structures of four or fewer dwelling units (WAC 197-11-800(1));
- (b) The construction of a barn, loafing shed, farm equipment storage building, produce storage or packing structure, or similar agricultural structure, covering thirty thousand or fewer square feet, and

 to be used only by the property owner or his or her agent in the conduct of farming the property. This exemption shall not apply to feed lots (WAC 197-11-800(1));

- (c) The construction of an office, school, commercial, recreational, service or storage building with twelve thousand or fewer square feet of gross floor area, and with associated parking facilities designed for forty or fewer automobiles (WAC 197-11-800(1));
- (d) The construction of a parking lot designed for forty or fewer automobiles not associated with a structure (WAC 197-11-800(1));
- (e) Any fill or excavation of five hundred or fewer cubic yards throughout the total lifetime of the fill or excavation and any excavation, fill or grading necessary for an exempt project in subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section (WAC 197-11-800(1)).
- <u>Section 2</u>. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- <u>Section 3</u>. This ordinance shall be in force and effect five days from and after its passage by the Kirkland City Council and publication, as required by law.
- <u>Section 4</u>. A complete copy of this ordinance shall be certified by the City Clerk, who shall then forward the certified copy to the King County Department of Assessments.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 05 day of April, 2022.

Signed in authentication thereof this 05 day of April, 2022.

Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

Kathi Anderson, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Kevin Raymond, City Attorney

Publication Date: 04/11/2022

Goat Hill Boundary and Zoning Attachment 1

