

## **D#50 SMALL SCALE RESEARCH FACILITIES**

### **SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF REPORT**

**SUMMARY:** This Supplemental Staff Report provides responses to issues that were raised at a Planning Commission meeting regarding amendments to the Renton Municipal Code Development Regulations (Title IV). It also includes additional information that staff has identified as being necessary to include in the analysis for amendments.

#### **General Description**

This proposal would evaluate adding a land use "Scientific Research (Small Scale)" to the Zoning Use Table that allows for small scale research/education/mitigation/demonstration projects to increase knowledge and awareness of the City's natural features. In addition, a definition of Scientific Research (Small Scale) would be added to the Development Regulations.

Planning Commission Issue: The Commission requested that staff clarify whether or not Scientific Research (Small Scale) be defined as being temporary.

Staff Response: Typically, requests for scientific or research facilities have been for facilities or experiments that are short-term in nature, and/or have little to no adverse affects on the surrounding environment. A recent request is for a demonstration garden within the confines of the King County Wastewater Treatment Plant would qualify as a Small Scale Research Facility due to the low-intensity of the use. However, the duration of the use is likely to be several years. Since we cannot anticipate whether a use would be temporary or not, staff proposes to revise the definition to indicate that such uses are typically short-term in nature, or have a minimal affect on the environment.

**RESEARCH – SCIENTIFIC (SMALL SCALE):** The gathering of data, information, and facts for the advancement of knowledge. Scientific research may be conducted in a building or in the field, and may include investigation, testing, or experimentation for study, research, education, mitigation, and demonstration of scientific principles. Small-scale research is generally sponsored by an entity or government agency, and facilities consist of temporary offices, sheds, or structures that have a small footprint and limited impact on the underlying use of the site. The use may be temporary in nature, and/or have little to no adverse affect on the environment.