- Support a public information and education program so that a ballot measure can be offered. WE are currently planning to offer such a ballot measure in November, 1996.

- Furnish financial and in-kind support to the Forum so that the foregoing can be implemented."

Mr. Lee stated that the Forum made the presentation to the Town of Coupeville about two weeks ago and Nancy Conard, Mayor-elect, Town of Coupeville, was in attendance today but had to leave, however submitted the following for the record:

TYPE IN LETTER
"The Coupeville Town Council heard a report from the Central Whidbey Water Resources Forum, similar to the one being presented to you today, and have directed me to write this letter of support for their report and for the forum's request for continuation.

Long term water solutions for Coupeville must be developed in conjunction with other consumers in the Central Whidbey area. This is both an economic and practical issue, particularly due to the sole source aquifers which mean that users could affect one another in their consumption and management of the resource.

In an effort to strengthen the town's commitment to the forum, we will be replacing our citizen volunteer representing the town as a municipal supplier, with a staff person. This person will be directed to attend the meetings of the forum and to provide some staff support to the projects and goals of the forum. It is our hope that the county ill also assign the new hydrogeologist to work with this group, which will ensure that a dialogue is maintained in the process as well as to facilitate the completion of tasks.

The town will also cooperate with the forum by sharing studies previously conducted and also structuring future engineering studies in a way which may benefit the forum's collection of data, as well as the town's purposes.

We are hopeful that the county will, along with the hydrogeologist, provide clerical and incidental support to the forum. The town is prepared to assist in an in-kind manner in this area: making photocopies, assisting with mailings.

I appreciate your consideration of the work to date of the forum. I believe that they have assembled good representation of the Central Whidbey area, have defined a good work plan, and now need the support of both the county and the town to bring their work to fruition."

Commissioner Shelton suggested one thing that might be appropriate from the County's perspective in terms of support from the County would be that the Forum formalize some sort of budget request. The report speaks well to the fact that to ever solve the water problem on Central Whidbey it is the people who live here who will solve the problem. The one comment he could not agree with more was the need to get together a group of people [such as the forum] truly willing to address the water problems as a singular issue. The figures clearly indicate the problem exists today that needs to be addressed, and he clearly believed that this was the proper way to address it. He congratulated Mr. Lee on an excellent report and committed to doing everything he could to support them gong on from this point.

Commissioner Shaughnessy also thanked Mr. Lee, and stated that this was exactly what he envisioned the hydrogeologist doing -- working with groups like this to help solve the problem.

Commissioner Shelton noted that everyone valued the agricultural community in Coupeville and the continued viability of that agricultural community in his mind was the most effective way to preserve Central

Whidbey yet it takes a lot of water to run a dairy farm. If the water problem can be successfully solved that would go along with maintaining the agricultural community which in turn maintains the rural lifestyle and vast open spaces everyone loves.

Chairman McDowell stated that the Board would need to read the report in depth and get staff comments on it. He had no doubts though about the Forum getting some support. He realized that one hydrogeologist would not solve water problems in the County but working in concert with an organization such as the Forum or others to come was an opportunity to start addressing the issues. He observed this to be one of the most productive things he had seen during his three years on the Board. He committed to keeping this on the front burners and as soon as the County's hydrogeologist came on board, and a proposed budget received from the Forum, the Board would move forward.

RECESS until 7:00 p.m.

HEARING HELD: ORDINANCE #R-55-95 AMENDING ISLAND COUNTY CODE 15.01

A Public Hearing was held at 7:00 p.m. as scheduled and advertised, for the purpose of considering Ordinance #R-55-95 amending Island County Code 15.01, Marshall Drainage Basin Stormwater Management Program adopting Marshal Drainage Basin Plan, adopting ICC 15.02 Storm and Surface Water Utility Ordinance and amending ICC 16.14C, a portion of Island County Environmental Policy.

The Hearing was held at the Senior Service Center (Bayview), 2845 E. Highway 525, Langley. Commissioners McDowell, Shelton and Shaughnessy were in attendance, along with the Clerk of the Board, Art Hyland, staff from the Public Works/Engineering Department, Steve DiJulio, Bond Counsel, and Bruce Livingston, project engineer. Roy L. Allen, County Engineer, and Lew Legat, Assistant County Engineer, were present as well. There were approximately 30 citizens were in attendance. A sign up sheet was provided and is on file. Copies of the Ordinance, and the service charge for the utility, alphabetically by name, parcel number and amount to pay upfront or spread out over 20 years were provided to those attending. The Chairman made the opening introductions and presentation.

Commissioner Shelton recalled that at least two public meetings were held where all of the issues surrounding the establishment of a utility to cover the stormwater in the Marshal Road Drainage Basin were discussed. He was encouraged that some emergency repairs had already been done utilizing county funds. Most who live in the area he believed were aware that in spite of recent storm events there was not flooding which speaks well to the design concept. The margin of safety enjoyed during the past few storms was not particularly significant and probably not adequate to address drainage problems in the long haul, however.

Steve DiJulio's firm served as special counsel and special deputy prosecuting for Island County for some number of years, and he had been involved with Island County work for approximately 4 or 5 years, and was engaged in September as the Marshall Drainage program moved forward. Mr. DiJulio explained that the program was created by ordinance adopted by the County Commissioners in April 1995. A series of public meetings were held over the summer, and as the project developed and as the plan was prepared he was asked to assist the County in preparing the necessary ordinances to implement the program. The ordinance creates a new chapter in the Island County Code "Storm and Surface Water Utility" and has two main purposes: (1) create the utility; and (2) provide for funding mechanisms to fund the utility. The County is acting pursuant to State law, Chapter 36.89 RCW, that authorizes counties to create storm and surface water management systems. Under State law the money raised for the utility must be used exclusively for the utility purposes, and the Ordinance creates a separate fund in the County Treasurer's Office; rates and charges paid into that fund can only be used in the drainage system.