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**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

## Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive  
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner *MA*  
THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director *MP*

DATE: February 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Docketing Comp Plan & Development Regulation Amendments

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Pursuant to state and local law, proposed comprehensive plan and development regulation amendments are docketed for further review by the County Council each year. This year, there are seven new applications and a number of previous applications (initiated in past years) on the proposed docket.

### **New Applications**

Whatcom County has submitted or received new proposals relating to the following topics for consideration in 2020:

- Point Roberts Special District – Moratorium and Economic Assessment
- Capital Facilities Planning
- Neighborhood Commercial to Residential Rezone
- Rural Forestry Designation and Text Amendment (Nooksack Falls)
- Whatcom County Code Amendments
- Shoreline Program Update
- Countywide Planning Policy Amendments

The Council should determine which of the above proposals to docket for further review in 2020. Docketed amendments will be submitted for SEPA review, evaluated by the Planning Department, and go to a public hearing before the Planning Commission prior to returning to the County Council for a final decision. If an amendment is not docketed by Council, it will not go forward.

Fee waivers have been requested for the Point Roberts Special District, Neighborhood Commercial to Residential Rezone, and the Rural Forestry Designation and Text Amendment (Nooksack Falls) applications. WCC 22.10.020(3)(b) states: “. . . When docketing an application, the county council may waive the application fees if it finds the proposed amendment would clearly benefit the community as a whole.”

The Council may docket these amendments without waiving the approximately \$9,640 in fees, docket the amendments and waive the fees, or choose not to docket the amendments.

### **Previous Applications**

In addition to the new applications, the following projects were docketed for review in previous years. They are included in the proposed resolution, as review has not been completed:

- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – Breckenridge Rd.
- Lummi Island Ferry Amendments
- Density Credit Program – Zoning Code Amendments
- Point Roberts Subarea Plan and Point Roberts Special District
- Surface Mining Pipeline Buffer
- Surface Mining of Dry Meander Zones
- Density Credit Program – Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Repeal Cherry Point-Ferndale Subarea Plan
- Critical Areas Ordinance - On-Going Agriculture
- Wind Energy System Amendments
- Cherry Point Amendments
- Sustainable Salmon Harvest Goal
- Mineral Resource Lands – County-wide Designation Process;
- Wireless Communication Facilities;
- Sign Regulations Update;
- Vacation Rental Regulations;
- Code Enforcement Amendments;
- Boundary Line Adjustments;
- Weddings and Special Events;
- Agricultural Strategic Plan Implementation; and
- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – North Star Rd.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed resolution. We look forward to discussing it with you.