



Memorandum

June 22, 2019

TO: The Honorable Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner *MA*

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director *MP*

RE: Interagency Agreement with the State relating to the Review and Evaluation (Buildable Lands) Program Grant

The Washington State Legislature approved Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill (E2SSSB) 5254 relating to the Growth Management Act's "Review and Evaluation Program" (buildable lands) requirements in 2017. This legislation imposes new requirements that Whatcom County must address, in close coordination with the cities, over the next several years including:

- Amending the countywide planning policies to establish the program;
- Developing a Review & Evaluation Program methodology;
- Collecting land development and regulatory data;
- Issuing a buildable lands report by June 30, 2021;
- Developing reasonable measures, if necessary, to reduce the difference between development assumptions and actual development patterns; and
- Considering the buildable lands report and any reasonable measures when conducting the next periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan, which must be completed by June 30, 2024.

The State has allocated \$450,000 to Whatcom County for state fiscal years 2020 and 2021 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021). This request is to accept the grant money from the State to facilitate compliance with this new law. Whatcom County will use these state funds to:

1. Reimburse County staff time spent on this new state mandate;
2. Reimburse cities for time spent on this new state mandate;
3. Contract with a consultant to conduct work relating to the new legislation; and
4. Reimburse related expenses, as allowed by the interagency agreement.

Thank you for your review and consideration of the proposed interagency agreement between the State and Whatcom County. We look forward to discussing it with you.