



## Memorandum

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

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

DATE: February 22, 2022

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 four 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 2022:

- Capital Facilities Planning - Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Countywide Planning Policy Amendments
- Whatcom County Code Amendments
- Forest Practices Transfer of Jurisdiction – County Code Amendments

Brief descriptions of these proposed amendments are included in the attached draft Exhibit A—Docket.

The Council should determine which of the above proposals to docket for further review in 2022. 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.

## **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:

- Battery Energy Storage Systems  
*Status: On hold, waiting for information from applicant before County Council review resumes*
- TDR Receiving Area  
*Status: Planning Commission hearing on February 24, 2022*
- Wireless Communication Facilities  
*Status: Planning Commission hearing anticipated in 2022*
- Bellingham UGA Expansion  
*Status: Not yet scheduled for Planning Commission review*
- Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District Amendments  
*Status: Planning Commission hearing anticipated in 2022*
- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – Breckenridge Rd.  
*Status: Being considered as part of County-wide MRL Designation Process*
- Wind Energy System Amendments  
*Status: Climate Impact Advisory Committee reviewing. Planning Commission hearing anticipated in 2022*
- Mineral Resource Lands – County-wide Designation Process  
*Status: Not yet scheduled for Planning Commission review*
- Sign Regulations Update  
*Status: Not yet scheduled for Planning Commission review*
- Vacation Rental Regulations  
*Status: County Council review in 2022*
- Code Enforcement Amendments  
*Status: County Council review anticipated in 2022*

- Weddings and Special Events

*Status: Not yet scheduled for Planning Commission review*

- Agricultural Strategic Plan Implementation

*Status: Ongoing*

- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – North Star Rd.

*Status: Being considered as part of County-wide MRL Designation Process*

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