



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 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Docketing Comp Plan & Development Regulation Amendments

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 three 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 2023:

- 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulation, and UGA Update
- Zoning Code Density and Lot Size Amendments
- Whatcom 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. 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:

- Cherry Point Shoreline Access

Status: Currently reviewing with Parks and legal counsel. County Council review anticipated in 2023.

- Lake Whatcom Watershed Seasonal Closure Exemption

Status: Currently reviewing with Public Works. Planning Commission hearing anticipated in 2023.

- Bellingham UGA Expansion

Status: Not yet scheduled for Planning Commission review.

- 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 2023.

- 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 anticipated in 2023.

- Code Enforcement Amendments

Status: County Council review anticipated in 2023.

- Weddings and Special Events

Status: Planning Commission hearing anticipated in 2023.

- 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.