

WHATCOM COUNTY

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

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

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner *MA*

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director *MP*

DATE: February 26, 2019

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 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 2019:

- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – E. Pole Rd.
- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – Breckenridge Rd.
- Rural Forestry Designation and Text Amendment – Nooksack Falls
- Lummi Island Ferry Amendments
- Density Credit Program – Zoning Code Amendments
- Whatcom County Code Amendments
- Point Roberts Subarea Plan and Point Roberts Special District Amendments

The Council should determine which of the above proposals to docket for further review in 2019. 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.

A fee waiver was requested for the Rural Forestry Designation and Text Amendment – Nooksack Falls application. 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 this amendment without waiving the approximately \$9,600 in fees, docket this amendment and waive the fees, or choose not to docket the application.

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:

- 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;
- Bellingham Development Standards;
- Agricultural Strategic Plan Implementation; and
- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – North Star Rd.

Finally, it should be noted that the Whatcom Coalition for Responsible Motorized Recreation code amendment application (PLN2018-00012) was withdrawn on February 25, 2019. Therefore, it is not included on the docket.

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