



Memorandum

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

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director

DATE: February 8, 2021

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 five 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 2021:

- Battery Energy Storage Systems
- TDR Receiving Area
- Temporary Homeless Facilities
- Wireless Communication Facilities
- Whatcom County Code Amendments

Brief descriptions of these proposed amendments are included in the attached draft Exhibit A—Docket. Additionally, application materials for the two private applications (Battery Energy Storage Systems and TDR Receiving Area) have been e-mailed to Council members and are on file at the Council Office. No fee waivers have been requested for these private applications.

The Council should determine which of the above proposals to docket for further review in 2021. 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:

- Neighborhood Commercial to Residential Rezone
Status: Scheduled for Planning Commission review in 2021.
- Rural Forestry Designation and Text Amendment (Nooksack Falls)
Status: Scheduled for Planning Commission review in 2021.
- Shoreline Management Program (SMP) Update
Status: Currently in Planning Commission review. Anticipate Council review starting in Spring 2021.
- Mineral Resource Lands Expansion – Breckenridge Rd.
Status: Being considered as part of County-wide MRL Designation Process.
- Lummi Island Ferry Amendments
Status: Waiting for concurrent review by the County Council.
- Density Credit Program – Zoning Code Amendments
Status: Scheduled for Planning Commission review in 2021.
- Surface Mining Pipeline Buffer
Status: Being considered as part of County-wide MRL Designation Process.
- Surface Mining of Dry Meander Zones
Status: Incorporated into SMP Update. Currently in Planning Commission review.
- Density Credit Program – Comprehensive Plan Amendments
Status: Waiting for concurrent review by the County Council.
- Repeal Cherry Point-Ferndale Subarea Plan
Status: Scheduled for Planning Commission review in 2021.

- Critical Areas Ordinance - On-Going Agriculture
Status: Appealed to GMHB. Settlement discussions are ongoing.
- Wind Energy System Amendments
Status: Referred to Climate Impact Advisory Committee for Recommendations.
- Cherry Point Amendments
Status: In Council review.
- Sustainable Salmon Harvest Goal
Status: Incorporated into SMP Update. Currently in Planning Commission review.
- Mineral Resource Lands – County-wide Designation Process
Status: Scheduled for Planning Commission review in 2021.
- Sign Regulations Update
Status: Scheduled for Planning Commission review in 2022.
- Vacation Rental Regulations
Status: Scheduled for Council review in 2021 after SMP Update is complete.
- Code Enforcement Amendments
Status: Planning Commission review expected in 2021-2022.
- Weddings and Special Events
Status: Scheduled for Planning Commission review in late 2021.
- 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.