



# Comprehensive Plan Policy or Development Regulation Amendment Suggestion

Planning & Development Services · 1800 Continental Place · Mount Vernon WA 98273

voice 360-416-1320 · [www.skagitcounty.net/planning](http://www.skagitcounty.net/planning)

Per RCW 36.70A.470(2), this form is intended for use by any interested person, including applicants, citizens, hearing examiners, and staff of other agencies, to suggest amendments to Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan policies or its development regulations, which are contained in Skagit County Code Title 14. Please do not combine multiple unrelated Comprehensive Plan policy or development regulation amendments on a single form. This form is for policy or development regulation amendments; use the Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment Request form for changes to the land use/zoning map.

## Submitted By

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## Proposal Description

Please answer all of the questions below that are applicable to your suggestion.

**RECEIVED**

By Stacie Pratschner at 11:01 am, Jul 30, 2018

1. Describe your proposed amendment.

Verizon Wireless requests that the county prioritize the action item "Reorganization and Update of the Wireless Facilities Code" and add this item to the 2018/2019 work plan. See Item C17 on the 2017 Comprehensive Plan Docket.

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/2017CPAdocket/Memo%20to%20Board%20on%20Docketing%20List%20final%20version%20for%20website.pdf>

2. Describe the reasons your proposed amendment is needed or important.

With the explosive growth in the need and demand for data, new small cell technology has been developed to add much needed capacity for data and coverage. Unlike new macro towers, small cell technology uses existing or replacement utility poles and light standards, with small antennas and pole mounted equipment. The visual impact is much smaller than the traditional macro tower and existing codes, that were written to address the large visual impacts of cell towers, are not a workable framework for this new technology. Municipalities throughout the state of Washington are in the process of updating their wireless codes to add a streamlined permitting process for small cells.

3. If you are suggesting revision to a particular section of the Comprehensive Plan, please identify which section(s):

Not applicable.

4. If you are suggesting revision to the Comprehensive Plan, would the revision create inconsistencies with existing sections of the Comprehensive Plan? If so, please list those sections:

Not applicable.

5. If you are suggesting revision to the Comprehensive Plan, would the revision require corresponding amendments to the County's development regulations?

Not applicable.

6. If you are suggesting revision to a particular section of Skagit County Code Title 14, please identify which section(s).

14.16.720 Personal wireless services facilities.

7. *If you are suggesting this development regulation amendment as a result of a particular project or permit application, please identify which project or application:*

Not applicable.

8. *If you are suggesting specific language as part of your amendment, please attach that specific language. Specific language is not required.*

Not applicable.

9. *Describe why existing Comprehensive Plan policies should not continue to be in effect or why they no longer apply.*

Not applicable.

10. *Describe how the amendment complies with the Comprehensive Plan's community vision statements, goals, objectives, and policy directives.*

Utilities Goal 9A- Ensure the provision of high quality, cost effective and environmentally sensitive utility services in cooperation with public and private providers. Small cells are the infrastructure platform that wireless providers will use to augment the existing 4G network and to deliver 5G when it becomes commercially available.

Utility policy 9A-3.4 Wireless Communications – Siting of wireless facilities shall minimize visual and noise impacts, through the utilization of existing sites and structures where possible, adequate setbacks, and appropriate landscape screening. Small cells will augment the macro tower network with a much smaller visual profile and impact.

11. *Describe the anticipated impacts to be caused by the change, including geographic area affected and issues presented.*

More robust and reliable wireless coverage and capacity for the residents, businesses and visitors to the County would be the result of a new streamlined process for small cells.

12. *Describe how adopted functional plans and Capital Facilities Plans support the change.*

Not applicable.

13. *Describe any public review of the request that has already occurred.*

None.

## Notices

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**Fees.** No fees are required for a policy or code change suggestion, per SCC 14.08.020(6).

**Docketing.** SCC Chapter 14.08 governs the process for docketing of Comprehensive Plan amendments; suggestions for changes to the development regulations are docketed following the same process. Docketing of a suggestion is procedural only and does not constitute a decision by the Board of County Commissioners as to whether the amendment will ultimately be approved. Amendments are usually concluded by the end of the year following the request. State law generally prohibits the County from amending its Comprehensive Plan more than once per year.

**Submission deadline.** Suggestions must be received by the last business day of July for docketing. Suggestions received after that date will not be considered until the following year's docket.

**How to Submit.** Submit your suggestion via email (preferred) to [pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us) or to Planning & Development Services at the address above.