



Skagit County Planning Commission

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Chair Tim Raschko **Vice Chair** Tammy Candler
Members Vincent Henley, Amy Hughes, Jennifer Hutchison, Angela Day, Kathy Mitchell,
Kiera Wright, Joe Woodmansee

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Skagit County Planning Commission's Recorded Motion regarding Countywide Planning Policy Amendments and Regional Growth Allocations

Proposal
publication
date: August 22, 2024

Proposal
name: Countywide Planning Policy Amendments and Regional Growth Allocations

Documents
available at: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm>

Public
hearing body: Skagit County Planning Commission

Public
hearing date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Written
comment
deadline: Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

PC
deliberations: October 8, 2024

Recommendations and Findings of Fact

Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) are “a written policy statement or statements used solely for establishing a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted pursuant to this chapter.” CPPs are required for counties, in coordination with cities within their boundaries, planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to provide policies and guidance on how population growth and investment will be directed within a given county.

The proposed CPP amendments will set the framework for the 2025 Skagit County Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update which is required to be consistent with Skagit County CPPs. Skagit County, through a Growth Management Steering Committee, completed countywide population and employment forecasts on June 20, 2024. Through this process the Steering Committee also allocated a portion of countywide population and employment growth to each city in the County. The Steering Committee determined that between 2022 and 2045 rural Skagit County (outside of Urban Growth Areas) will grow by 5,916 people and 1,015 jobs. Unincorporated Skagit County must also accommodate a minimum of 3,490 additional housing units. The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) and the Skagit County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) have both been recently amended to prevent urban sprawl, reduce travel demand, and locate housing in areas close to jobs, services, and other public amenities. This means that all of cities and towns projected growth and development must be accommodated within their existing UGAs. It also means that each of the cities in Skagit County must take steps to ensure their existing UGAs can accommodate their share of the region's growth. Skagit County must take steps to ensure that the population growth share that has been allocated in the rural area can also be accommodated.

Recommendation:

The Skagit County Planning Commission respectfully recommends that the Board of County Commissioners does not adopt the proposed Countywide Planning Policy amendments.


Commission Vote	Support	Oppose	Absent	Abstain
Tim Raschko, Chair	X			
Tammy Candler, Vice Chair	X			
Kathy Mitchell	X			
Vince Henley	X			
Angela Day		X		
Amy Hughes				X
Kiera Wright	X			
Joe Woodmansee	X			
Jennifer Hutchison				X
Total	6	1	0	2

Findings of Fact and Reasons for Action:

1. The process undertaken by the Skagit Council of Governments resulted in a product that was well done given the mandates.
2. The updates to the Growth Management Act imposed by Washington State are not a good fit for Skagit County.
3. We are concerned about the rising costs of living to include housing and fuel that will be exacerbated by these changes.
4. Outside grant funding incentivizes polices that may not prioritize the projects that Skagit County widely uses.
5. The State mandates do not provide enough deference to local control.
6. The State mandates are appropriate for an urban county and not a rural county.
7. Skagit County works very hard to preserve its natural resource lands and rural character.
8. Healthy communities pursue a variety of energy source options to main resiliency.

Commission Vote	Support	Oppose	Absent	Abstain
Tim Raschko, Chair	X			
Tammy Candler, Vice Chair	X			
Kathy Mitchell	X			
Vince Henley	X			
Angela Day	X			
Amy Hughes	X			
Joe Woodmansee	X			
Kiera Wright	X			
Jennifer Hutchison	X			
Total	9	0	0	0

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



 Tim Raschko, Chair

10-8-24

 Date



 Jack Moore, Secretary

10-11-24

 Date

