



SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DON MUNKS, *First District*
KENNETH A. DAHLSTEDT, *Second District*
TED W. ANDERSON, *Third District*

November 14, 2006

To the Citizens of South Fidalgo Island:

We wish to take this opportunity to inform you about the subarea planning process for the unincorporated area of South Fidalgo Island.

1. Rural Intermediate proposal is off the table

The Board of County Commissioners will not consider applying one rural residential zoning district across the entire island as proposed in the first subarea plan draft. We recognize that the "one shoe fits all" alternative is not supported by the community at large, and is inconsistent with state growth management goals, according to staff and legal counsel. Any future rezoning will be based on public comments received through the current community-based planning process and will meet Growth Management Act requirements.

2. Role of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

We honor the many volunteer hours spent by the CAC and the TAC in establishing the groundwork for an effective and responsive plan for South Fidalgo. Out of respect for their knowledge of the issues and for completing a plan in the most efficient manner possible, we have decided that the CAC and TAC hold joint meetings to review and comment on land use alternatives and infrastructure issues generated by the community planning process.

3. New process is community based

The Department of Planning and Development Services, with our support, has begun to re-engage the community in developing sub-area plan alternatives for South Fidalgo. As currently envisioned, these alternatives will be developed by you, the participants, then reviewed by the joint CAC/TAC, next by the Planning Commission, and finally be brought before your elected officials, the Board of County Commissioners for a decision.

4. Your help is needed

Effective, community-based planning is critical to identifying long-term solutions that will maintain the quality of life for South Fidalgo. There are many key issues needing deliberation and resolution, and we invite you to take part in the process. The first meeting brought some of these issues to light, and we trust many more important factors will be weighed as part of the community planning process. We hope that "island neighborhoods" take this opportunity to become involved in helping shape your community.

If you have already taken part, we thank you, and hope you'll continue. If you haven't yet added your thoughts, we urge you to do so in one of the many ways that are available to you. Balancing the many factors involved is challenging, but with challenges come opportunities and with your assistance we are confident the subarea plan will represent you well. For more information visit the project website at www.fidalgo.studiocascade.com or at www.skagitcounty.net.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

ABSENT

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner



Don Munks, Commissioner