



Planning & Development Services

1800 Continental Place ▪ Mount Vernon, Washington 98273
office 360-416-1320 ▪ pds@co.skagit.wa.us ▪ www.skagitcounty.net/planning

Notice of Availability

including written comment period and public hearing

Information

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| Publish date: | December 19, 2024 |
| Proposal name: | Public Hearing and Possible Action Regarding an Extension of Interim Ordinance Declaring an Emergency and Adopting a Moratorium on the Acceptance of Permit Applications for Certain Uses and Activities on Agricultural (Ag-NRL) Lands |
| Documents available: | https://www.skagitcounty.net/Agritourism |
| Lead Agency: | Skagit County Planning & Development Services |
| Contact Person: | Tara Satushek, Senior Planner |
| Public hearing body: | Skagit County Board of County Commissioners |
| Public hearing date: | January 6, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. |
| Written comment deadline: | January 3, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. |

Description

The Skagit Board of County Commissioners (Board) will hold a public hearing and take possible action regarding an extension of adopted Ordinance #O20240003, an interim ordinance temporarily prohibiting the acceptance of new permits for event venues on Skagit County agricultural land. The interim ordinance, effective July 23, 2024, clarifies that permissible tourism-related activities on Skagit farmland do not include permanent businesses hosting large events, such as weddings and concerts. Additionally, the ordinance requires that businesses engaging in agritourism activities that are not in compliance with Skagit County regulations must enter into a voluntary compliance agreement (VCA), with a deadline of May 30, 2025. The VCA is a standard contract used by Skagit County Code Enforcement to ease enforcement of agreed-upon compliance terms and conditions. RCW 36.70A.390 and RCW 36.70.795 authorizes the Board to renew a moratorium, interim zoning map, interim zoning ordinance, or interim official control for one or more six-month periods if a subsequent public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each renewal.

More information and the findings of fact are available at the website above.

How to Comment

Option 1: Email comments are preferred and must be sent to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us with the proposal name (“Public Hearing and Possible Action Regarding an Extension of Interim Ordinance Declaring an Emergency and Adopting a Moratorium on the Acceptance of Permit Applications for Certain Uses and Activities on Agricultural (Ag-NRL) Lands”) in the subject line. Include your comments in the body of your email message rather than as attachments.

Option 2: Paper comments must be printed on 8½x11 paper and mailed or delivered to:

Planning and Development Services
Comments on “Public Hearing and Possible Action Regarding an Extension of Interim Ordinance Declaring an Emergency and Adopting a Moratorium on the Acceptance of Permit Applications for Certain Uses and Activities on Agricultural (Ag-NRL) Lands”
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon WA 98273

All comments must be received by the deadline referenced above and include your full name and mailing address. Comments not meeting these requirements will not be considered.

Option 3: You may also comment in person. The Board of County Commissioners is hosting meetings in the Skagit County Commissioners’ Hearing Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. If you wish to provide online testimony, please send an email to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us, with your name, phone number, and include a request to be added to the speakers list in the body of the email. Public hearing testimony is usually limited to three minutes, so written comments are preferred.

Anyone who plans to attend the public hearing and has special needs or disabilities should contact Planning and Development Services at (360) 416-1320 at least 96 hours before the hearing to discuss and arrange any special accommodations.

Transmitted to Skagit Herald: December 17, 2024

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