



Planning & Development Services

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Memorandum: 9.08 Code Amendments

To: Planning Commission
From: Robby Eckroth, Senior Planner
Date: July 7, 2026
Re: SCC 9.08 Single Outdoor Events Code Rewrite

Summary

Planning and Development Services (PDS) is providing this memorandum in advance of the July 14, 2026, Planning Commission work session. This report summarizes and analyzes the proposed amendments to **SCC 9.08 (Exhibit A)**. SCC 9.08, which regulates one-time outdoor public musical entertainments, amusements, and assemblies attracting 100 or more people, was originally adopted in 1970 and has not been updated since.

The proposed code repeals and replaces the chapter to create a modern regulatory framework. The proposed amendments overhaul the chapter to:

- Rename the chapter from Outdoor Public Musical Entertainments, Amusements, and Assemblies to Single Outdoor Events.
- Define events and establish thresholds
- Shift application processing from the Board of County Commissioners office to Planning and Development Services
- Specify application submittal requirements and procedures
- Enhance public safety and health provisions
- Improve enforceability and provide references to other applicable Skagit County code titles
- Add grounds for denial

The previous staff reports, draft maps, citizen comments, public noticing documents, and other supporting materials concerning the 2026 docket are available at the following project webpage: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/Outdoor-Events-code-rewrite.htm>.

Overview of Proposed Amendments

Below is a summary of the proposed amendments:

- **Rename the chapter from Outdoor Public Musical Entertainments, Amusements, and Assemblies to Single Outdoor Events.** The rename makes it clear that SCC 9.08 only regulates one-time events and does not apply to applications for permanent event venues.
- **9.08.010 Purpose.** The current code does not include a purpose. Adding a purpose clarifies the reason and need for regulations for single outdoor events which are based on the need to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare.

- **9.08.020 Definitions.** Adding a definition for “Single outdoor events” further clarifies that the events being regulated are public outdoor events that are not part of any regularly permitted operations under SCC Title 14, such as Limited Event Venues and Agritourism uses. It also clarifies that the definition does not apply to events held at permitted restaurants, churches, grange halls, community centers, or parks, nor does it apply to private gatherings such as family events, private parties, or one-time private weddings.
- **9.08.030 Applicability, Size, and Frequency.**
 - Applicability. Establishes that single outdoor events apply to activities reasonably expecting attendance of more than 50 people. The threshold of 50 aligns with the guest limit for Agritourism 1 uses under [SCC 14.18.407-1](#), which are outright permitted in zones where agritourism is allowed. The existing code’s threshold for a permit is set at 100 people.
 - Types and Size. Subsection (2) establishes three different types of single outdoor events based on the number of attendees:
 - Small Single Outdoor Events. Apply to events that can reasonably expect 200 or fewer people in attendance per day.
 - Medium Single Outdoor Events. Apply to events that can reasonably expect 200 or more people in attendance per day.
 - Large Single Outdoor Events. Apply to events that can reasonably expect 1,000 or more people in attendance per day.
 - Frequency. Subsection (3) restricts single outdoor events from being issued to the same applicant or location for more than three consecutive days and for no more than two occasions per calendar year. The existing code only allows one-day events per SCC 9.08.010.
- **9.08.040 Permit Application—Procedure.** The amendments to the permit application procedure retain the 90-day submittal requirement and the 60-day decision window for small and medium events. For large events, the application must be submitted 120 days before the event, and the County will have 90 days to issue a decision. The proposal also adds public notice requirements for Large Outdoor Events. These include mailing notice to property owners within 300 feet of any parcel where the event is proposed, publishing notice in the County’s official newspaper and on the County website, and posting a notice board on the subject property. A 15-day public comment period is also required for large events.

The amendments to this section also shift application processing responsibility from the Board of County Commissioners office to Planning and Development Services.

- **9.08.050 Application Submittal Requirements.** This section lists detailed submittal requirements including:
 - Applicant and property owner information
 - Event narrative
 - Site plan elements
 - Evidence of water, sewer, and solid waste disposal
 - Fees and authorization forms

- Compliance acknowledgment

The current code requires a written application but does not provide detailed requirements. The list of application requirements creates a predictable application process.

- **9.08.060 Event Requirements and Conditions.** The existing code includes some requirements and conditions, but it does not outline many of the reviews and standards that are currently applied during event permit review. The proposed amendments provide a comprehensive list of event requirements and conditions for:
 - Sanitary facilities, solid waste and drinking water
 - Food service
 - Fire protection
 - Traffic and crowd control scaled to event size
 - Parking requirements
 - Lighting limitations
 - Noise requirements tied to SCC 14.20.060
 - Natural Resource Land preservation.

The amendments clarify responsibilities across agencies and reduces ambiguity for event organizers.

- **9.08.070 Grounds for Denial.** The existing code allows for the Board of County Commissioners to deny an event permit application, however, the code provide the grounds for denial. The proposed amendments provides a list of grounds for denial including inconsistency with SCC 9.08, incomplete applications, safety risks, traffic disruptions, public nuisance risks, illegal activity, and impacts on neighboring properties.
- **9.08.080 Enforcement.** Noncompliance with SCC 9.08 will be subject to enforcement as applicable in Skagit County Code.
- **9.08.090 Severability.** This section has moved but remains the same.

Planning Commission Review

Normally, the Planning Commission reviews amendments only to Title 14. However, PDS is requesting the Commission's feedback on the first draft of the SCC 9.08 amendments before presenting them to the Board of County Commissioners.

Following the July 14, 2026, work session, the Planning Commission will meet on August 18 to provide written feedback to Planning and Development Services on the draft SCC 9.08 amendments. After receiving this feedback, PDS will revise the amendments accordingly and prepare a second draft for the Board of County Commissioners, who will hold a public hearing before taking action on the proposed changes.

Exhibits

- **Exhibit A** – Proposed 9.08 Amendments