



Skagit County
Planning & Development Services
Jack Moore, Director

Memorandum:

Agritourism/Event Venue Business Remand

To: Skagit County Planning Commission
From: Jack Moore, Planning and Development Services Director
Date: August 07, 2024
RE: Agritourism/Event Venue Business Remand

Summary

On June 24th, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution [#R20240132](#) (**Attachment 1**) remanding the proposed Agritourism Code Amendments to the Planning and Development Services Department (Department) for additional work, study, review, and refinement. The Board of County Commissioners, based on its review of the record and the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) Proposed Code Amendments, believes that further Planning Commission deliberation is necessary on the topics described in Section 1 of the attached Resolution. The purpose of this memo is to summarize the recent history of the recommended Agritourism Code Amendments and to summarize questions that the Department would like to ask the Planning Commission in advance of the August 13th, 2024 Planning Commission meeting.

History and Background

On December 12, 2023, the Planning Commission recommended the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) amendments for adoption to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners, based on its review of the record and the AAB Proposed Code Amendments, believes that further Planning Commission deliberation is necessary on the following items:

- a. Whether additional detail is required to describe and regulate agritourism uses other than those considered accessory uses pursuant to SCC 14.16.200(2)(b);
- b. Whether the Proposed Agritourism Code Amendments afford adequate and equitable opportunity to participate in the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival;
- c. Whether Skagit Ag-NRL lands east of the pipeline crossing should be considered and regulated differently than the diked and drained portion of the Skagit below the pipeline crossing
- d. Whether the temporary use standards are sufficient detailed; and

- e. Whether and to what extent the Proposed Agritourism Code amendments and existing coded are consistent with the decision ultimately rendered in the matter of King County v. Friends of Sammamish Valley and other state-level action related to agritourism.

Topics for Discussion

In advance of developing a work plan on the Proposed Agritourism Code Amendments, the Department would like to ask the Planning Commission the following questions at the August 13th Planning Commission meeting:

1. How would the Planning Commission like to begin this phase of the work?
2. What information would you like from the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB)?
3. Would it be helpful to review and reconsider previous public comments received during the last public comment period?
4. What additional information and services can Planning & Development Services compile or provide, such as possibly organizing a County-sponsored multi-stakeholder group, in order to support the Planning Commission's review and deliberation of the 5 topics identified in Resolution #R20240131?

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Resolution #20240132 Remanding Proposed Agritourism Amendment to Planning and Development Services Department and Planning Commission