



# Skagit County Planning & Development Services

DALE PERNULA, AICP *Director*

JACK MOORE, CBCO *Building Official*

## Memorandum

To: Board of County Commissioners  
From: Dale Pernula, Director  
Date: August 9, 2013  
Re: Planning and Land Use Legislation Ordinance

Staff have completed a new draft of the Planning and Land Use Legislation Ordinance based on your direction at your July 2 meeting with department and legal staff and the Planning Commission public participation committee (Greenwood, Ehlers, and Temples).

This new draft shows changes from existing code in strikethrough and underline. Notable changes from previous drafts are highlighted. Consistent with your direction, the new draft includes:

- The Planning Enabling Act is retained as the basis for planning and the Planning Commission;
- Planning Commission terms are set at four years with required staggering for the initial appointments;
- The Planning Commission is given explicit authority to adopt its own bylaws (which was also present in the original draft);
- The conflict of interest provision is narrowed;
- A new line clearly and explicitly requires the County to submit comprehensive plan amendments and development regulations to public participation and the Planning Commission;
- The Department is required to offer at least one Planning Commission in-service training event each year;
- The County must advertise written comment periods and public hearings at least 21 calendar days ahead of time;
- Written comment periods must end at least two days after public hearings.

The month that Planning Commission terms are to begin is unresolved and bracketed. The Board can accommodate through the appointment process whatever month you want to designate as the usual start date for terms. We believe that a date early in the year makes the most sense because the Planning Commission calendar is usually lightest in the beginning of the year.