



Skagit County Planning Commission

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Chair Tim Raschko **Vice Chair** Tammy Candler
Members Vincent Henley, Amy Hughes, Jennifer Hutchison, Angela Day, Kathy Mitchell,
Martha Rose, Joe Woodmansee

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Skagit County Planning Commission's Recorded Motion regarding Guemes Island Seawater Intrusion Amendment

Proposal
publication
date:

May 2, 2024

Proposal
name:

Guemes Island Seawater Intrusion Amendment

Documents
available at:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/Seawater.htm>

Public
hearing body:

Skagit County Planning Commission

Public
hearing date:

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Written
comment
deadline:

Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

PC
deliberations:

June 11, 2024

On June 11, 2024, the Skagit County Board of Commissioners deliberated on the Guemes Island seawater intrusion amendment.

The Planning Commission held a work session on the amendment on April 23, 2024, prior to the public hearing.

On May 2nd, 2024, the Planning and Development Services Department published a Notice of Availability (including notice of written comment period and public hearing) and staff report and transmitted a 60-day Notice of Intent to Adopt to the Department of Commerce. On October 3, 2023, Skagit County issued a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance for this proposal as part of the 2023 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments.

The staff report published on April 16, 2024 contains additional findings related to process, public notice, and department recommendations.

The public comment period was open from May 2, 2024, until May 30, 2024, in which the County received seven (7) comments. A public hearing was held on May 28, 2024 and the Planning Commission received testimony from four (4) community members.

All written comments and hearing testimony were provided to the Planning Commission in a supplemental staff report dated June 4, 2024.

Planning Commission deliberated on the docket on June 11, 2024.

After considering the written and spoken comments and considering the record before it, the Planning Commission enters the following findings of fact, reasons for action, and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

Recommendations, Findings of Fact and Reasons for Action

C23-1 Seawater Intrusion Area Well Drilling Requirements

1. The Planning Commission recommends to the Board of County Commissioners to **deny** the seawater intrusion area amendment for wells in sole source aquifers.


Commission Vote	Support	Oppose	Absent	Abstain
Tim Raschko, Chair	X			
Tammy Candler, Vice Chair	X			
Kathy Mitchell			X	
Vince Henley		X		
Angela Day	X			
Amy Hughes	X			
Martha Rose			X	
Joe Woodmansee	X			
Jennifer Hutchison	X			
Total	6	1	2	0

Findings of fact and reasons for action:

- a. One purpose of the proposed code is for education of applicants regarding seawater intrusion concerns on Guemes Island. The Planning Commission did not find that the proposed language is the best mechanism for education.
- b. The Planning Commission believes that a voluntary consultation with an applicant could achieve the same goal of education.
- c. The County doesn't regulate well drilling, but can deny use based on water quality through the Public Health Department.
- d. It is not clear how this information will be used in determining the ability to drill a well.
- e. The Planning Commission agrees that Skagit County has an obligation to protect a sole source aquifer under the Growth Management Act which is addressed in other sections of the code; but the Planning Commission is not convinced that the proposed language will accomplish protection of the aquifer.
- f. The Planning Commission thinks the geographic application is too broad.

Commission Vote	Support	Oppose	Absent	Abstain
Tim Raschko, Chair	X			
Tammy Candler, Vice Chair	X			
Kathy Mitchell			X	
Vince Henley		X		
Angela Day	X			
Amy Hughes	X			
Martha Rose			X	
Joe Woodmansee	X			
Jennifer Hutchison		X		
Total	5	2	2	0

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Tim Raschko, Chair

6-11-24

Date



Jack Moore, Secretary

6-12-24

Date