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COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Creating Solutions for Our Future

Joshua Cummings, Director

August 3, 2022

Thurston County Board of Commissioners
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Subject: Planning Commission Recommendation on Development Code Docket Item A-19, Wireless Communication Facilities

The Thurston County Planning Commission has completed its review of 2022-2023 Development Code Docket Item A-19, the Wireless Communication Facilities code update. This docket item is a board-initiated request to update regulations related to wireless communication facilities for consistency with federal law and will repeal and replace Chapter 20.33 Wireless Communication Facilities and Antenna Support Structures, and amend Chapter 20.03 Structure, Interpretation and Definitions, and Chapter 20.54 Special Uses. .

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 2nd, 2021 and received over fifty-five (55) written comments. In response to comments, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to create a stakeholder committee. The stakeholder committee met three times and consisted of County staff, County legal consultants, two wireless representatives, four community representatives, and two Planning Commissioners.

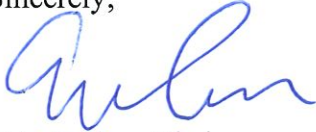
The Planning Commission then held nine (9) follow-up work sessions. After thoughtful consideration of public comments, the outcome of the stakeholder committee meetings, and staff and consultant presentations, the Planning Commission produced a recommendation of approval of the update by majority vote (5-3):

The Planning Commission recommends approval of Development Code Docket Item A-19, Wireless Communication Facilities, which repeals and replaces Chapter 20.33 Wireless Communication Facilities and Antenna Support Structures, and amends Chapter 20.03 Structure, Interpretation and Definitions, and Chapter 20.54 Special Uses.

In addition, a Minority Report was submitted on August 8, 2022 (provided as Attachment A) to explain why three of the dissenting members of the Planning Commission felt this request should not be approved. One Commissioner had been absent during the meeting and did not vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Eric Casino, Chair

cc: Thurston County Planning Commission
Ramiro Chavez, County Manager
Joshua Cummings, Director
Travis Burns, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Attachments:

- A. Minority Report dated August 8, 2022
- B. Majority Recommendation – Proposed code update