

Questions with request for answers:

- 1) The legislature recently passed, HB 1717, calls for agencies to invite collaboration in federally recognized Indian tribes. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Nation supported the writing of the Grand Mound Development Plan published in 2009, which has been utilized by TRPC and the County as a planning resource. **Since 2009**, what actions has the County taken to collaborate on the Grand Mound Subarea Plan, and will the county be working with the Chehalis confederated tribes as a participating tribe going forward according to HB 1717?
- 2) Climate Change has intensified and the COVID pandemic has struck since the last public outreach for the Grand Mound Subarea Plan. COVID, as well as the potential for future pandemics, has impacted travel, tourism, and logistics. It also demonstrated the need for more resiliency planning, including food resiliency. Climate change impacts the aquifer and water supplies, ecosystems, stream behavior, and South Sound agriculture. How might these 2020s and future impacts modify findings and planning goals for the Grand Mound UGA? What sources of expertise has or should the County consult to better understand impacts on the UGA and UGA planning?
- 3) Has the County taken measures to assess potential changes in public opinion regarding the UGA, especially in light of changes to the South County due to climate change, COVID, and other developments and planning initiatives that impact the area and its residents?
- 4) How, exactly, will the Habitat Conservation Plan apply to the Grand Mound/Rochester area? Are there ways that the subarea plan can make it more effective?
- 5) Has the County considered redrawing UGA boundaries in order to optimize its goals for the Grand Mound UGA? Since this possibility was raised in the 2009 report, has the County had discussions with the Chehalis Tribes about this? Has the County considered how boundaries and zoning could best integrate with the transportation projects planned for Grand Mound?
- 6) How could the Grand Mound UGA potentially serve as the site for an agricultural hub supporting South Sound agriculture? Has the County consulted with WSU Extension and/or the Conservation District, as well as agriculture stakeholders, as part of its planning outreach? Can the Subarea Plan provide a clear statement of how the Grand Mound UGA Subarea Plan supports planning for the rural county?
- 7) Housing: Has the County assessed how it can apply HB 1220 to its subarea planning? Specifically, has it assessed housing needs for low, very low, and extremely low income residents in particular; identified gaps in local funding and barriers to low income housing; considered racially disparate impacts and how local policies and regulations may result in disparate impacts; and linked Subarea Plan goals to overall county housing goals?
- 8) Has the County considered potential long term downsides if it fails to incorporate HB 1717 and HB 1220 into the Subarea Plan?
- 9) Has the County developed a timeline for completion of the Grand Mound Subarea Plan?

Helen Wheatley
Thurston County Planning Commissioner

