



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John Hutchings

District One

Gary Edwards

District Two

Tye Menser

District Three

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 18, 2020

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Thank you for your continued service to the citizens of Thurston County. We appreciate your hard work. As an advisory body to the Board of County Commissioners, we entrust the Planning Commission to review amendment proposals for County planning documents and development codes in keeping with the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure (2013) and Chapter 35.63 RCW, which states that the Planning Commission "may act as the research and fact-finding agency of the municipality. To that end it may make such surveys, analyses, researches and reports as are generally authorized or requested by its council or board...". Within this role, we expect the Planning Commission to discuss and deliberate policy and regulatory options, consider the full range of public comment you receive, learn from the science and technical information brought forward by our dedicated staff, and to provide the Board with recommendations that reflect this effort.

In this effort, the Board wants to ensure that you are operating as an advisory body representing, and considering, diverse community interests.

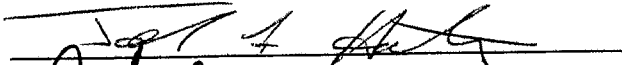
The Board has broad legislative discretion to adopt legislative dockets, establish priorities for amendments that go to the Planning Commission, and in some cases to set general direction and expectations for the scope and scale of amendment proposals.

However, this direction should not be construed as limiting the Planning Commission's responsibility to conduct an open-minded, neutral examination of these amendment proposals.

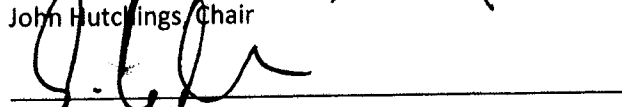
We expect the Planning Commission to explore and consider a range of options, listen to public input and staff recommendations, and if needed, come up with alternative options for the Board to consider. Furthermore, if a review or component of review is beyond the general direction, scope, or scale of a proposal set by the Board, we expect that the Planning Commission produce a recommendation for further consideration. A recent example of this is the Planning Commission's 2019 recommendation to look further into agricultural policies, which we appreciated and are now considering under the County's docketing process.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication to understanding and deliberating these complex planning topics.

Sincerely,



John Hutchings, Chair



Tye Mepser, Vice-Chair



Gary Edwards, Commissioner