



Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

July 14, 2009

The Honorable Kurt Triplett
King County Chinook Building
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Triplett: *Kurt*

As the Growth Management Planning Council considers assigning new growth targets, it is time for King County and its cities to talk about how we allocate our limited public resources in a way that is consistent with our growth-management decisions. Currently as a four-county region, we make growth-management decisions starting with the Puget Sound Regional Council's adopted growth vision and refine them through the King County GMPC. At the same time, through independent processes, King County makes service allocation decisions as if population growth and service needs were unrelated. These two decision processes can no longer remain separate and unrelated.

Seattle has been, and will continue to be, willing to take its share of growth and more because we recognize the importance of accommodating growth in an efficient and sustainable way. We know other jurisdictions also are willing to take on future growth and are doing their part to plan accordingly. However, cities that are willing to take on substantial future growth must have the county services needed to accommodate that growth. We, as a region, must start looking at ways to connect the policies of land use and service allocation, so that our cities can grow while maintaining a quality of life that benefits the entire region.

As the process to adopt growth targets and Countywide Planning Policies moves forward, the representatives of Seattle on the GMPC formally request the September GMPC agenda include a specific and substantive discussion about establishing a stronger connection between the allocation of growth and resources for services to support that growth. We feel that this is an issue absent from many policy discussions and is necessary in order to plan for our region's future growth.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the working with you as our regional partners throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Nickels
GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle

Richard Conlin
RICHARD CONLIN
Seattle City Council President

Sally Clark
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Seattle City Council

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Cc: Members of the Growth Management Policy Council

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