

September 30, 2019

The Honorable Rod Dembowski
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

This letter transmits an ordinance adopting the 2020 update to the 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan (2020 update). In 2018, the County restructured its comprehensive planning program, moving to an 8-year statutory update schedule and allowing a midpoint review every four years. Because of the timing of the next statutory update in 2023, the Council directed a midpoint review in 2020, via Workplan Action 14 in Ordinance 18810 and King County Code 20.18.030.

The process began on January 1, 2019 with submittal of the Scope of Work to the King County Council. King County Motion 15329 adopted the scope on February 27, 2019 and serves as the foundation for the 2020 update. The unique timing of the 2020 update meant that the typical scoping and public review processes were shorter than usual. Several land use and code studies were conducted, as directed; the outcomes of these studies are included with this transmittal.

The 2020 update would advance planning in King County through the following proposals.

- Establish regulations for fossil fuel facilities to protect public health and safety.
- Establish policy and regulatory changes to prepare for sea level rise impacts.
- Implement recommendations from the 2018 Marijuana Report in Proposed Motion 2019-0012.
- Establish new zoning for the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development.
- Make changes to reflect the Regional Affordable Housing Plan and Action Strategy.

The 2020 update also includes the Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Land Use Subarea Plan, which replaces the existing 1994 West Hill Community Plan. This subarea plan, led by the Permitting Division of the Department of Local Services, will be the first conducted under the restructured subarea planning process adopted by the Council in Ordinance 18810.

While the 2020 update does not include any substantive expansions of the Urban Growth Area, there are minor technical changes in some areas, and the plan includes a proposed contraction of the Urban Growth Area for a portion of the area known as the East Cougar Mountain Potential Annexation Area (PAA).

This transmittal package includes the following documents.

- Ordinance adopting amendments to the King County Code.
- Comprehensive Plan and King County Code Amendments.
- Comprehensive Plan Policy I-207 Analysis.
- Plain Language Summary of Code Amendments.
- Forty-two Land Use and Zoning Map Amendments.
- Eight Area Land Use and Zoning Studies.
- Ten Code Studies and Reports.
- Public Participation Report.
- Other Miscellaneous Items.

As in past updates, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and threshold determination will be completed in advance of final action by the King County Council.

The 2020 update is consistent with the King County Strategic Plan. By addressing public health and safety, housing, environmental, and other issues, it responds to the Strategic Plan's vision statement that the County is a diverse and dynamic community with a healthy economy and environment where all people, businesses, and organizations have the opportunity to thrive.

The County's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations are a core element of the County's climate action strategy. By focusing new development in urban areas served by high capacity transit, and protecting working farms and forests the sequester carbon, the county curbs growth in greenhouse gas emissions as the region grows. Consistent with the county's Strategic Climate Action Plan, this 2020 update hold the line on sprawl and strengthens protection of public health and safety from risk of fossil fuel facilities and mining. This 2020 update also proposes new development standards to reduce risks of sea level rise. The amendments in the 2020 update align with the goals related to Accessible and Affordable Housing, a Healthy Environment, and others.

It is estimated that this report required approximately 10,300 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$770,000.

I urge your careful consideration of the proposed plan and implementing regulations. Together, they will help to ensure that our region continues to manage growth effectively while ensuring the County's compliance with the Growth Management Act.

The Honorable Rod Dembowski

September 30, 2019

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If you have any questions about this transmittal, please contact Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning, at 206-263-9606.

Sincerely,

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King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB)

Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning, PSB