



**ISLAND COUNTY
PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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~ MEMORANDUM ~

**TO: Island County Board of Commissioners
Island County Planning Commission**

FROM: Island County Planning & Community Development

DATE: May 17, 2016

SUBJECT: 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update – Shorelines & Utilities Elements

BACKGROUND

In June of 2015, Island County adopted a Scope of Work for the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update. This outlined the work that would be completed during the update process. One of the required items is to update the Plan for consistency with the Growth Management Act, Countywide Planning Policies, and other Elements within the Comprehensive Plan. Only these types of updates were done for the Utilities Element. It is not within the Scope of Work for the 2016 update process to make substantive changes to any of this Element.

The nature of the changes proposed for the 2016 update includes:

- Streamlining and updating the Background Information (non-policy) sections
- Creating a consistent numbering system for the Goals and Policies
- Making sure each policy is attached to the most appropriate goal
- Updating the Goals and Policies for:
 - Clarity
 - Consistency
 - GMA Requirements
 - Outdated information

On May 2, 2016, staff presented the preliminary drafts for the Economic Development, Historic Preservation, Parks and Recreation, and Natural Resources Elements. The following drafts are the next drafts for review.

PACKET MATERIALS

Chapter 3 – Shorelines

The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a separate planning document governed by the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). However, the GMA requires the adopted goals and policies from the SMP be considered an Element of the Comprehensive Plan (RCW 36.70A.480). The SMP was recently updated, and went into effect in January 2016, so no changes are proposed at this time. A new chapter cover was created, but the pages that follow are directly from the 2016 SMP, so there are no enclosures in this packet to review.

Note: Since these goals and policies are adopted separately, the numbering does not match the revised numbering scheme and formatting for the Comprehensive Plan. When the SMP is revised in the future, the County may update the numbering and formatting to match the Comprehensive Plan, for clarity and consistency.

Chapter 9 – Utilities

A utility is a for-profit or a not-for-profit organization that develops and maintains the infrastructure for a public service (e.g. electricity, communication, etc.). Utilities are typically paid for through fees or rates from customers, and are supplied as requested. This differs from capital facilities, which are generally developed and maintained by a public agency (e.g. Island County, Coupeville School District, etc.) and generally paid for through taxes or levies. Examples of capital facilities include: roads, parks, etc.

The Utilities Element is a mandatory Element of the Comprehensive Plan (RCW 36.70A.070(4)). Per the GMA, the Element must include the “general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities.” This Element is not intended to guide how, when, or precisely where utilities should be provided. The utility agencies do this themselves, based on demand for their services. However, Island County does have some control over the siting of utilities.

As was noted in the staff memo on the Natural Resource Element (April 26, 2016), the Water Resource Element was split into the Natural Resources Element and the Utilities Element. The goals, policies and background information in the Water Resources Element relating to the siting, permitting and management of water systems were moved into the Utilities Element.

Since it was not in the scope of work to do a substantive update of this Element, only minor revisions to clarify the language have been done. Most of the utilities described in this Element have changed, so the information has been updated.

The exact locations of many utilities are unknown. Staff has been working with the utilities to get general locations for these utilities. While nearly all the major utility companies have been helpful and shared this information, some utilities had security concerns about sharing that information. Maps of these general locations will be incorporated in the final update where appropriate.

Chapter 8 – Transportation

The Public Works Department has prepared a separate memo, enclosed, to review the Transportation Element updates.

Enclosures:

- “3A” – Change Matrix – Utilities Element – 5-16-16 (GMA No.12018)
- “3B” – Draft Utilities Element – Clean Version – 5-16-16 (GMA No. 12017)
- “3C” – Public Works Staff Memorandum, Transportation Element – 5-16-16 (GMA No. 12021)
- “3D” – Draft Transportation Element, October 2015 (GMA No. 12022)