September 17, 2007

The Honorable Robert Cousart  
Mayor of Kittitas  
207 North Main  
Post Office Box 719  
Kittitas, Washington 98934

Dear Mayor Cousart:

Thank you for sending the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) adopted ordinances 07-011, 07-012, and 07-013 that we received on August 6, 2007. These ordinances indicate the completion of the comprehensive plan and development regulation update process required under RCW 36.70A.130. Your community has reviewed its comprehensive plan and development regulations to ensure the community is growing as envisioned and to bring your plan up to date with the latest laws and regulations. This update will also guide growth consistent with your community’s vision of the future. We recognize the substantial investment of time, energy, and resources that these documents represent, and we congratulate you for completing this process.

We especially like the following:

- The plan recognizes the importance of the existing housing stock and supports efforts to keep them viable by encouraging actions such as retrofitting and weatherization of the existing homes.

- Both the Land Use and Transportation elements of the comprehensive plan promote pedestrian and bicycling for recreational and transportation purposes.

- The plan and critical areas ordinance recognize the need to use the best available science in the designation and protection of critical areas.

- The plan recognizes the relationship with adjacent jurisdictions and regional partners, such as the Quad County Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

- Ordinance #07-013 adopted new critical areas regulations under title chapter 18.20 of the Kittitas Municipal Code. The City prepared a Best Available Science Review to ensure that the best available scientific information has been used to review its specific policies and development regulations adopted to protect the functions and values of critical areas.
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Congratulations to you, your planning commission, staff, and involved citizens for the good work embodied by your update. If you have any questions or concerns about our comments or any other growth management issues, please contact Joyce Phillips, AICP at (360) 725-3045 or joycep@cted.wa.gov. We extend our continued support to the City of Kittitas in achieving the goals of growth management.

Sincerely,

Leonard Bauer, AICP  
Managing Director  
Growth Management Services

LB:JMP:Iw

cc: Robin Newcomb, City Clerk, City of Kittitas  
Lisa Parks, AICP, Alliance Consulting Group  
Lilith Yanagimachi, AICP, Alliance Consulting Group  
David Andersen, AICP, Plan Review and Technical Assistance Manager, Growth Management Services, CTED  
Joyce Phillips, AICP, Growth Management Planner, Growth Management Services, CTED