



KITTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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December 6, 2007

Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West Fifth Ave, Suite 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: Preliminary Recommendations from the Land Use Advisory Committee

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this document is to forward to you the preliminary recommendations of the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) regarding the compliance issues of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan.

This preliminary recommendation represents a cumulative effort of hundreds of hours of individual committee members' time over the last three months. As a group we took our charge seriously and with considerable sense of the importance of this effort to the County for the next 20 to 100 years. We thank you for the opportunity and for your foresight in having this diverse group of people consider the future of Kittitas County and the ability to offer our preliminary recommendations for balanced and sustainable growth.

Because of the extensive and challenging scope of our committee's task assignment, we have spent much of our time focusing on the first, and from our view, most critical of those tasks: rewriting the Rural Land Use designations to bring the county into compliance with the Growth Management Act. A detailed first draft of the designation is attached for your review. We would like to emphasize that this preliminary draft is a working document and there are still issues that we would like to further resolve as a committee.

These preliminary recommendations represent consensus of the committee members present. Although there was much discussion on several issues, there was also significant agreement and collaboration on the resulting document. Committee members believe that we are a representative cross-section of our community and that the work we are undertaking together is a sincere attempt to be a part of the solution for the serious issues now facing our county – water, critical areas, and economic options for our landowners.

The committee strongly feels that the Rural Land Use designations we are creating represents an incentive-based, market-driven, sustainable and balanced approach to the growth that our county is experiencing. We are attempting to create a document that will be flexible enough to allow for thoughtful growth while at the same time providing options to landowners who may experience a change in their land use designation.

We are all aware that the current situation with regards to planning in the county needs to change and there is no doubt in our minds that you, Commissioners, will need to take strong stands and make hard decisions in order to come into compliance with the Eastern Washington Growth Hearings Board Order. We believe that final work product will fulfill the mission with which we have been charged. In addition, the committee

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members further agree that we will stand behind our final product and behind you, Commissioners, as you take them forward to the public and to the state for review.

The committee members are looking forward to your thoughts on our preliminary draft. We remain committed to finalizing the Rural Land Use designations and to completing the task list we were assigned.

We would like to thank you for the commitment of staff time to assist us in this effort – with special thanks to Joanna Valencia, Mackenzie Moynihan, Mike Elkins, and Scott Turnbull. We also appreciate the effort and consideration that was extended by Community Development Services Director Piercy in support of the LUAC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Arango, Chair
On behalf of the
Land Use Advisory Committee

Members

Chad Bala
Valeria Barschaw
Wayne Nelson

Catherine Clerf
Pat Deneen
David Gerth

Fritz Glover
Kelly Larimer
Jerry Martens

Roger Weaver
Charles Weidenbach