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Kittitas County CDS

Rezone

Question 11.B. The proposed amendment bears a substantial relation to the public health, safety, or welfare.

The proposed amendment must bear a substantial relation to only one of the following: public health, safety or welfare and this proposal benefits county residents in all three categories.

**Kittitas County Population Growth:** The Kittitas County Conference of Governments (COG) made a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) numbers and distribution of populations projections through 2037. These projections are intended to guide in the development of Kittitas County. This recommendation included a population projection of 65,967 residents within Kittitas County by the year 2037. Using this projection, the 20-year population allocation for Kittitas County is anticipated to increase by 23,297 people. This proposal provides for the possibility of housing that will add to the greater mix of residential housing types that will assist in meeting the carrying capacity that the county is required to provide for in the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. By changing this zone to Agricultural-5 with property located in the future boundaries of a Group A Water System that has the water rights to serve this area bears a substantial relation to the public health, safety and/or welfare; and

**Public Health:**

In 2016 Kittitas County had the availability of new domestic water supplies greatly reduced as the Department of Ecology has determined that the water in the upper Yakima River basin has been over allocated. In addition, the Department of Ecology has found that there is a connection between surface and ground water in the Upper Yakima River Basin and has determined that there will be no new water rights (surface or ground) issued for any use unless mitigated by an existing senior water right. Since this decision Kittitas County came into compliance with the adoption of their comprehensive plan along with the continued development on how to provide water for domestic purposes. One example is that Kittitas County has purchased water rights and developed an over the county water program to meet the domestic needs of Kittitas County. Furthermore, private water banks were developed, with approval from WA ST. Dept. of Ecology to also allow for the ability to provide domestic water for new and future residential uses. Furthermore, this proposal is within the service area of the Snoqualmie Pass Utility (water and sewer) District. This district provides domestic water and sewer to the proposed land to be re-designated to rural recreational. By providing domestic water and sewer by being within the service area of the Snoqualmie Pass Utility District this amendment bears a substantial relation to the public health; and

Welfare:

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "welfare" as "the state of doing well especially in respect to good fortune, happiness, well-being, or prosperity ". Home ownership intermixed with recreation activities are specifically designed to provide happiness and well-being. The property is located adjacent to other properties in the same area that provide for wide variety of recreational opportunities for both summer and winter (Snoqualmie Pass Skiing, snow shoeing, mtn. biking, fishing, hunting, hiking, access to Wenatchee National Forest to name a few). By providing these new opportunities the proposal bears a substantial relation to welfare; and

Safety:

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "safety" as "the condition of being safe from undergoing or causing hurt, injury, or loss". The change in the zone from Forest & Range - 20 to Rural Recreational will provide a similar environment for the continued and growing rural population and recreation uses. The proposal is already being encircled by surrounding smaller densities along with other existing recreational uses. By zoning these parcels to Rural Recreational will bring this property into consistency with the surrounding area, allow for innovated techniques to occur for residential development while protecting the rural character and natural environment with a safe water and sewer supply in a safe environment, therefore this amendment bears a substantial relation to safety.