

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
CDS STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5<sup>th</sup> ROOM 109  
Regular Meeting**

**MONDAY**

**2:30 PM**

**June 9, 2025**

Board members present: Chair Laura Osiadacz, Vice-Chair Cory Wright and Commissioner Brett Wachsmith.

Others: Chad Bala, Jamey Ayling and Shannon Johnson, Community Development Services, Stephanie Hartung, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and no (0) members of the public.

At 2:30 pm Chair Osiadacz opened the Community Development Services Study Session.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**UPDATES TO KITTITAS COUNTY CODE TITLE 17A, CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE OF KITTITAS COUNTY**

CDS Director Chad Bala presented his staff report. On December 7th, 2021, Kittitas County adopted Ordinance No. 2021-016 adopting the Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). The Yakama Nation filed a petition for review with the Eastern Washington Growth Hearings Board (GMHB) on February 11, 2022, and On July 28th, 2022, a hearing on the merits was held. On September 7th, 2022, the GMHB issued a final decision and order in favor of Kittitas County on each issue and the Petitioner filed an appeal of the GMHB's decision to Superior Court in Thurston County. On March 20, 2023, the Thurston County Superior Court certified direct review to the Division II Court of Appeals, where the Division II Court of Appeals transferred review to the Division III court. In July of 2024 Kittitas County and the Petitioner entered settlement discussions over the next eleven (11) months, which included numerous meetings and correspondence from July 2024 through May of 2025. On June 3, 2025, a joint status report was issued to the Division III Court of Appeals, where both Parties (Kittitas County and Yakama Nation) confirmed settlement negotiations had concluded, necessitating an amended ordinance. Director Bala referred the Board to the attached Resolution NO. 2025-118, for consideration of approval to direct the CDS department to initiate the next steps for formal approval of the amended ordinance. Commissioner Wright moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-118. Commissioner Wachsmith seconded the motion. Chair Osiadacz posed the

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question for further discussion. Vice Chair Wright thanked CDS Director Bala, Planning Manager Ayling, and PA Stephanie Hartung for the hard work they had put into this endeavor which resulted in a new era of understanding between Kittitas County and the Yakama Nation. PA Hartung stated she wanted to give major thanks to Bala and Ayling for going above and beyond to help her office to understand the code language and how the CAO works which all resulted in a much quicker review with avoidance of legal challenges. Motion carried with all in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS - No Action to be taken**

Meeting concluded at 2:37 p.m.

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
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Shannon Johnson

  
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Laura Osiadacz, Chair