

For Immediate Release — September 24, 2004

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Planning Commission Holds Public Hearing on the 2004 Comprehensive Plan Update

Port Townsend, WA—The Jefferson County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the 2004 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docket at its regularly scheduled meeting, Wednesday, October 6, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Spruce Room at WSU Community Learning Center in Shold Business Park, 201 W. Patison in Port Hadlock.

This includes proposed amendments intended to fulfill the Growth Management Act requirements for reviewing, and updating as necessary, Jefferson County's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations in the year 2004.

Four proposed amendments will be considered by the Planning Commission which will include the following: 1) Goals, policies and development regulations associated with the Jefferson County International Airport (file numbers MLA03-232 and MLA03-244); 2) Proposed amendments to the map of Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designations to add to the set of designated Agricultural Lands (a subset of Resource Lands) (MLA04-27); 3) County staff response to mandated "2004 Update" (Part A of MLA04-28); 4) Planning Commission five-year assessment and corresponding Comprehensive Plan amendment proposal (Part B of MLA04-28).

"We encourage the public to become familiar with the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations," said Al Scalf, director for the County Department of Community Development. "DCD staff is available to answer any questions people may have on any aspect of the suggested amendments. Since this year's Docket involves the first major update of the Comprehensive Plan since adoption, and Jefferson County isn't required to do another update for seven years, we're looking for people to give us their thoughts. You can submit written comments or speak directly to the Planning Commission at the public hearing."

The public review proposal, applications for the proposed amendments, the Integrated Staff Report and SEPA Addendum, as well as the adopted existing environmental documents and other related information are posted on the Jefferson County website. Easy access is provided from the homepage: www.co.jefferson.wa.us. These are also available directly from the DCD office in anticipation of the Planning Commission public hearing on October 6. There will be review copies of the Staff Report at DCD and at the County Library in Hadlock.

The Planning Commission and DCD are currently accepting written comments on the suggested amendments to the Comprehensive Plan through Wednesday, October 13, 2004. Written comments on the proposals may be submitted to DCD at 621 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368 or via e-mail to planning@co.jefferson.wa.us.

The County's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1998 after eight years of community effort and debate. The Plan is a set of guidelines in the form of goals, policies and strategies to give growth and development both context and direction, aimed at promoting the best environmental, social and economic future for Jefferson County citizens. Although the Plan has been amended each year after its adoption, this is the first time the Plan is proposed to be thoroughly updated to reflect where we are now, six years later.

As part of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), Jefferson County must review and, if needed, revise its comprehensive plan and development regulations to ensure they're in compliance with GMA by December 1, 2004. This includes review of "best available science" for establishing protections for environmentally critical areas. The Planning Commission will make a formal recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners following consideration of public comment and deliberation on the proposals.

For more information, contact Josh Peters at (360) 379-4466 or via e-mail at jpeters@co.jefferson.wa.us.

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