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Jefferson County's Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application Deadline Extended to March 1, 2006

Port Townsend, WA—The application period for additions to the annual docket for proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments in 2006 for Jefferson County residents has been extended to March 1, 2006.

The process for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle starts at the beginning of each year. Choosing from a set of suggested amendments on the preliminary docket, the Board of County Commissioners establishes the final docket in mid-April. The process continues with Department of Community Development staff analysis of the proposals together with a public review process coordinated through the spring and summer.

“We encourage the public to consider any amendments they'd like to propose for Comprehensive Plan,” said Al Scalf, director for the County's Department of Community Development. “DCD staff is available to answer any questions people may have about what types of amendments can be added to the docket.” The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in late March or early April to gather input on preliminary docket amendments that should be placed on the final docket.

Once the review process of the final docket is completed, the Planning Commission recommendation is sent to the Board of County Commissioners, accompanied by the final DCD staff recommendation, for legislative consideration. The Board generally holds a public hearing in the autumn, with a final decision due by the second week in December.

The County's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1998, after eight years of community effort and debate, and substantially updated in 2004, according to State mandate. The Plan is a set of guidelines in the form of goals, policies and strategies to give growth and development both context and direction. It's aimed at promoting the best environmental, social and economic future for Jefferson County citizens.

In 2005, there were nine site-specific amendments on the docket. Six of the site-specific applications were approved by the Board on December 5, 2005. Five of the approvals were requests for an increase in Rural Residential density and the sixth approval was to add approximately three-quarters of an acre to the Port Ludlow Village Center commercial area.

For more information about the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle, contact the Department of Community Development, Long Range Planning, at 360-379-4450, via e-mail at planning@co.jefferson.wa.us or go to the County's Web site at www.co.jefferson.wa.us.

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