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Jefferson County's Comprehensive Plan Annual Amendment Cycle Begins January 2006

Port Townsend, WA—The application period for additions to the docket for proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments in 2006 will be open to Jefferson County residents effective January 1, 2006.

The process for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle starts at the beginning of each year, with applications due February 1. The final docket is established by the Board of County Commissioners in mid-April, with staff analysis of the proposals and the public review process coordinated through the spring and summer.

“We encourage the public to participate in the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle,” 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.”

Once completed, the Planning Commission recommendation for the docket is sent to the Board of County Commissioners, accompanied by the final DCD staff recommendation, for their review. 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. 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 5th. Five of the approvals were requests for an increase in Rural Residential density and the sixth approval is 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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