
**WASHINGTON
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COUNCIL**

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PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER

July 20, 2007

Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Dear Commissioners:

Washington Environmental Council (WEC) has been asked to agree to a third extension of the deadline for Jefferson County to adopt final development regulations incorporating updates to the County's Critical Areas Ordinances (CAO).

WEC can agree to this request, but it is worth first noting that the existing January 2006 settlement agreement between WEC and the County originally contemplated completion of the County's CAO update by mid-July 2006. Following issuance of a draft proposal in June 2006, WEC was asked to extend the deadline to January 2007. Given the County's efforts to address public concerns with the proposal, WEC agreed. In October 2006, the County again approached WEC for a ten-month extension of the deadline, to October 2007. WEC agreed, based on the County's efforts to work with a recently created citizen subcommittee. The latest request would mean that a final result will not be in place until January 2008, a full two years after the parties' signed their latest agreement.

As articulated by the Planning Commission, the need for an additional three months is driven in part by efforts to convene a small group to collaborate on augmenting the County's approach to wetlands protection. WEC believes that encouraging voluntary efforts can be an important supplement to underlying regulatory provisions, but in order to satisfy the Growth Management Act, we remain committed to the substantive provisions contained in our 2006 settlement. We hope that our agreeing to this extra time leads to a final result that achieves the goals of the Act while appropriately crafting measures that suit the County's particular circumstances.

WEC appreciates the County's efforts in this matter and looks forward to reviewing the revised development regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent dot over the 'i' in "Michael".

Michael Mayer
Washington Environmental Council