



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
Telephone: (360) 778-8300 Fax: (360) 778-8302 TTY: (360) 778-8382

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bellingham City Council

FROM: Tim Stewart, Planning & Community Development Director

RE: Employment Lands Study – Phase II

DATE: January 25, 2010

As part of the City's continuing efforts to support and enhance job growth and business opportunities, the second phase of a study of Bellingham's employment lands will be presented to the City Council in an afternoon briefing on Monday, January 25th. The first phase, completed in 2008, provided an overview of Bellingham's industry sectors, employment zones, and future employment capacity.

Prepared by the Seattle consulting firm Property Counselors, the report focused on target industries that have good growth potential, high wages and salaries, and currently exist in high concentrations in Bellingham. Those sectors included marine trades, adventure-related recreation, software and telecommunications, equipment manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, food processing, health care, and education and training.

These reports provide a solid baseline of information for the City's new Office of Business Relations and Economic Development. Staff will work with the business community to evaluate these recommendations and create an Economic Development Action Plan. This Plan will help focus and organize the City's efforts to encourage job growth and retention, especially in targeted sectors, and foster a business-friendly attitude. This Plan is intended to complement the Greater Whatcom Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) currently being updated.