

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-14**

**A RESOLUTION CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POTENTIAL CHANGES TO BELLINGHAM'S URBAN GROWTH AREA.**

**WHEREAS**, the State Growth Management Act requires Whatcom County to review and update all urban growth area (UGA) boundaries every 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County is under a Growth Management Hearings Board order to complete the UGA update process by December 1, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, Bellingham, the other cities and the County have worked together since 2008 to develop new 20-year growth forecasts and to perform a land capacity analysis for the cities and UGAs; and

**WHEREAS**, the County intends to use the population growth forecasts and the land capacity analysis (LCA) to review and update UGA boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has asked cities to provide recommendations regarding potential changes to UGA boundaries by June 1, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bellingham Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 5, 2009 to review potential changes to Bellingham's urban growth area and to receive public comment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission adopted recommendations at their May 5 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bellingham City Council held a public hearing on May 18, 2009 to review and take public comment on the potential changes to the Bellingham UGA; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council concurs with the recommendations of staff and the Planning Commission that no significant changes are needed to the Bellingham UGA at this time.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL:**

1. The County should not use the results of their LCA to make significant changes to the Bellingham UGA at this time. City and County should monitor actual development in the

city and UGA to compare the County's development assumptions in their LCA with the densities that are actually achieved over time.

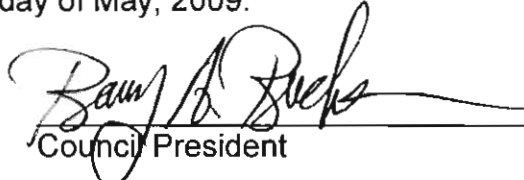
2. There is no "bright line" rule in state law that defines urban density as at least four dwelling units per acre. The burden of proving otherwise rests with the County.

3. In light of these issues, the County should make no changes to the Bellingham UGA boundary at this time.


4. The City Council requests of the County that no additional UGA lots be created in the Lake Whatcom Watershed.

5. The capacity for development in the city and UGA and possible boundary changes should be reviewed again as part of the 2011 comprehensive plan update process.

**PASSED** by the City Council this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

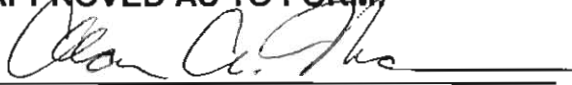
  
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Council President

**APPROVED** by me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney

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