

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-10

A RESOLUTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF NEW POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH FORECASTS TO BE USED FOR WHATCOM COUNTY'S URBAN GROWTH AREA REVIEW PROCESS AND IN BELLINGHAM'S 2011 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE.

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

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act requires Whatcom County and all the cities in the county to update their respective comprehensive plans by December 2011; and

WHEREAS, new 20-year population and employment growth forecasts are needed to complete both of these activities; and

WHEREAS, the GMA authorized the counties to adopt population growth forecasts in consultation with cities; and

WHEREAS, Bellingham, the other cities and the County have worked together to develop new 20-year county-wide growth forecasts and allocations to the cities that are being reviewed by all the jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, a "Growth Management Coordinating Council" consisting of elected representatives from all the jurisdictions was formed to help with this process; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 12, 2009 and a worksession on February 26, 2009 to review the proposed growth forecasts and to receive public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission on February 26th adopted recommendations as contained in the Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham City Council held a public hearing on March 23, 2009 to review and take public comment on the proposed growth forecasts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council amends the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Bellingham Planning Commission to reflect Council preferences for a lower population growth projection number in the county and city.

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
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WHEREAS, the City Council is willing to reconsider its recommendation based on clear and measurable growth management policies in the county and city to better implement existing County comprehensive plan goals of significantly reducing rural and resource land development and increasing infill in cities.

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

1. This resolution replaces Resolution 2009-07, approved by the City Council on March 23, 2009.
2. The Bellingham City Council recommends the current Comprehensive Plan population growth projection (SEPA No Action Alternative) of 234,917 as the county-wide growth forecast for the planning period 2011-2031.
3. The City Council recommends that the appropriate population growth allocation for Bellingham to plan for is at least 113,055 residents based on new binding growth management policies that discourage rural and resource land development and encourage urban infill.
4. The Council supports use of the SEPA No Action Alternative (26,083 new county-wide jobs and 18,829 new Bellingham jobs in 2031) to allocate employment growth to the city.
5. The Council concurs with the Bellingham Planning Commission conclusion that Whatcom County could take steps to reduce the development potential in the rural and resource land areas of the county, such as down-zoning, lot consolidation, purchase and/or transfer of development rights, metering of permits, and imposition of impact and other development fees.
6. Per the CTED guidelines, the City urges the County to monitor growth in the cities and the county and suggest modifications to the population projections and allocations as necessary.

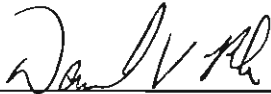
PASSED by the City Council this 13th day of April, 2009.



Council President

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
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APPROVED by me this 20th day of April, 2009.




Mayor

ATTEST 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney