



Snohomish County

Planning and Development Services

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Snohomish County Planning Commission

Dave Somers
County Executive

FROM: Diana Dannoun, Planner

SUBJECT: Updating References to 2024 Comprehensive Plan Policies in Title 30 SCC.

DATE: March 25, 2025

This staff report explains the code project updating references to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Policies in Title 30 SCC at the March 25, 2025, Planning Commission briefing.

INTRODUCTION

This is a non-project proposal for corrections to Title 30 of the Snohomish County Code (SCC). Title 30 SCC, the Unified Development Code (UDC), was initially adopted in December 2002 and has been updated periodically since then. The most recent Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan Update was adopted by Council on December 4th, 2024, and included a reorganization of the Plan and other updates that necessitate amendments to Title 30 SCC for consistency.

The format of the Plan has been revised in several ways:

- No longer includes a General Policy Plan (GPP),
- Reorganizes the chapters previously included in the GPP as elements within the Plan, and
- Consolidates the Capital Facilities and Utilities chapters into one unified Capital Facilities and Utilities Element.

Reference to one comprehensive plan policy (LU 6.A.3) in Title 30 SCC is proposed to be removed. Eleven code sections in Title 30 SCC that previously referenced the General Policy Plan or GPP are proposed to be amended because the updated 2024 comprehensive plan no longer includes a General Policy Plan. All references to the “GPP” or the “General Policy Plan” in Title 30 SCC are proposed to be renamed to GMA Comprehensive Plan (GMACP).

PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS

To be consistent with language in the Comprehensive Plan, eleven Title 30 SCC codes have been identified by county staff for correction. The proposed corrections contain references to a repealed

policy number, and outdated language related to the GPP and chapters. Table 1 below provides a summary of the proposed changes.

Table 1.

Proposed Change	Finding
30.21.025 Intent of zones.	There is no longer a GPP within the comprehensive plan with the 2024 update. As a result, Title 30 SCC needs to be amended where GPP is referenced to be consistent with the new comprehensive plan. "General Policy Plan" is proposed to be replaced with <u>"GMA Comprehensive Plan"</u> in SCC 30.21.025(3)(c)(i).
30.27.051 Permitted signs and standards in designated farmlands and land zoned A-10.	There is no longer a GPP or General Policy Plan in the comprehensive plan, so the update is to change "General Policy Plan" to <u>"GMA Comprehensive Plan"</u> in subsection (1).
30.28.076 Recreational facility not otherwise listed.	Replacing "General Policy Plan" to <u>"GMA Comprehensive Plan"</u> in subsection (1). There is no longer a GPP or General Policy Plan in the comprehensive plan.
30.31F.020 Minimum zoning criteria.	Replacing "General Policy Plan" to <u>"GMA Comprehensive Plan"</u> in SCC 30.31F.020(1). There is no longer a GPP or General Policy Plan in the comprehensive plan. Section H contains a typographical error with the end "and" that must be removed and placed at the end of section g. this is a house keeping amendment to SCC 30.31F.020 (h) and (g).
30.32C.020 Relationship to comprehensive plan.	Replacing "General Policy Plan" with <u>"GMA Comprehensive Plan"</u> in section 30.32C.020(2). Also including the phrase "LU policies" in reference to LU policies 9.A.1-LU 9.A.13 in order to stay consistent with the new Land Use element and policy numbers in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update.
30.42B.020 Applicability.	Removing a policy reference "Policy LU 6.A.3" from SCC 30.42B.020, as it was repealed by the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.
30.42D.060 Decision criteria for local essential public facilities.	Revises reference to "the Capital Facilities chapter" to "the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element" for consistency with the updated 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Replaces "General Policy Plan" with <u>"GMA Comprehensive Plan"</u> in SCC 30.42D.060(2)(a). There is no longer a GPP or General Policy Plan in the comprehensive plan.

Proposed Change	Finding
30.62A.710 Monitoring and adaptive management program	Removing the reference to “the General Policy Plan” and replacing with reference to the <u>“GMA Comprehensive Plan”</u> . There is no longer a GPP or General Policy Plan in the comprehensive plan.
30.66C.055 District capital facilities plan and fee adoption.	Any references to the capital facilities chapters must use the same naming in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update as <u>“the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element”</u> .
30.91N.020 Natural resource area.	Changes “the Comprehensive Plan General Policy Plan” to <u>“GMA Comprehensive Plan”</u> . There is no longer a GPP or General Policy Plan in the comprehensive plan.
30.91R.280 Rural/Urban transition area.	Changes “comprehensive plan” to the <u>“GMA Comprehensive Plan”</u> . Change is necessary because there is no longer a GPP or General Policy Plan in the comprehensive plan.

ANALYSIS

The following analysis provides a summary of the proposed amendments’ compliance with state law as well as regional and countywide planning policies.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW

The GMA planning goals adopted in RCW 36.70A.020 guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations. The GMA goals guide the policies in Snohomish County's GMA Comprehensive Plan (GMACP). RCW 36.70A.130(1)(e) requires that any amendment of or revision to development regulations shall be consistent with and implement the comprehensive plan. The code corrections proposed within this staff report aim to increase consistency between the updated GMACP and development regulations of the County. The proposed corrections are consistent with RCW 36.70A.020 and help to implement the GMA goals. The proposed corrections provide consistency between the comprehensive plan and development regulations. The proposal helps to provide consistency in permit processing and code interpretation based upon clarification of regulations and definitions.

COMPLIANCE WITH REGIONAL AND COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES

Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) establish a framework for developing and adopting county, city, and town comprehensive plans. The role of the CPPs is to coordinate the comprehensive plans of jurisdictions in the same county regarding regional issues and issues affecting common borders (RCW

36.70A.100). Multicounty planning policies address regional issues to inform updates to countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plan updates.

Table 2. Compliance with CPPs

CPP	Finding
DP-5 The County and cities shall adopt comprehensive plans and development regulations (RCW 36.70A.040). In Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), such plans and regulations shall: a. Achieve urban uses and densities; b. Provide for urban governmental services and capital facilities sufficient to accommodate the broad range of needs and uses that will accompany the projected urban growth; and c. Permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the succeeding twenty-year period (RCW 36.70A.110(2)).	The proposed amendments ensure consistency with the renaming of policies that are in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update, including the renaming of the capital facilities chapter to the capital facilities and utilities element, and the removal of reference to the GPP.

Table 3. Compliance with Multicounty planning Policies

MPP	Findings
MPP-RGS-1 Implement the Regional Growth Strategy through regional policies and programs, countywide planning policies and growth targets, local plans, and development regulations.	The proposed amendments update naming and policy references to create consistency between the updated comprehensive plan and development regulations

COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

These corrections are proposed to be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies in the County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan in RCW 36.70A.070. The project is consistent with ED Policy 2.A.1, which requires ensuring that the Snohomish County code is understandable, accessible and a user friendly document. This proposal updates the references to be consistent with the 2024 update into the updated codes cited throughout Title 30 SCC.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is considered procedural and is exempt from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21C RCW, review pursuant to Section 197-11-800(19)(b) WAC and SCC 30.61.030.

NOTIFICATION OF STATE AGENCIES

Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, a notice of intent to adopt the proposed regulations and standards was transmitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce on XXX, 2024, for distribution to state agencies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the proposed code correction amendments and findings contained in this staff report.

ACTION REQUESTED

cc:

Ken Klein, Executive Director
Mike McCrary, PDS Director
David Killingstad, PDS Long Range Planning Manager
Ryan Hembree, Legislative Analyst