



MEMORANDUM

TO: Megan Dunn, Council Chair
County Council

FROM: Dave Somers
County Executive

VIA: Bramby Tollen, Purchasing Manager
Purchasing Division

RE: 2021 Apprentice Exceptions and Waivers Report

DATE: April 25, 2022

Pursuant to Snohomish County Code (SCC) 3.05.060(2), the County Executive shall report to the use and issuance of exceptions and waivers for apprentice goals for a prior 12-month period. The report shall also include recommendations for maintaining or amending the existing exceptions and waivers provided in SCC Chapter 3.05 Construction Projects-Apprentice Requirements.

2021 Use and Issuance of Exceptions and Waivers

There were no exceptions nor waivers approved in 2021.

Recommendations for Maintaining or Amending existing Exceptions and Waivers

Input was requested from departments that generate public work projects. The following individuals provided input:

Paula Bond	Airport
Carol Peterson	DCNR
Jeff Hencz	Facilities & Fleet
Shannon Barker	Finance/Purchasing
Kelly Snyder	Public Works
Brian Larmore	Public Works
Kelli Kunz	Public Works
Megan Olsen	Public Works
Bill Thornton	Public Works

Recommendations:

1. Existing Exceptions and Waivers:

Maintain existing exceptions and waivers was the unanimous recommendation.

2. Track and report again in 12-months

Participants felt that the first 12-month period provided limited information with the small number of projects in 2021. They recommend tracking and reporting again for 2022.

3. Exclude smaller projects aggregated for administrative efficiency from apprentice goals

Recommend that apprentice goals be limited to projects on a single project site. It is common to aggregate small projects for a variety of locations into a single bid and contract for administrative efficiency. However, aggregating may result in the dollar amount of all the projects exceeding the apprentice threshold. A proposal to amend the current definition of a public work project (subject to apprentice utilization goals) to a single site location will be submitted to Council for your review and consideration.

Comments:

- a) *The changes seemed impossible at first, however we all found out that they can do it.*
- b) *The County has set a high bar. It is challenging, but it seems to be working well.*
- c) *One contractor came in the door and said they couldn't do it and requested a waiver before the contract was even signed. They found out that they had to do it and did it.*
- d) *Non-union contractors struggled a bit.*
- e) *Hearing that more contractors are setting up their own training programs.*
- f) *It will be interesting to observe how labor shortages may impact our projects.*
- g) *Had a lot of trepidation at first. We are communicating a firm goal, it is working.*