

DOCKET APPLICATION – DRAFT

What is the proposed policy amendment?

Amend the Land Use Section for Urban Growth Areas to add a new Goal, Objectives and Policies

Goal LU 15

Snohomish County recognizes that Climate Change will continue to impact our communities if certain land use and environmental actions are not taken in the short and long-term. As such, Snohomish County recognizes the values that its community holds for trees, which is also an important component of mitigating the impacts of climate change. Therefore, Snohomish County will aim to develop community management plans and ordinances as modeled by The Evergreen Community Act as adopted by State Law RCW [35.105.050](#), which recognizes the importance of maintaining and replanting trees in our urban growth areas as growth and the development of our land continues. This Goal with its objectives and policies will guide Snohomish County toward one of many needed mitigation measures to sustain Snohomish County's quality of life.

Objective LU 15.A **Provide a healthy urban forest and tree cover which will contribute to the economic vitality of the community, provide environmental stability and resiliency, and ensure a better quality of life.**

Policy LU 15.A.1 Protect, restore and improve existing vegetation that has environmental, wildlife and aesthetic value. Such vegetation shall include groves of trees, significant individual trees or tree stands, street trees and community trees, forested hillsides, and vegetation associated with wetlands, stream/wildlife corridors and riparian areas.

LU 15.A.2 Ensure healthy retained and restored forests and natural systems which provide benefits and services that are essential for human health and well-being in our unincorporated urban growth areas and in our cities, both in built areas and in un-built or re-developable areas.

LU 15.A.3 Ensure natural and critical areas which form the green infrastructure of a community, and that contribute to better air and water quality, stormwater management, as well as benefiting other ecosystem services.

LU 15.A.4 Ensure that Invasive species, which are destructive to forest health, are controlled and eradicated where possible.

Objective LU 15.B **Manage the Community and Urban Forestry Resource for Maximum Benefit**

Policy LU 15.B.1 Initiate and promote appropriate urban tree management practices in high density, mixed-use areas in order to improve the quality of life for all residents and the public and create more livable conditions, to include visual amenities, environmental services and economic development.

LU 15.B.2 Ensure understory vegetation is protected in order to retain stormwater, reduce erosion, buffer water bodies from polluting runoff, and clean the air of airborne pollutants.

LU 15.B.3 Incorporate the use of science-based Best Management Practices (BMPs), including a tree canopy assessment and inventory through county or outside research, to protect and enhance community trees and forests because a well-managed community and urban forest builds capacity for increased benefits and services over time, one of the few assets that appreciates in value and capacity over time.

LU 15.B.4 Each department with responsibility for the urban forest should share standardized maintenance practices. Standardized practices increase overall consistency in how trees are maintained, resulting in better tree health and longevity.

Objective LU 15.C Promote Stewardship and Enable Community Education and Action

Policy LU 15.C.1 Develop community-wide programming to enhance the community's awareness of the value of trees and the urban forest;

LU 15.C.2 Provide a system to educate the public, which will improve and enhance the quality of the urban forest through greater engagement in the care and maintenance of trees and related resources.

LU 15.C.3 Develop programming that leverages the commitment and interest of the public to support environmental stewardship that works collaboratively to increase wildlife habitat and other natural systems, and to generate greater public awareness of community and urban forestry issues.

LU 15.C.4 Encourage community stewardship that will increase community leadership and civic engagement; create and protect more viable habitats for wildlife; improve greenways and stream corridors; and provide for a greater understanding by the public of its individual and combined impacts on natural systems.

Objective LU 15.D Optimize Opportunities for Partnerships in Urban Forest Preservation and Enhancement

Policy LU 15.D.1 Provide for opportunities for partnerships in urban forest preservation and enhancement that will provide a clear picture of the priorities, scope, timing, and resources for achieving a thriving urban forest so the public and other potential partners are more likely to invest their energy and resources to help achieve that vision.

LU 15.D.2 Provide and periodically update an urban forest management plan that provides the public with a vision for a healthy and sustainable urban forest, as well as a roadmap for getting there, which will inspire people to become informed and involved as stewards to guide and support future sustainable tree practices and policies. Coordinate with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and others to plan for urban/rural edge forests and their integration into the forest management plan.

LU 15.D.3 Provide outreach programming that will inspire community partnerships with other local organizations, schools, and agencies, and which will result in greater awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting and caring for community and urban forests.

Objective LU 15.E Promote the Use of Incentives to Leverage Community and Urban Forestry Goals

Policy LU 15.E.1 Promote the use of incentives to leverage community and urban forestry goals for the broader community through positive appeals for best practices that include voluntary and incentive-based programs, such as stormwater utility credits, certified wildlife habitat, density/building height bonuses, streamlined permit review, adjusted setback or parking requirements, conservation easements and property or impact fee reductions.

Objective LU 15.F Provide Urban Forest Resources Equitably Across the Community

Policy LU 15.F.1 Snohomish County and its partners (e.g., local communities, organizations, etc.) should allocate community and urban forest resources in a manner that recognizes geographic, racial and social equity.

LU 15.F.2 Access to community and urban forest benefits should be equitable for all residents of a community. All residents within a jurisdiction deserve the benefits of a healthy urban forest.

Objective LU 15.G Transportation and Utilities

Policy LU 15.G.1 Planning and management of urban forests and trees must consider urban utility infrastructure. The location and type of trees in proximity to aboveground and underground utilities must be considered in order to avoid damage to both the utility's infrastructure as well as to the forest and trees. Measures such as tree wells can also help improve compatibility with urban infrastructure and should be considered where beneficial.

Policy LU 15.G.2 Transportation corridors may provide excellent opportunities for tree and shrub planting when safety and design guidelines are taken into consideration. Partnerships with public works departments, transportation and utility organizations are encouraged.

What is the proposed code amendment? This is still to be determined.

Why is the amendment being proposed?

Snohomish County should adopt the policies modeled by the Evergreen Community Act to replace the policies and regulations that are not adequately protecting our urban trees and our environment. Healthy community and urban forests are a valuable and potentially powerful tool to support economically viable, sustainable unincorporated urban growth areas in Snohomish County and respond to our climate change crisis. Guidance for local jurisdictions has been provided by the 2008 Evergreen Communities Act (ECA; ESSHB 2844 and RCW 35.105) and the Dept. of Commerce, *A GUIDE TO COMMUNITY AND URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAMMING*.

which seeks to assist municipalities and jurisdictions across the state to better manage existing urban forests and plan for improvements to urban forests to increase the value of the ecological, social, and economic services that urban trees provide.

Many of the benefits and services provided by community forests are not yet easily assigned a dollar value but are, nonetheless, absolutely essential for vital, livable communities. Community and urban forests are defined by the DNR as "that land in and around human settlements ranging from small communities to metropolitan areas, occupied or potentially occupied by trees and associated vegetation. Community and urban forest land may be planted or unplanted, used or unused, and includes public and private lands, lands along transportation and utility corridors, and forested watershed lands within populated areas" (RCW 76.15).

Ecosystem services provided by trees and associated vegetation in urban areas, based on the most current scientific research include:

- Reduced Stormwater, Improved Water Quality, Reduced Flooding and Erosion
- Improved Air Quality
- Improved Economic Development and Aesthetics
- Improved Human Health and Well-Being

- Land Use Benefits, Climate Change impacts from, Reduced Energy Consumption and Carbon Storage
- Wildlife, Fish and Habitat Conservation

Climate change is an imminent danger to life and livelihood in Snohomish County especially to vulnerable populations. The tree canopy is diminishing at an alarming rate and current policy and regulations may not be accomplishing the intended goal of 30% tree canopy in the unincorporated urban growth areas. The environmental, health and safety values provided by a functional regional tree canopy warrant higher protection than provided by the current ordinance. Currently SCC 30.25.010 lists its primary purpose is to protect community aesthetics with some reference to habitat and drainage values. This is inadequate under Growth Management Act criteria which require planning to protect the local community from the potential harm by growth and development on its Natural Resources.

The Evergreen Communities Program includes a set of standards to provide for the conservation and long-term maintenance of the urban tree canopy. Now is an opportune time to review both the current regulations and the Evergreen Communities Program to ensure the County's tree canopy policies and regulations meet our current and long-term needs.

The current ordinance sets forth provisions that may be "met through either tree retention or new planting, or a combination of both," on the expectation of canopy replacement in twenty years, the loss of the last remnants of significant trees within a few miles of the County's shoreline on Puget Sound, is ensured, to result in significant adverse environmental impacts on public health, welfare and the environmental elements of earth, air, water, plants and animals.

Chapter 30.25 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS – LANDSCAPING does not strictly regulate tree retention or planting standards to accomplish 30% tree canopy coverage in 20 years. A lack of adequate incentives to retain existing trees has led to the elimination of many thousands of square feet of significant trees that have grown for hundreds of years. Planting standards do not guide placement of trees in ways that ensure new trees will ever reach the square footage credited on the building plans.

How is the proposed amendment consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA) - RCW 36.70A?

Our proposal is consistent with the following Growth Management Act's RCWs.

RCW [36.70A.020](#)

Planning goals.

The following goals are adopted to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations of those counties and cities that are required or choose to plan under RCW [36.70A.040](#). The following goals are not listed in order of

priority and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of guiding the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations:

(10) Environment. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

RCW [36.70A.070](#)

Comprehensive plans—Mandatory elements.

1)...The land use element shall provide for protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies. Where applicable, the land use element shall review drainage, flooding, and stormwater runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state, including Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound.

RCW [36.70A.110](#)

2. Each urban growth area shall permit urban densities and shall include greenbelt and open space areas.

RCW [36.70A.160](#)

Identification of open space corridors—Purchase authorized.

Each county and city that is required or chooses to prepare a comprehensive land use plan under RCW [36.70A.040](#) shall identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas.

RCW [36.70A.172](#)

Critical areas—Designation and protection—Best available science to be used.

1) In designating and protecting critical areas under this chapter, counties and cities shall include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas. In addition, counties and cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

Maintaining tree canopy will help achieve the GMA's environmental protect goal by maintaining the quality of life which benefits from the aesthetics of forest cover along with cooler temperatures in the summer and moderated temperatures in the winter. Trees mask noise, a significant pollutant and a function that also contributes to the quality of life. Trees protect air quality directly by removing air pollutants and indirectly by reducing air temperatures and building energy use. Trees and decaying vegetable matter covering the ground under trees also hold and then release water slowly making more water available in the summer and fall when our streams and rivers need it the most. This helps maintain water quality. These same characteristics help achieve RCW 36.70A.070(1) and RCW 36.70A.110.

Maintaining trees can also help maintain the ecological values of the open space corridors required by RCW 36.70A.160. Without trees they will not fulfil their function of allowing wildlife to move between protected habitats and allow plants to disburse their seeds to reclaim disturbed areas or to replace native vegetation that has reach the end of its life. Best available science documents the environmental benefits of trees in protecting and maintaining fish and wildlife habitats, stabilizing geologically hazardous areas, moderating channel migration, and maintaining flood plain forests. So, tree cover retention is consistent with RCW 36.70A.172.

How is the proposed amendment consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs)?

Snohomish County Planning and Development Services, by state law must reconcile CPP policies to be consistent with MPP policies before the Comprehensive Plan update. Therefore, since our proposal is consistent with the following Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs), the proposal will be consistent with the CPPs.

MPPs are guided by Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2050 which sets goals to substantially reduce climate change and to restore, protect and sustain the natural environment.

VISION 2050 – Adopted October 29, 2020

A VISION 2050

In 2050

Climate. The region's contribution to climate change has been substantially reduced. (Pg.1)

Environment. The natural environment is restored, protected, and sustained, preserving and enhancing natural functions and wildlife habitats. (Pg.1)

Resilience. The region's communities plan for and are prepared to respond to potential impacts from natural and human hazards. (Pg. 1)

VISION 2050 is the shared regional plan for moving toward a sustainable and more equitable future. (Pg.2)

VISION 2050 sets forth a pathway that strengthens economic, social, and environmental resiliency, while enhancing the region's ability to cope with adverse trends such as climate change ... VISION 2050 recognizes that clean air, health, life expectancy, and access to jobs and good education can vary dramatically by neighborhood (Pg. 2)

...VISION 2050 is a call for personal and institutional action to address long-term regional challenges, including racial and social inequality, climate change, housing affordability, and imbalance of jobs and housing around the region. (Pg. 3)

Significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Climate change is an urgent environmental, economic, and equity threat being addressed at all levels, from the local to an international scale. The region's leaders have committed to taking actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and being a model of a more sustainable urban region. (Pg.6)

VISION 2050 works to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions in support of state, regional and local emissions reduction goals. (Pg.6)

Carbon is sequestered in the region's forests, farm soils, wetlands, estuaries, and urban trees. (Pg. 6)

The region will protect natural areas and enhance the tree canopy through regional, collaborative approaches that leverage local, county, and stakeholder actions. (Pg. 7)

Regional Collaboration Actions

MPP-RC-14

Monitor implementation of VISION 2050 to evaluate progress in achieving the Regional Growth Strategy, as well as the regional collaboration, environment, climate change, development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, and public services provisions. (Pg. 21)

RC-Action-6

Project Support for Puget Sound Recovery: PSRC will develop a methodology within the regional transportation funding process that would support projects that contribute to the recovery of the health of Puget Sound and its watersheds. (Pg. 22)

Regional and Local Actions

RC-Action-7

Funding Sources: PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will investigate existing and new funding sources for... open space, to assist local governments with the implementation of VISION 2050. (Pg.23)

Environment

Land use, transportation, economic development, and human health are interconnected and therefore require integrated planning, regulations, and implementation actions. For example, the region's transit and trail systems can provide access to both jobs and to the region's open spaces, which support rural economies and the health of urban residents. Trees and vegetation provide habitat for pollinators, which in turn support the region's farm economy and food systems. (Pg.54)

Habitat, Open Space, and Environmental Stewardship

Conserving open space can help the region to achieve its goals for climate, habitat, air quality, park access, and Puget Sound recovery. Open space is a collective term for a range of green places, including natural lands, farmlands, working forests, aquatic systems, regional trails, and parks. Open space provides many services such as air, climate, and water quality protection and enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat, food chain support, flood storage, ground water recharge and discharge, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and recreation. Open space in the region has been valued at \$11.5 to \$25.3 billion a year. (Pg.55)

Puget Sound Recovery

Efforts must be re-doubled to combat climate change and the effects of a growing population that threaten ecosystems and disproportionately affect vulnerable communities. ...Stormwater pollution and changes in the hydrology of runoff patterns are among the biggest threats to Puget Sound water quality. Contamination of aquifers, low stream flows and excess nutrients and pollutants from sources such as ... polluted stormwater are other concerns. This is a critical time in the recovery of Puget Sound's health; it will never be as achievable or affordable as it is today. (Pg. 59)

Air Quality

Air pollution contributes to a variety of public health issues such as an increase in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, heart attacks, cancer, and premature death. Climate change, a closely related issue, is discussed in the following chapter. Populations particularly sensitive to air pollution include youth, the elderly, and people with cardiovascular and lung diseases. People who have lower incomes also face risk from air pollution because they often lack access to healthcare and live near major roadways or other pollution sources. (Pg. 60)

Environment Policies

MPP-En-3

Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality and climate change. (Pg. 61)

MPP-En-22

Meet all federal and state air quality standards and reduce emissions of air toxics and greenhouse gases. (Pg. 63)

Climate Change

Goal: The region substantially reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change in accordance with the goals of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050) and prepares for climate change impacts. (Pg. 66)

Local

VISION 2050's Regional Growth Strategy, multicounty planning policies and actions promote compact growth patterns, low-carbon travel choices, forest and open space protection, and other sustainability strategies that help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts from climate change. (Pg. 68)

Other strategies to address climate change, outside the scope of the region's Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy, include sequestering and storing greenhouse gases through additional actions to protect and restore carbon sinks such as forests, soils, wetlands, estuaries, and urban trees. (Pg. 71)

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy is evaluated and refined every four years as part of the update of the Regional Transportation Plan...PSRC's analysis will be incorporated into the full spectrum of climate strategies to demonstrate impact and progress, an effort also known as a climate wedge analysis. Further, implementation of the Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy will be monitored and reported, including continued improvements and further potential gains. (Pg.71)

Since climate change is a cross-cutting topic across a variety of regional planning issues, VISION 2050 provides guidance in all policy sections of the plan for reducing emissions and protecting the climate. ... Additional policies throughout VISION 2050 also address important climate-related activities, such as protecting forest lands and tree canopy...(Pg. 72)

Climate Change Policies

MPP-CC-4

Protect and restore natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as forests, farmland, wetlands, estuaries, and urban tree canopy.

MPP-CC-7

Advance state, regional, and local actions that support resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.

MPP-CC-9

Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the region's hydrological systems. (Pg. 73)

MPP-CC-11

Support achievement of regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals through countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plans.

Climate Change Actions

Regional Actions

CC-Action-4

Resilience: Cities and counties will update land use plans for climate adaptation and resilience. Critical areas will be updated based on climate impacts from sea level rise, flooding, wildfire hazards, urban heat, and other hazards. The comprehensive plans will identify mitigation measures addressing these hazards including multimodal emergency and evacuation routes and prioritizing mitigation of climate impacts on highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations. (Pg. 75)

Development Patterns Policies

MPP-DP-17

Promote cooperation and coordination among transportation providers, local government, and developers to ensure that joint- and mixed-use developments are designed to promote and improve physical, mental, and social health and reduce the impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments. (Pg. 94)

Economy Policies

MPP-EC-16

Ensure that economic development sustains and respects the region's environment and encourages development of established and emerging industries, technologies, and services that promote environmental sustainability, especially those addressing climate change and resilience. (Pg. 120)

Transportation Actions

T-Action-2

Funding: PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will advocate for new funding tools to address the gap in local funding identified in the Regional Transportation Plan. (Pg. 134)

T-Action-7

Climate: PSRC will continue to monitor and advance the implementation of the adopted Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy - or future versions thereof - to achieve meaningful reductions of emissions throughout the region from transportation and land use. (Pg. 137)

Sustainable and Resilient Public Services

Transitioning to low carbon energy will require retrofitting infrastructure to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Understanding the impacts that climate change will have on future conditions and infrastructure is an important part of planning for public services. (Pg. 141)

Glossary of Terms

Renewable Resource: A natural resource that can regenerate, either by itself or with human help, over a short to moderate time horizon, such as fish, food crops, and trees. (Pg. 167)

VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies and Countywide Planning Policies Crosswalk GMPB Draft VISION 2050

ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: Snohomish County and local jurisdictions will act as a steward of the natural environment by protecting and restoring natural systems, conserving habitat, improving air and water quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, and addressing potential climate change impacts. Planning for the future will embrace sustainable ways to integrate care of the environment with economic and social needs.

- MPP-RC-12 Monitor implementation of VISION 2050 to evaluate progress in achieving the Regional Growth Strategy, as well as the regional collaboration, environment, climate change, development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, and public services provisions.
- MPP-RC-14 Promote regional and national efforts to restore Puget Sound and its watersheds, in coordination with cities, counties, federally recognized tribes, federal and state agencies, utilities, and other partners. All jurisdictions shall protect and enhance natural ecosystems through their comprehensive plans, development regulations, capital facilities programs, and management practices. Jurisdictions should consider regional and countywide strategies and assessments, as well as best available qualitative and quantitative information, in formulating plans and regulations that are specific to their community.
- MPP-RC-15 (New policy) Support local and regional efforts to develop state legislation to provide new fiscal tools to support local and regional planning and to support infrastructure improvements and services.
- MPP-En-1: Develop regionwide environmental strategies, coordinating among local jurisdictions and countywide planning groups.

- MPP-En-2: Use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment at regional, countywide, and local levels.
- MPP-En-9 Enhance urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity.
- MPP-En-10 Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands to protect and enhance habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services. These policies form the basis of coordinated countywide environmental strategies for environmental stewardship, earth and habitat, water quality, air quality, and climate change. While there is no CPP which directly states that environmental stewardship should be incentivized. Environmental stewardship is identified in the local context as a key overarching basis for the Natural Environment Chapter.
- MPP-En-13: Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function. In recognition of the broad range of benefits from ecological systems, the County and cities should establish policies and strategies to restore – where appropriate and possible – the region’s freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.
- MPP-CC-4 Protect and restore natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as forests, farmland, wetlands, estuaries, and urban tree canopy. The County and cities should use natural systems to reduce carbon in the atmosphere by establishing programs and policies that maintain and increase forests and vegetative cover.
- MPP-CC-6: Address impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by climate change. Many MPPs explicitly address equity and environmental justice across all main topics. The CPPs are much more silent about the importance of considering these issues in countywide planning, although there are CPP transportation policies which include a focus on vulnerable populations, including low income and people with disabilities (TR-5 and TR-19).
- MPP-CC-7 Advance state, regional, and local actions that support resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts. The MPP and CPP similarly promote resilience and the CPP specifies the need to reduce greenhouse gases and promote efficiency and resiliency for various sectors: land use, transportation, economic and social infrastructure.
- MPP-CC-8 Increase resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on water, land, infrastructure, health, and the economy. Prioritize actions to protect the most vulnerable populations.
- CC-Action-1a Greenhouse Gas Strategy: PSRC will advance the implementation of the region’s Greenhouse Gas Strategy, including future versions, to achieve meaningful reductions of emissions throughout the region from transportation, land use, and development. Regular evaluation and monitoring will occur as part of the development of the Regional Transportation Plan every four years. Develop guidance and technical assistance for local jurisdictions to implement climate change strategies.
- MPP-DP-16 Promote cooperation and coordination among transportation providers, local government, and developers to ensure that joint- and mixed-use developments are

designed to promote and improve physical, mental, and social health and reduce the impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments.

- MPP-EC-16 Ensure that economic development sustains and respects the region's environment and encourages development of established and emerging industries, technologies, and services that promote environmental sustainability, especially those addressing climate change and resilience. The CPP promotes a balance of housing and jobs that will generally address Climate Change however, it does not promote sustainability and resilience in response to this challenge. It might be helpful to provide greater specificity and guidance within the CPP policy, especially with regards to the statement: "respond to the challenge of climate change".
- MPP-PS-30 Consider climate change, economic, and health impacts when siting and building essential public services and facilities. The County and cities should establish a planning framework in local plans and coordinate regionally to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt as necessary to likely impacts of climate change.

Again, effective tree cover conservation policies help achieve all of these multicounty planning policies. In addition to our proposal that is consistent with the GMA and the MPPs, our proposal is also consistent with the current CPPs until the mandated update to the CPPs is adopted.

- *CPP: INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES – Regional Context –*
 - Environment. The region will care for the natural environment by protecting and restoring natural systems, conserving habitat, improving water quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, and addressing potential climate change impacts. The region acknowledges that the health of all residents is connected to the health of the environment. Planning at all levels should consider the impacts of land use, development patterns, and transportation on the ecosystem.
 - Regional Growth Strategy: b. Promotion of sustainability in all decision-making:
- CENTRAL PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK POLICIES: Establish a framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change; Enhance the built environment and human health.
- GF-3: Decisions on land use, transportation, and economic and social infrastructure should consider and include ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide for “soft” solutions to address both traditional needs as well as emerging challenges. Soft solutions should emphasize a. Integrated planning; b. Adaptive management; c. Efficiency and resiliency; d. Minimize single use, maximize re-use; and e. Minimize the need for treatment by minimizing the level of pollution.

For the reasons discussed above, effective tree cover protection policies and regulations are consistent with these countywide planning policies.

How is the proposed amendment consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the county's General Policy Plan (GPP)?

For the reasons discussed above, our proposal is consistent with the following GPPs:

- LU-11 provides Specific Centers also promote the county's goals for sustainability by incorporating environmentally friendly building design and development practices into the development process such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Built Green and low impact development (LID) techniques.
- CF – 10 Work with cities and public agencies to prioritize the expenditure of public resources on the drainage, flood hazard, water quality or habitat restoration capital improvement projects using watersheds as the organizing unit.
- NE – 2 The county shall encourage and accommodate economic growth through plans and programs in a manner that minimizes impacts to the natural environment.
- NE-3 Protect and enhance natural watershed processes, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, shorelines, and water resources with the long-term objective of protecting ecological function and values.
- NE-5 The county should participate in regional salmon recovery planning efforts and aggressively pursue funding that can provide multiple environmental benefits.
- NE-6 The county should maintain a fish and wildlife corridor map for critical habitat.
- NE-9 The county shall develop inspection and enforcement procedures to prevent water quality degradation.
- NE-20 Periodically assess Snohomish County's vulnerability to climate change, based on the most current scientific consensus, and utilize the findings and community priorities to guide policy development and infrastructure investments.

5. If this proposal was previously reviewed by the County Planning Commission or the County Council, what circumstances have significantly changed to justify this resubmitted application?

This specific proposal has not previously reviewed by the Planning Commission or County Council. Given the experience with the current tree cover regulations, now is a good time to consider new policies and regulations to ensure they are effective and meet community needs.

6. List all buildings and land uses present on the site and on adjacent properties

Not applicable.

7. How would this proposed map amendment be compatible with neighboring properties?

This is not a proposed map amendment. However, retaining tree cover can increase compatibility by screening different uses and different use intensities and densities. So the proposal will increase compatibility overall.