

Chapters

CHAPTER 3—RURAL AREA AND NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS

1. R-324 *“Nonresidential uses in the Rural Area shall be limited to those that:*
 - a. *Provide convenient local products and services for nearby Rural Area residents;*
 - b. *Require location in a Rural Area;*
 - c. *Support natural resource-based industries;*
 - d. *Provide adaptive reuse of significant historic resources; or*
 - e. *Provide recreational opportunities that are compatible with the surrounding Rural Area.*

RECOMMENDATION: *As an addition to our previously submitted comments on R-324 add a new item f. to the above list, such that:*

- “e. Provide recreational opportunities that are compatible with the surrounding Rural Area.; or*
- f. Include home occupations and home industries.”*

CHAPTER 10--ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Overarching comments:

CONCERN: *The County does not have in place an Economic Development Organization to coordinate, execute, and implement policies and deploy resources.*

RECOMMENDATION: *The Executive should establish a position for Economic Development Director within his Office, who is assigned an ongoing mission to foster economic development vision throughout the County and interacts with the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County.*

CONCERN: *The chapter should include both aquaculture and fisheries.*

2. ED-103 *King County policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the importance of, and place special emphasis on, start-up companies as well as retaining and expanding homegrown firms in basic industries that bring income into the county and increase the standard of living of ((our)) the County's residents.*

RECOMMENDATION: *Add the following immediately after “...in basic industries”:*

“...that demonstrate their innovativeness, intellectual property development, production, and/or services and...”

RECOMMENDATION: *Also add the word “may” between “that” and “bring.”*

3. ED-213 *“King County shall coordinate with a broad range of partners, organizations, businesses and public sector agencies to support the development of business innovation districts and related initiatives in lower income communities, with an emphasis on food innovation districts, in particular. Food innovation districts may encompass anchor food businesses, small food business incubation, food industry education and training, markets and food hubs, food programs and partnerships with urban and rural food growers and cooperatives, and food aggregation and processing.”*

RECOMMENDATION: *Add the following sentence to the end of ED-213:*

“Food may include sourcing from land and marine sources, such as aquaculture, aquaponics, and water bodies served by fishing means.”

4. **ED-302** *“King County supports the King County Workforce Development Council, established by the federal (~~Workforce Investment Act of 1998~~) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, composed of high-level representatives from business, local government, labor, education and training institutions, advocacy organizations, and human service providers. The purpose of the council is to coordinate and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the needs of workers and employers. King County will work with the Workforce Development Council to emphasis the need in and highlight opportunities for communities that have the highest unemployment rates in the region.”*

RECOMMENDATION: *Add the following sentence at the end of ED-302:*

“This includes programs for self-employment and self-directed employment opportunities seeking business marketing skills.”

5. **ED-404** *“Through local subarea planning and partnerships with other agencies and organizations, King County should use zoning, incentives, or other measures to (~~ensure that an appropriate proportion of the land adjacent or near to major public infrastructure facilities is used to capitalize on the economic benefit of that infrastructure. The surrounding land uses should be compatible with the economic development uses or a buffer provided as necessary~~) capitalize on the economic benefit of infrastructure projects, in a manner consistent with existing and forecasted land uses, and other locational criteria.”*

CONCERN: *ED-404 should not be used as a pretext to conceiving and approving “Demonstration Projects” in the Rural Area even if those sites are near major arterials, since most already are congested during ever-longer AM and PM traffic commutes. For example, the Cedar Hills Subarea is near SR- 169, but the wait at the intersection traffic light is long and once successfully navigated, one sits in an 8-mile-long backup just to reach the I-405 gridlock in both north and south directions, and then the journey begins to major business centers of Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue, and Everett.*