

August 2015

King County Comprehensive Plan Update

by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, August 3, the Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. Topics of discussion were:

- (1) Environment and Economic Development issues related to the 2016 major update to the King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP); and
- (2) Upcoming release of the Area Council's Bi-Annual Ballot, Citizens' Survey, and Newsletter.

Public Comment

Mike Chase described a recently completed Hearing before the County Hearing Examiner concerning rezoning of an isolated Industrial-zoned parcel at the southend of 200th Ave SE--the site of proposed Marijuana Manufacturing and Processing Facilities. Mr. Chase stated the Hearing Examiner agreed the parcel should be rezoned to RA-5 zoning. [The Area Council has been working on the proposed facilities with the 200th Ave SE residents--primarily vesting of all related future permit applications, which was conferred by King County, and traffic concerns for 200th Ave SE, a rural road only 18 ft at its narrowest.]

King County Comprehensive Plan Update

The Area Council discussed its fourth input for the 2016 Four-Year King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Update's Public Review Draft (PRD) being prepared by the King County Executive's Office for release for comment in early November.

Policies in the existing (2012) KCCP Chapter 4--Environment were reviewed by the Area Council's Environment Committee, which developed a set of Concerns for discussion by the full Area Council. These included: Use of "in-lieu fees" for wetland buffer mitigation; Large slash burn fine particle pollution; Adequate ecosystem monitoring; Consistency in permitting and enforcement to reduce sedimentation in waterways; Buffer compensation to private property owners; Urban-serving Stormwater Facilities in the Rural Area; Stormwater runoff management; and Upland forest cover protection to protect downslope properties.

The Environment Committee will now develop a set of recommendations for review and discussion by the full Area Council at its next meeting.

Also, Policies in the existing (2012) KCCP Chapter 9--Economic Development were reviewed by the Area Council's Economic Committee, which developed a set of Concerns and Recommendations for discussion by the full Area Council. These included: Support for business start-ups; Concerns over commercial/industrial enterprises and Rural Character; Concerns over lack of maintenance of infrastructure; and Concerns over "Demonstration Projects," which essentially circumvent existing regulations.

The Area Council approved a final set of Concerns/Recommendations related to all the above-mentioned Policies. These will be submitted to the King County Executive's Office for consideration of inclusion in the KCCP Update's PRD.

Citizens can submit comments to: COMPPLAN@kingcounty.gov; follow the Update: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/psb/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan.aspx>; and provide comments to the Area Council at its monthly meetings.

Area Council Ballot, Citizens' Survey, and Newsletter

The Area Council's Bi-Annual Ballot, Citizens' Survey, and Newsletter are being finalized and expected to be mailed in early October to all residences in the unincorporated area of the Tahoma School District (the territory covered by the Area Council). For the first time, they also will be available online.

Next Area Council Meeting

The Area Council will hold an additional "monthly" meeting in August on Monday, August 24, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Fire Station on the southeast corner of the intersection of SE 231st St & SR-169. Meetings are held the first non-holiday Monday of each month.

Our guest speaker, John Taylor of King County's Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), will discuss the King County Council's recently updated Rural Economic Strategies. A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and government officials in attendance.