

**March 2016**

## **King County Comprehensive Plan** by Peter Rimbo, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, March 7, the Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. Topics included: (1) King County Comprehensive Plan Update and (2) Senate Bill 5130 on Siting of Marijuana Operations.

### **King County Comprehensive Plan Update**

On March 1 the King County Executive submitted his proposed 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Update to the King County Council for review, discussion, and final approval. This is a major update which occurs every four years.

Since February of last year, the Area Council has been participating in all stages of preparation of the Executive's proposed 2016 KCCP Update. The Area Council will now prepare and submit detailed comments on the Executive's proposed 2016 KCCP Update to the King County Council as it conducts its review through the Spring and the Summer. The final 2016 KCCP Update is expected to be passed by the King County Council in the Fall of this year.

Some of the KCCP chapters which have received a major update include areas of importance to both citizens and businesses: Economic Development, Environment, Natural Resources, Parks, Open Space, Rural Area, Services, and Transportation.

The Area Council is pleased to find a good deal of its comments have been incorporated into the Executive's proposed 2016 KCCP Update. Many of those comments have been informed by our Biannual Citizens' Surveys (the last of which was completed just a few months ago and results will be published shortly). All Area Council comments submitted on the 2016 KCCP Update so far, along with a link to the Executive's proposed KCCP Update, can be found on this website.

### **Senate Bill 5130 on Siting of Marijuana Operations**

The Area Council agreed on a letter to the State Senate supporting proposed Senate Bill 5130--"Restricting marijuana producer and processor businesses from being located in certain residential and rural areas."

Over the past two years many concerned citizens have packed Area Council meetings several times to voice very strong concerns regarding proposed multiple sites for Marijuana growing and/or processing facilities in our Rural Area. The Area Council is on record opposing siting of such facilities in residential areas, especially in the Rural Area, where Police patrols and protection is minimal.

Proposed Bill 5130 would add the following to RCW 69.50.331 — Application for License: "9) The state liquor control board shall not issue a marijuana producer or marijuana processor license for any premises located within an area zoned for residential use or an area zoned for rural use with a minimum lot size of five acres."

Such restriction of Marijuana growing operations and/or processing facilities from being located in the Rural Area is a common-sense solution to an ever-growing problem. Proposed Marijuana growing operations could be located in the Agricultural Production Districts (~40,000 acres in King County). Proposed Marijuana processing and manufacturing facilities have no place in the Rural Area or near residences and should be located in incorporated commercial areas where such industrial concerns belong.

### **Next Area Council Meeting**

Meetings are held the first non-holiday Monday of each month. 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.