



Burn Bans

by Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, September 14, (one week later than the normal *“first Monday off the month”* due to the labor day holiday), the Area Council held its Regular Monthly Meeting at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St and via Zoom. Major topics discussed were: (1) Proposed Burn Ban; (2) Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea Plan; (3) Process for Changing the Urban Growth Boundary; and (4) Proposed Green River Gorge Mine.

Proposed Burn Ban

Graeme Carvlin, Air Resource Specialist, of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) discussed residential yard waste burning defined as: *“the outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling and burned on such lands by the property owner or his or her designee.”*

Based on requirements in state law, PSCAA is considering proposed changes current rules for yard waste. For information about the *existing* rules see: [Residential Yard Waste Burning FAQs](#). For information about the *existing* permit process, contact your local Fire Department.

PSCAA is reviewing its residential yard waste burning rules, which apply across King, Kitsap, Snohomish, and Pierce counties. The intent of these rules is to reduce smoke from outdoor burning to protect the health of the people and the environment of our state. State law ([WAC 173-425-040](#) and [RCW 70A.15.5070](#)) requires PSCAA to regularly assess whether residents have reasonable alternatives to outdoor burning of yard waste, such as curbside collection or drop-off services. PSCAA has conducted online surveys and held public meetings to get feedback on the proposed rules.

Residential yard waste burning already is prohibited within the Urban Growth Areas in all four counties. This proposal focuses on prohibiting residential yard waste burning in areas *outside* UGAs, where burning is currently allowed with valid burn permit from the local fire department, but where alternatives are available. PSCAA has determined reasonable alternatives *are* available for the entire region.

Mr. Carvlin received many good questions and feedback from a standing-room-only crowd, especially about those *“alternatives”* including residential pickup and property owner haul-out. Residential yard waste pickup (typically a 96-gal can) was mentioned as impractical for the volume of debris that must be handled on typical acreage found on Rural Area lots. PSCAA mentioned the other alternative is to take debris to a Transfer Station, the nearest of which to your area is at Cedar Grove Compost (17825 Cedar Grove Rd SE), which accepts: Tree trimmings, branches, and limbs; Tree trunks and stumps; Leaves and grass clippings; Garden residue and shrubs; and Landscape debris. One would need a truck to do so.

PSCAA Staff will present a summary of Public feedback to its Board of Directors this Fall. Once a draft rule has been created, a formal Public comment period will be held, after which the PSCAA Board will vote on the rule. If approved, there would be a period of time between the acceptance of the rule and when it would take effect so that the public can be informed. If a new rule is approved, it would not take effect until January 2028.

Please contact Mr. Carvlin at: RAOB@psccleanair.gov or PSCAA at: <https://psccleanair.gov>.

Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea Plan

Development of the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River (GMV/CR) Community Service Area (CSA) Subarea Plan is nearly complete. As the Area Council territory makes up most of the GMV/CR CSA, this is the Subarea Plan for our local area. The Subarea Plan focusses on locally specific policies that address long-range community vision over the next 20 years.

King County Department of Local Services (KC DLS) Strategic Planning Manager, Susan McLain, provided a status update on the Subarea Plan, which included discussion of the extensive Comments and edits the Area Council provided in May to KC on the *Preliminary Draft*.

The Area Council requested interaction—specifically in the areas of land-use, environment, parks, and transportation—with key members of Ms. McLain’s Interdepartmental Team, which is reviewing all Public Comments in preparation for release of a Public Review Draft later this year.

Process for Changing the Urban Growth Boundary

On September 2 KC DLS-Permitting Division released a Public Notice titled: *SEPA Non-Project Action DNS—Proposed Ordinance To Adopt Amendments to the CPPs Establishing a Limited Process for Technical Amendments to the UGA Boundary*. This would allow KC to propose and approve a technical Urban Growth Area amendment without separate Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) review or recommendation and without city and town ratification when the amendment satisfies the new technical- amendment criteria. Typical amendments cited were to address: “a mapping error or discrepancy, a building or parcel split by the Urban Growth Area boundary, alignment of the boundary with either edge of a right-of-way or similar linear feature it currently touches, encompassing urban-serving infrastructure existing prior to January 1, 2027 within the Urban Growth Area boundary, or a similar technical issue.”

The Joint Team of 15 Urban and Rural Unincorporated Area organizations, coordinated by the Area Council, submitted Comments to KC on September 14, which stated in part: “While we understand the need to streamline processes,..., especially when dealing with minor errors, etc., we are concerned the descriptions provided ... contain some potential instances where the existing oversight provided by the GMPC might continue to be warranted.” The Joint Team then cited specific concerns with:

1. “...align the Urban Growth Area boundary with either edge of a right-of-way or similar linear feature it currently touches.”

Joint Team Response: “An example of this that has been proposed is along the southern edge of the City of Black Diamond. Because this proposal has the potential of providing future access to Green Valley Road from the Ten Trails Master-Planned Development (MPD)—something that was expressly promised would not happen during the many, many months of MPD Permit and Development Agreement Hearings—we have great consternation about it. So, once again, such right-of-way situations should be addressed on a case-by-case basis and, thus, go through the existing GMPC process.”

2. “encompass urban-serving infrastructure existing prior to January 1, 2027 within the Urban Growth Area boundary”

Joint Team Response: “*This is far too open-ended and could encompass many scenarios and, thus, should be addressed on a case-by-case basis and, thus, go through the existing GMPC process. Also, what is special about the date given: January 1, 2027 ?*”

Proposed Green River Gorge Mine

On August 7 a southeast KC sub-team of the Joint Team submitted [Comments](#) (~140 pp, plus Appendices) to the KC DLS-Permitting Division. The Comments were in response to a July 8th issuance of a [Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of EIS](#), regarding the Segale Development Corporation’s proposed Gravel Mine and an Asphalt Facility on ~990 ac near the Green River and Kanasket-Palmer State Park at the top of the Green River Gorge (in the Cumberland area).

The sub-team determined and documented the proposed project would have major impacts to the immediate area and throughout SE King County on the following: hydrology, water quality, wetlands, steep slopes, geochemical contamination, fish, wildlife, recreation, land-use, aesthetics, noise, air quality, traffic, fire safety, public services, water supply, and many more.

The next step, should the project proceed in its current form, will be the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) sometime in 2027, at which time the Public again will be able to provide comment.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held **Monday, October 5, 2026**, from 7 - 9:30 PM at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St (across from the KC Sheriff’s Precinct).

Meetings are held on the *first* Monday of the month (except for Holidays, when they are held on the *second* Monday). All meeting announcements, agendas, and Zoom information are posted on the [Area Council’s Website](#) and local *NextDoor* platforms. You can also find us on our [FaceBook page](#). Each meeting begins with an open Public Comment period where anyone can voice concerns, comments, etc.

Area Council Membership

Your Area Council, founded in 1978, is one of the longest continuously active local councils in King County. It serves as an all-volunteer, locally recognized advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District (TSD). The Area Council, in “*working to keep the Rural Area rural*,” collaborates *regionally* with other King County Rural Area organizations through both the *Joint Rural Team* and its *Joint Transportation Initiative*.

The twelve-seat Area Council has four open seats. If you wish to join, please send an e-mail to: info@gmvuac.org or attend (either in-person or virtually) a monthly meeting and express your interest. To be eligible to join as a *Member* you need to live *within* the TSD.

Residents, even those not living *within* the TSD, are eligible to become *Associate Members* who can serve on any Area Council Committee: *Economic, Environment, Growth Management, Transportation, Public Relations, or Train Show*—please see the Area Council’s [Website](#) and use the drop-down menu under *Committees*.

On our Home page recent *Monthly Meeting Summary Articles* can be in the 2026/2025 GMVUAC *Monthly Meeting Articles* box (or by using the drop-down menu under *Correspondence*).