



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Gary R. Christensen, AICP, Director
Date: January 12, 2011
Re: 2010 Accomplishments/Achievements

Below is list of major 2010 County accomplishments and achievements. The list, while not exhaustive, reflects a number of projects that the Department, Planning Commission, Commissioners, various committees/boards, and others, including the public, completed or made substantial progress toward in 2010. The accomplishments include development review, legislative land use/growth management actions, project review/decisions, and Department administrative functions. They are not listed in any order of importance. Countless hours and significant resources were committed to make this all happen. Kudos to all involved.

Development Review

1. *Current planning* projects, 257 reviewed and approved (notable projects, included: Skagit Transfer Station upgrade; Anacortes Water treatment plant; and, progress toward the Welts land division and landfill remediation).
2. *Natural resource* permit applications, 268 reviewed (critical areas review and permit applications, shoreline exemptions and permit applications, forest practice applications and mining permits). Of those, 209 have been finalized. (notable projects, included: Fisher Slough restoration; Skagit Environmental Bank; and, repair of the last failing septic system at Similk Beach to reopen Similk Bay for shellfish harvest).
3. *Building* permit applications, 415 reviewed and approved (notable permits, included: Marsulex, a refinery by-product, in which solid sulfur pellets are created for fertilizer; Fire District #2 a new station out on Memorial Highway; Alf Christensen Seed Co. 12,000 sq. ft. office addition to the old Transform factory near the Port; and, Skagit County Public Works transfer station project).
4. *Code enforcement/compliance* cases, 142 opened. Of those, 42 cases are unresolved (either more research or further legal review/action is warranted).

Projects

5. Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan draft Planned Unit Development code.
6. Review and processing of Guemes Island Subarea Plan.
7. Master Planned Resort/RV Park code standards.
8. Skagit County Capital Facilities Plans (2010-2015 and 2011-2016).
9. Annual Skagit County Code amendments.
10. 2 year update of County Zoning Use Matrix.
11. US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate (FIRM) map and regulations.
12. FEMA & National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BiOp)
13. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit
14. US Environmental Protection Agency Envision Skagit 2060.
15. WA Department of Ecology Shoreline Master Program update.
16. US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Samish Initiative.
17. WA State Department of Ecology Samish Watershed Direct Implementation Fund.
18. US Department of Transportation, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Pipeline Safety Standards grant.
19. WA Governor's Smart Communities Award: Skagit Countywide UGA Open Space Plan.

Administration

20. Department representation and participation on Forest Advisory Board (FAB), Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB), Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (CFAC), Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC), and, Swinomish Climate Change Initiative Committee.
21. Standard format for Departmental Administrative Decisions.
22. Administrative Official Interpretation on the placing of residential dwellings in the Ag-NRL zoning district.
23. FEMA / Community Rating System (CRS) 3-year audit for class 4 community - assisted by GIS, Emergency Services and Public Works.
24. Establishment of Public Disclosure Request (PDR) protocols and procedures.
25. Department front lobby/foyer "Helping You Plan and Build Better Communities" and the 1966 and 2010 Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Map.

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