

Department of Commerce  
Department of Ecology  
Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Department of Social & Health Services



Department of Transportation  
Department of Corrections  
Puget Sound Partnership  
Department of Health

December 16, 2010

Mr. Eric Johnson, Executive Director  
Washington State Association of Counties  
206 Tenth Avenue Southeast, Suite A  
Olympia, Washington 98501

Mr. Mike McCarty, Executive Director  
Association of Washington Cities  
1076 Franklin Street Southeast  
Olympia, Washington 98501-1346

RE: Updated Principles Governing State Agency Correspondence on Growth Management

Dear Mr. Johnson and Mr. McCarty:

In 2004, we worked with your associations to develop principles that guide our agencies' communication with local governments on local growth management plans and development regulations. Together with your associations' staff, we have recently reviewed these principles and agree that they have worked well to ensure that our participation in the planning process is timely, helpful, and effective. They have minimized conflicts arising from misunderstandings, and ensured that our agencies' written correspondence occurs in the proper context. Although differing interpretations and legitimate disagreements do occur occasionally, these principles provide a framework for resolving those disagreements efficiently and for ensuring that disagreements are focused on the substance of the issue itself. Our staff implement these principles and use them as a guide.

We refresh our commitment to the principles in the attachment, which have been updated slightly through cooperative discussions with your staff. The principles recognize the shared responsibility between state and local government for implementation of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and reflect our shared commitment to work together in this task.

Although state and local government resources are severely limited at this time, we recognize the vital partnership between state and local government in working together to develop good plans and make them a reality. Effective growth management plans facilitate decisions that foster economic development, protect the natural environment, manage the costs of providing needed public infrastructure, and ensure timely and fair permitting decisions. We hope that state agencies and local governments will continue

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Mr. Mike McCarty, Executive Director  
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to maintain a cooperative relationship to implement the goals of growth management and to realize a bright future for our state.

Sincerely,



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Rogers Weed, Director  
Washington State Department of Commerce



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Ted Sturdevant, Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology



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Phil Anderson, Director  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



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Mary Selecky, Secretary  
Washington State Department of Health

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Mr. Mike McCarty, Executive Director  
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Gerry O'Keefe, Acting Executive Director  
Puget Sound Partnership



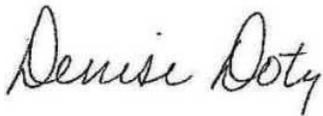
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Susan N. Dreyfus, Secretary  
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services



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Paula Hammond, Secretary  
Washington State Department of Transportation



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Denise Doty, Assistant Secretary  
Washington Department of Corrections