



March 28, 2023 (Date to be updated/2nd page header too)

Board of County Commissioners
Thurston County
3000 Pacific Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Subject: Olympia Joint Plan

Dear Honorable County Commissioners;

The City of Olympia is pleased to lend its support to the adoption of the Olympia Joint Plan.

The Plan represents a significant step in our coordinated planning efforts to ensure provision of urban governmental services across the city and urban growth area. The Joint Plan builds upon our community's values and our vision for the future. It's goals and policies provide high-level direction for actions the County, City, and other community members may take to realize these values and vision. We applaud the recommendations of the Planning Commissions to address and support agriculture in the urban growth areas.

We ask for the following modifications prior to adoption:

1. On page 36, minor modifications to Natural Environment policy PN2.4 as shown below (in bill format) to help clarify that Transfer of Development Rights programs are applicable to privately owned farmland and so are distinct from any public farmland initiatives:

PN2.4 Explore innovative strategies that help to facilitate continued agricultural activities within the Urban Growth Area, such as an agriculture protection overlay, ~~or~~ public farmland initiatives, ~~like~~ or Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs, to encourage conservation of agriculture.

2. On pages 38 and 50, please update the name of Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park. The City renamed this park in April 2022 in acknowledgement that the land upon which the park sits has been used for generations by the Indigenous peoples of our region, which include the Squaxin, Nisqually, Quinault, Puyallup, Chehalis, Suquamish, and Duwamish.
3. On page 46, in Natural Environment policy PN8.1, please replace the word "development" with "implementation" to reflect the fact that we now have a recently approved climate action plan.

PN8.1 Participate with local and state partners in the implementation ~~development~~ of a regional climate action plan aimed at reducing greenhouse gases. The Board of County Commissioners has set targets to reduce emissions 45 percent below 2015 levels by 2030 and 85 percent below 2015 levels by 2050.

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Additionally, we would like to acknowledge and thank County staff, specifically Ms. Leah Davis, for her assistance during the review process. She was professional and prompt in her coordination with City staff and played an important role in the joint meetings of the County and City Planning Commission meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to coordinate on the update of the Olympia Joint Plan. We are pleased to offer our support for its adoption. We look forward to the County's docketing of development regulation code amendments shortly afterward to implement the plan. Olympia staff are prepared to assist with that process.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Selby, Mayor

CS:jmp