



Community Development Department

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MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission
From: Emily Arteche, Director
Date: September 18th, 2023
Subject: Comprehensive Plan – Housing Element Policy Review

Background

The Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) requires King County and cities within King County to update their comprehensive plans on or before December 31, 2024. The housing chapter (sometimes referred to as an “element”) is the core of the Comprehensive Plan and must incorporate updated growth targets and show how the City is planning to grow and change over the planning horizon of 20 years.

September 5th Planning Commission Meeting Overview:

At the previous Planning commission meeting held on September 5, 2023 staff and city consultants went over the draft policy updates. The presentation consisted of a brief overview of the presentation, an explanation and background to the policies. Commissioner requested more information as to how draft policies correlate to required new housing legislation.

September 18th Planning Commission Meeting Overview:

At the upcoming Planning Commission Meeting on September 18, 2023, Staff and city consultants will go over the rest of the housing element policy updates to the Comprehensive Plan. The presentation will consist of a brief overview of how to bring the policies into compliance with recent legislation, changes to the policies requested from the last meeting as well as a presentation of the remaining draft policies. The presentation will also include Key Definitions; **Exhibit 1** that explains key definitions found within the policies, as requested by the Commission. The draft policies shown are color coded according to House Bills and studies that influenced the presented drafted policies.

Analysis

The goal of these revisions is to improve clarity, remove duplicative language, update terminology, and reflect recent changes to the Growth Management Act and other laws, including House Bill 1241, **Exhibit 2** which requires a progress report to the Department of Commerce on affordability and availability. A large factor contributing to these revisions were the findings and recommendations from Snoqualmie’s Housing Strategy Plan, Middle Housing Analysis, and Housing Needs Assessment. Existing policies that are regulatory in nature (for example, those that include specific requirements for annexation proposals) have been recommended to be added to the Snoqualmie Municipal Code as a future implementation action.