



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Mayor Ross and City of Snoqualmie Council,

This is a letter of support for the Economic Alliance, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Snoqualmie and the Economic Alliance.

In May of 2023 the City began working with King County Local Services on an MOU for the Snoqualmie Valley, including the city. The Alliance is supported by King County Executive Dow Constantine who announced the start of Economic Alliance Program in February 2023. It is a collaborative effort between the Department of Local Services and community organizations in unincorporated King County. This new program furthers businesses and individuals recovering from the economic slowdown of the last three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Washington State's Snoqualmie Valley consists of rural unincorporated areas of King County and includes the small cities of Carnation, Duvall, North Bend, and Snoqualmie. While rural in nature for the lower population density, open green space, and containing the last remaining farmland in the state's most populous County, it lacks a rural designation by the current state standards. If signed Alliance members would have access to grant money. Federal small business incubation grants (like USDA's RISE Grant) require a partnership agreement documented through a formal MOU. This group plans to utilize the MOU to pursue funding individually and together. No financial commitment is associated with the MOU.

The MOU will be signed by local organizations to enrich collaboration efforts including community associations, non-profits, greenway associations, school districts, chambers of commerce and tribes. **It is the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission that the City authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU. Recommended by the City of Snoqualmie Economic Development Commission on the 20th of September 2023.**

Thank you,

bobbi harrison
bobbi harrison (Sep 28, 2023 10:58 PDT)

Economic Development Chair
Bobbi Harrison

Sep 28, 2023

Date

PREAMBLE

Washington State’s Snoqualmie Valley consists of rural unincorporated areas of King County and includes the small cities of Carnation, Duvall, North Bend, and Snoqualmie. While rural in nature for the lower population density, open green space, and containing the last remaining farmland in the state’s most populous county, it lacks a rural designation by the current state standards. The Snoqualmie Valley continues to evolve and become more ethnically and socially diverse reflecting the regional changes seen elsewhere.¹

There is a desire to create an ecosystem that honors our past and gives opportunity to sustain and preserve our rural character going forward while ensuring success regardless of residents’ income or size of business.

Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS the cities of Snoqualmie Valley - Carnation, Duvall, North Bend, and Snoqualmie – find it beneficial to join with the Department of Local Services representing unincorporated King County – in promoting and coordinating the rural community’s economic development efforts hereby creating the Snoqualmie Valley Economic Alliance (hereinafter referred to as the “Alliance”).

ADDITIONALLY for the success of the Alliance, we partner with local organizations to enrich collaboration efforts including community associations, non-profits, greenway associations, school districts, chambers of commerce and tribes. Organizations partner voluntarily on a project-by-project basis. Snoqualmie Valley Innovation Center will serve as the coordinating 501c3 organization.

FURTHERMORE, the Alliance will focus on these areas of interest:

- 1. Honor the historic role of Snoqualmie Valley-** Respect the vitality that the Snoqualmie Valley brings to King County, Washington State and beyond.
- 2. Healthy living through sustainability and Green Jobs²-** Center the environment and career sustainability of our fragile Pacific Northwest ecosystem by developing economic pathways³ that empower workers to pursue quality careers with sustainable wages such as: Residential Green Building Contractors, HVAC Mechanics and Installers, Electrical Contractors, Wastewater Treatment, Landscaping, Green Manufacturing and Sustainable Farming and Transportation.
- 3. Diversity-** Honoring the diversity of Snoqualmie Valley communities and ensuring services for minority-owned businesses and historically underserved residents.
- 4. Equity-** the Snoqualmie Valley Economic Alliance will promote access to capital, educate around small business best practices, reduce barriers to economic growth, and economically empower

¹ 54.27% of Riverview School District Sixth to Eighth grade students surveyed in 2022 identified as a race/ethnicity other than White and 55% of 6-8th grade Snoqualmie Valley School District students identified as a race/ethnicity other than White.

² King County defines green jobs as living wage positions providing environmental benefits (such as clean energy deployment) in high-demand industry sectors of construction, manufacturing, transportation, and professional services. [SJI/King County Green Jobs Report - Seattle Jobs Initiative](#)

³ [Green Jobs Strategy - King County, Washington](#)

our residents and small business owners most impacted by environmental stressors (climate change⁴, pandemics, economic recessions etc.)⁵.

5. **Preserve rural character**- Support King County's Creative Economy⁶ Initiatives and advocate to be included in state and federal incentives that benefit rural communities like the Snoqualmie Valley.
6. **Entrepreneurship**- Support the exploration of entrepreneurship and create opportunities for small business innovation. The Alliance will work to empower local Snoqualmie Valley small businesses and residents to scale their business and thrive economically.
7. **Economic Empowerment** - Utilize creative strategies to empower businesses in all stages from inception to maturity with supportive services to help ensure their success.
8. **Curiosity**- We look to involve and inspire young people in the exploration of new business development and living wage careers while providing opportunities to support our local ecosystem through experiential learning and project management.
9. **Rural SR 202/203 Corridor Infrastructure Improvement** – Strengthening safety for multimodal transportation networks, roads, and rural broadband access across Snoqualmie Valley Corridor.
10. **Preserving and Supporting Local Business**- Work collaboratively to diversify local small business networks and avoid displacement of residents and local economies.

THEREFORE, this Alliance provides the framework of future endeavors which will allow for competitive applications for governmental and private grants. It demonstrates the common interests of all parties and our willingness to work together knowing that there is scale of size and scope that individually would be difficult to achieve.

FURTHERMORE, there is no financial commitment unless the parties involved agree to participate in shared grant applications and are successful in their endeavors. In such case, a separate contracting process with the Grantor and Grantees would apply. Let it be known there are no formal procedures or a body of decisionmakers. This Alliance simply allows all participating agencies to coordinate efforts to achieve mutually beneficial interests.

THIS AGREEMENT REMAINS IN PERPETUITY commencing on _____, 2023 however any signatory agency, government, or organization may opt-out at any time by providing written notice to the other parties involved.

⁴ Fire, smoke, extreme temperatures, flood, storms etc.

⁵ Helgeson, J. , Aminpour Mohammadabadi, P. , Fung, J. , Roa Henriquez, A. , Zycherman, A. , Butry, D. , Nierenberg, C. and Zhang, Y. (2022), Natural hazards compound COVID-19 impacts on small businesses disproportionately for historically underrepresented group operators, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, [online], <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2022.102845>, https://tsapps.nist.gov/publication/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=932704 (Accessed September 6, 2023)

⁶ [Office of Economic Opportunity & Creative Economy - King County, Washington](#)