



City of Sumas Request for Council Action

Meeting Date: October 13, 2025

Subject:

County Council negotiations regarding Sumas UGA proposal

Department: Planning

Prepared By: Carson Cortez

Agenda Location:

☐ Public Hearing ☐ Old Business ☒ New Business ☐ Staff Reports

Brief Summary:

Sumas City Staff have been in negotiations with Whatcom County Staff, Council, and Planning Commission regarding the City's UGA Proposal. This is happening in concert with the UGA Proposals for all the cities. As part of these negotiations suggestions have arisen for how we can trim our UGA Proposal to make it more acceptable.

1) Whatcom County Staff request the City to remove any land proposed to be added to our UGA Reserve. This would simplify the UGA approval process and would be readdressed following the completion of the Comp Plan Update. The area of concern in Sumas is identified as Area 10 on the attached map.

2) Whatcom County Planning Commission requests that the City remove the most southern areas of the proposal. These areas are identified as Areas 3 and 4 on the attached map. The reasoning is because of the presence of floodplain in the area shown on the FEMA Maps. The area is also good agricultural land.

Legal Review: ☒ Reviewed ☐ Not Reviewed ☐ Review Not Required

Staff Recommendation:

City Staff recommends a motion allowing the Sumas City Staff to remove area 10 from the UGA Proposal.

Senior Staff Review:

- ☒ Mayor
- ☒ Finance Director
- ☒ City Clerk
- ☒ Public Works Director

Budget Implications:

- ☐ Current Budget
- ☐ New Budget Request
- ☒ Non-Budgetary

