



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

*Creating Solutions for Our Future*

Scott Clark  
Director

Thurston County Board of Commissioners  
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98502

**RE:** Planning Commission Recommendation, Yelm Population Forecast Update

Dear Commissioners,

The Thurston County Planning Commission has completed its review of the proposed amendment to the City of Yelm Comprehensive Plan and Joint Plan with Thurston County to update the population forecasts in the plan. The Planning Commission held a work session on April 1, 2009 and a public hearing on April 15, 2009 to hear public testimony.

In a vote of seven to zero (7-0) on April 15, 2009, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the amendment as proposed by Staff, subject to the findings of fact attached to this letter. The Planning Commission considered the merits of the proposal, and made its recommendation accordingly. The amendment to the population forecast will make the plan consistent with the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendment. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Chris Lane, Chair  
Thurston County Planning Commission

CC: Don Krupp, County Manager  
Scott Clark, Planning Director  
Thurston County Planning Commission Members  
Grant Beck, Community Development Director, City of Yelm

Attachment:  
Recommendation and Findings of Fact

**Thurston County Planning Commission Recommendation and Findings, April 15, 2009  
2009 Population Forecast Update to the City of Yelm Comprehensive Plan and Joint Plan  
with Thurston County**

In the matter of the 2009 population forecast update to the City of Yelm Comprehensive Plan and Joint Plan with Thurston County, the Thurston County Planning Commission recommends approval of Option 1 in the staff report with the following findings of fact:

1. On July 28, 2008, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board ruled in *Adams Cove Group and Futurewise v. Thurston County*, Case No. 07-2-0005 that the amendments to the City of Yelm Comprehensive Plan and Joint Plan with Thurston County did not comply with the Growth Management Act. Specifically, the Hearings Board held that the population figures adopted with Thurston County (County) Resolution No. 13734 did not support the size of the City of Yelm (City) Urban Growth Area.
2. On March 3, 2008, Thurston County adopted Resolution No. 14034 and Ordinance No. 14035, which included amendments to the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and UGA boundary. These amendments were in response to a compliance order from the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board in *1000 Friends of Washington (Futurewise) v. Thurston County*, Case No. 05-2-0002 regarding the sizing of the County's Urban Growth Areas.
3. On May 29, 2008 the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board issued an order finding compliance in *1000 Friends of Washington (Futurewise) v. Thurston County*, Case No. 05-2-0002 regarding Thurston County's Urban Growth Areas and associated amendments approved with Resolution No. 14034 and Ordinance No. 14035.
4. Resolution No. 14034 and Ordinance No. 14035 included updated population growth and distribution projections for Thurston County and its cities, and provided for Urban Growth Area boundaries adjusted for the updated population projections.
5. Resolution No. 14034 and Ordinance No. 14035 included findings justifying the decision, which are incorporated herein by this reference.
6. Resolution No. 14034 and Ordinance No. 14035 included specific findings for the City of Yelm Urban Growth Area outlining their local circumstances and their future land use needs.
7. The changes to the City of Yelm Comprehensive Plan and Joint Plan with Thurston County proposed in this amendment are consistent with Resolution No. 14034 and Ordinance No. 14035 which recognized the City of Yelm's local circumstances and resulted in the order finding compliance in *1000 Friends of Washington (Futurewise) v. Thurston County*, Case No. 05-2-0002.
8. The proposed amendment is consistent with the Growth Management Act 36.70A RCW, the Thurston County County-Wide Planning Policies, and with other elements and chapters of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan.\