

EXHIBIT C – FURTHER FINDINGS OF FACT

Washington State Growth Management Act

1. As provided for by RCW 36.70A.130 and RCW 43.21C.440, the Lewis County Planning Commission elected to conduct a periodic review and update of Lewis County Code (LCC) 17.12 (Ord. 1330 Exhibit A) to improve the public participation process.
2. The updated LCC 17.12 public participation process is consistent with RCW 36.70A.130(2)(a), .020(11), .035, and .140 because it:
 - a. Adds a schedule and timeline for consideration of comprehensive plan amendments to ensure local and state regulatory mandates can be met;
 - b. Amends the noticing procedures to ensure notice is sent to affected interested parties. This includes publishing the notice in the newspaper, sending notice to potentially impacted property owners, sending notice to government agencies (e.g., school districts, fire districts), and posting a physical notice in a public location, such as along a public right-of-way; and
 - c. Adds approval criteria to provide transparency to the public about the information considered by the Planning Commission in making a decision to amend the comprehensive land use plan or development regulations.

Lewis County Countywide Planning Policies

3. Policy 11, Citizen Participation and Coordination, encourages the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensures coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts. The updated LCC 17.12 is consistent with the following policies, as described below:
 - 11.0 All jurisdictions shall maintain procedures to provide for the broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives for public inspection; opportunities for written comments; public hearings after effective notice; open discussions; communication programs and information services; consideration of and response to public comments; and the notification of the public for the adoption, implementation, and evaluation of the Comprehensive Plan.
 - 11.1 All jurisdictions shall continue to encourage public awareness of Comprehensive Plans by providing for public participation opportunities and public education programs designed to promote a widespread understanding of the Plans' purposes and intents. Updated LCC 17.12 requires notice of hearings to include a summary of amendment, a staff report and explanation of how to provide comments. The clarifications encourage awareness and support opportunities for public participation.

11.2 All jurisdictions shall provide regular and ongoing opportunities for public review and comment throughout the Comprehensive Plan development process.

11.3 All jurisdictions shall provide policies and processes to address public notification costs associated with land use applications.

11.4 All jurisdictions shall encourage citizen participation throughout the planning process as provided by state statute and codes for environmental, land use, and development.

11.5 All jurisdictions shall encourage broad based citizen involvement in the development of the Comprehensive Plan elements, sub-area plans, and functional plans, and development regulations.

11.6 Amendment to the county wide planning policies shall be consistent with an adopted approval process.

Updated LCC 17.12 clarifies the planning commission and board of county commissioner processes and requirements for public notices and participation. Updated LCC 17.12 maintains the public review and comment process for Comprehensive Plan amendment; however, the clarifications better explain public participation opportunities. As described under finding two (2) of this exhibit, public participate is better served by updated LCC 17.12 because it adds a schedule and timeline for consideration of comprehensive plan amendments to ensure local and state regulatory mandates can be met; amends the noticing procedures to ensure notice is sent to affected interested parties; and adds approval criteria to provide transparency to the public about the information considered by the Planning Commission in making a decision to amend the comprehensive land use plan or development regulations. Updated LCC 17.12 makes no changes to fee schedules.