

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite # 108
Bellingham, WA 98225



Jack Louws

County Executive

To: Honorable City Mayors, City Managers, and City Council Members
Honorable County Council Members

From: Jack Louws, County Executive

Date: February 5, 2013

Subject: 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update and UGA Review **(REVISED MEMO)**

As you know, the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County and the seven cities within the County to update our comprehensive plans and conduct a review of urban growth areas (UGAs) by June 30, 2016. The GMA expects the County and cities to work cooperatively in this endeavor, and it is to our advantage to do so. That is why each interlocal agreement for planning, annexation and development signed in 2012 includes a clause to convene a group of elected officials from the County and cities to discuss and review issues associated with growth management planning.

While the deadline for completing the UGA update isn't until 2016, it is critical to coordinate planning efforts between the County and cities from the start. Therefore, I am inviting elected officials from the County and the cities to a series of four informal meetings in 2013 to discuss matters relating to growth planning and the urban growth area review. The meeting dates and locations are as follows:

- Tuesday **March 19**, 2013 - Lynden City Hall Annex, 205 4th St. at 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday June 5, 2013 - Blaine City Council Chambers, 435 Martin Street, Suite 4000 at 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday September 3, 2013 - Ferndale Police Dept., 2220 Main Street at 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday December 3, 2013 - County Courthouse, Suite 513 at 3:00 p.m.

I am requesting that each city and the County Council provide representation at these meetings. The purpose of the meetings will be to engage in discussions, come to mutual understanding of the goals and issues of each jurisdiction, and coordinate land use planning activities. However, there will not be voting or final decisions made at these meetings. Rather, elected officials will take the information back to their respective jurisdictions for consideration in their own decision making processes.

While there is no set number of representatives from each jurisdiction, it must be less than a quorum of the legislative body. The meetings of this growth management working group will continue in 2014-2016.

Thank you for considering my invitation and I hope to see representatives from each city and the County Council at these meetings.