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COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Creating Solutions for Our Future

Joshua Cummings, Director

March 15, 2023

Thurston County Board of commissioners
3000 Pacific Avenue SE, 100
Olympia WA 98501

**Subject: Planning Commission Recommendation on Scope of Work for
Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update**

Thurston County is required under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) to periodically update comprehensive plans and development regulations for compliance with state law and to refresh population projects. Thurston County's multi-year review of its comprehensive plan, also known as the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, is due in June 2025. After that, it is due every 10 years. This effort in Thurston County is being referred to as "Thurston 2045" and will set the vision for Thurston County's next 20 years.

The Thurston County Planning Commission held a preliminary work session to learn about the next comprehensive plan update – Thurston 2045 – and the process, timeline, and public participation plan for that update on November 16, 2022. At two work sessions on February 15 and March 15, 2023, the Planning Commission reviewed the draft scope of work, the results of the Thurston 2045 survey, and public comments received.

The Planning Commission received one hundred twenty-one (121) written comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Several comments requested new items be added to the scope of work such as a mid-cycle check in on scope, in-depth agricultural policy review, adding rights of nature to land use decisions and reviewing SEPA procedures. Additionally, four (4) oral comments were received on March 15, 2023.

On March 15, 2023, the Planning Commission produced a recommendation on each optional element for Thurston 2045. The Planning Commission voted to include:

- Implementation Plan (8 in favor, 0 against, 1 absent)
- Future Land Use Update (6 in favor, 2 against, 1 absent)
- Incorporate Countywide Industrial Lands Study Findings (7 in favor, 1 against, 1 absent)
- Climate Change Element (7 in favor, 1 against, 1 absent)

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Thurston County Planning Commission
Thurston 2045 Scope of Work

- Economic Element (5 in favor, 3 against, 1 absent)
- Health Element (5 in favor, 3 against, 1 absent)

The Planning Commission also stated that at this point in time, the Commission feels it is important that all chapters be open for update, even if there is not a deep dive to update each specific chapter, including optional chapters.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Casino", written over a horizontal line.

Eric Casino, Chair