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COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Creating Solutions for Our Future

Joshua Cummings, Director

January 25, 2023

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

**Subject: Planning Commission Recommendation on Thurston County-Olympia UGA
Joint Plan Update**

The Thurston County Planning Commission has completed its review of the Olympia Joint Plan. The Planning Commission held four (4) work sessions on October 11, October 26, November 30, 2022 and January 25, 2023, and a public hearing on November 30, 2022. Following the public hearing, minor changes were made to the draft by the Planning Commission and are included in the Planning Commission recommended draft attached.

Comments received during the public outreach and public hearing included concerns about increased traffic after development and continued access to open space at Glenmore Village. Also concerns about the minimal mention of affordable housing and protecting small farms in the UGA.

The Planning Commission produced a unanimous recommendation (8 yeas, 1 absent).

The Thurston County Planning commission recommends adoption of the Olympia Joint Plan, an element of the Thurston County comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Commission also produced a recommendation to amend Thurston County Code 23.05 (6 yeas, 1 nay, 1 recusal, 1 absent).

Further recommend approval of amendments to the Thurston County Code, Chapter 23.05 'Residential Districts' to remove the grocery store requirement from the Community-Oriented Shopping Center zoning district.

The Planning Commission produces these recommendations with the following findings:

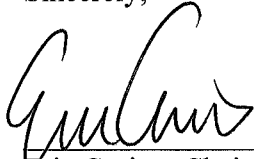
1. The recommendation for the updated Joint Plan is consistent with the Growth Management Act 36.70A RCW.

Thurston County Planning Commission
Olympia Joint Plan

2. The recommendation for the updated Joint Plan is consistent with the Thurston County County-Wide Planning Policies.
3. The recommendation for the updated Joint Plan considers the 1995 memorandum of Understanding between Thurston County and the City of Olympia.
4. The Thurston County Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on November 30, 2022, as required by Thurston County Code Chapter 2.05 Growth Management Public Participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendment. 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