



Island County Planning and Community Development

Mary Engle, Director

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~MEMORANDUM~

December 12, 2023

TO: Board of Island County Commissioners
FROM: Long Range Planning

OFM Population Projections

This memorandum serves as a formal transmission of the Island County Planning Commission's recommendation and findings for the selection of a twenty-year population projection to the Board of Island County Commissioners.

Island County Planning and Community Development reviewed historic trends, economic conditions, and demographic patterns to inform the recommendation for a twenty-year population projection and to comply with Chapter 36.70A RCW. The Planning Department consulted with the municipalities in Island County on the population projections provided by the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Planning and Community Development presented a recommendation to use OFM's medium population figure to the Board of County Commissioners and the Island County Planning Commission.

The Island County Planning Commission reviewed the twenty-year population projection at a public hearing on November 15th. After considering public comments, the Planning Commission voted to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution stating that Planning and Community Development will utilize a 2045 population estimate of 102,639 for the purposes of planning under the Washington State Growth Management Act. The Planning Commission's recommendation and findings are included as Exhibit A in the proposed resolution.

ACTION REQUESTED: Island County Planning and Community Development recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve a resolution that directs the Planning Department to utilize a 2045 population estimate of 102,639 for the purposes of planning under the Washington State Growth Management Act and to comply with the regulatory deadline established by RCW 36.70A.130(5)(b).

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF SELECTING A
TWENTY-YEAR POPULATION
PROJECTION TO COMPLY WITH THE
WASHINGTON STATE GROWTH
MANAGEMENT ACT

RESOLUTION NO. C- 85 -23;
PLG-011-23

WHEREAS, Island County conducts planning activities in accordance with Chapter 36.70 RCW, the Planning Enabling Act; and

WHEREAS, the planning process and the Island County Comprehensive Plan are further governed by Chapter 36.70A RCW, the Growth Management Act (GMA); and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with Chapters 36.70 and 36.70A RCW, Island County adopted its Comprehensive Plan on September 29, 1998 by Ordinance C-123-98, with an effective date of December 1, 1998; and

WHEREAS, state law requires periodic reviews of GMA comprehensive plans; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature amended RCW 36.70A.130 to extend the schedule and subsequent review cycles for GMA comprehensive plan periodic reviews; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.130(5)(b) establishes June 30, 2025 and at least every ten (10) years thereafter as the regulatory deadline for Island County to complete the next periodic review of its GMA Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2023, the Board of Island County Commissioners approved Resolution C-61 -23 establishing the County's 2024 Work Plan and Docket stating intent to complete its periodic review of its GMA Comprehensive Plan by the deadline established in RCW 36.70A.130(5)(b) and periodically at least every ten (10) years thereafter; and

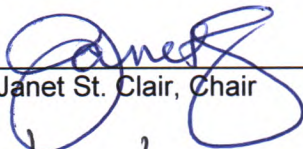
WHEREAS, Island County Planning and Community Development coordinated with the municipalities in Island County on a twenty-year population projection and determined that a population increase to 102,639 people by the year 2045 represents the most probable forecast; and

WHEREAS, the Island County Planning Commission reviewed the twenty-year population projection and adopted findings of fact on November 15, 2023; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

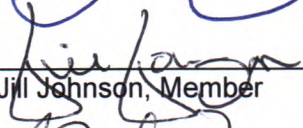
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Island County Commissioners directs the Department of Planning and Community Development to utilize a 2045 population estimate of 102,639 for the purposes of planning under the Washington State Growth Management Act and to comply with the regulatory deadline established by RCW 36.70A.130(5)(b); and further directs the Department of Planning and Community Development to adhere to the Findings of Fact approved by the Planning Commission, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this the 12th day of December, 2023 following a public hearing.

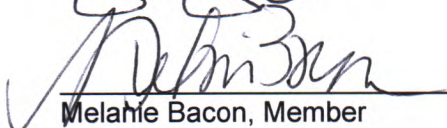
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Janet St. Clair, Chair



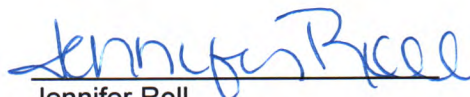
Jill Johnson, Member



Melanie Bacon, Member



ATTEST:



Jennifer Roll
Clerk of the Board

EXHIBIT A - Planning Commission Findings of Fact



Island County Planning and Community Development

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~ FINDINGS OF FACT ~

TO: Planning Commissioners
FROM: Emily Neff, Long Range Planner
DATE: November 15, 2023
SUBJECT: Findings of Fact – OFM Population Estimate

Summary

Island County has reviewed the twenty-year population estimates prepared by the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM). Island County and the municipalities within Island County must use the twenty-year population estimate to ensure that Urban Growth Area boundaries are adequately sized and support sufficient densities to allow for future urban growth. In 1998 Island County selected the OFM high population series; and in 2005 Island County selected a population projection at the midpoint between the high and medium series. Both projections overestimated actual population growth according to 2010 U.S. Census counts. In 2016, Island County selected a population projection between the medium and low estimate due to slower than anticipated growth. Since then, growth rates have increased and the 2021-22 estimates are at, and in some cases, above the 2036 projections.

Findings


1. In order to address the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act, Island County first adopted a Comprehensive Plan and development regulations in 1998.
2. The GMA requires counties and cities to periodically update their comprehensive plans and development regulations (RCW 36.70A.130(5)). Island County last completed a periodic update in 2016; and Island County must complete an update by June 30, 2025.
3. The Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) prepared a twenty-year growth management planning population projection for Island County in accordance with RCW 43.62.035.

4. Island County and the municipalities within the County are required to use the population projection prepared by OFM to provide an Urban Growth Area with densities sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur for the succeeding twenty-year period per RCW 36.70A.110(2). The town of Coupeville is not required to adjust its Urban Growth Area as it is contained totally within a National Historic Reserve and is exempt under RCW 36.70A.110(2).
5. The Countywide Planning Policies requires a hearing before the Planning Commission on the selection of a twenty-year population projection. Section 4.3 requires Island County to formally adopt a population figure through a resolution.
6. The Planning Commission has reviewed the research prepared by Planning & Community Development and believes that the recommended population of 102,639 (OFM Medium) for 2045 represents the most probable forecast based on past trends, as well as current economic, and demographic conditions.

Conclusion

The Island County Planning Commission has reviewed the research supporting a 2045 population estimate for Island County and hereby recommends that the Board of Island County Commissioners adopt a resolution stating that Island County Planning & Community Development will utilize a 2045 population estimate of 102,639 (OFM Medium) for the purposes of planning under the Washington State Growth Management Act.

Respectfully submitted through the Island County Planning Department to the Board of Island County Commissioners, pursuant to RCW 36.70.430, this 15 day of Nov, 2023 by,



Steve Schwalbe
Chair, Island County Planning Commission