

# Affordable Housing Committee

December 23, 2024

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GROWTH  
MANAGEMENT  
PLANNING COUNCIL

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*King County Housing  
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Maiko Winkler-Chin  
*On behalf of Seattle  
Mayor Bruce Harrell*

Alison Van Gorp  
Deputy Director of Community Planning & Development  
City of Mercer Island  
9611 SE 36th Street  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear Ms. Van Gorp,

I am writing to notify you that the [Affordable Housing Committee](#) (AHC) has not received a complete submission from the City of Mercer Island to the AHC's Housing-focused Draft Comprehensive Plan Review Program (plan review program). Without Mercer Island's complete submission, the AHC is unable to conduct a review of Mercer Island's draft plan and to assess whether it is in alignment with the King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP) Housing Chapter.

## **Background**

The AHC, a subcommittee of the [Growth Management Planning Council](#) (GMPC), is required to review the draft comprehensive plans of all jurisdictions within King County. By direction of GMPC and CPP Housing Chapter policy H-26, the AHC now conducts a housing-focused review of all King County jurisdictions' draft periodic comprehensive plan updates, assessing the draft plans for alignment with the CPP Housing Chapter goals and policies prior to plan adoption and providing comment.<sup>1</sup>

In 2021, the State of Washington adopted [House Bill 1220](#), which amended the Growth Management Act, requiring local governments to plan for and accommodate housing that is affordable to all income levels, including emergency housing. In response to this state mandate and local interest in improving the effectiveness of local housing plans and policies, the AHC led a two-year process to amend the Housing Chapter of the CPPs.

As a result of this process, the GMPC recommended a significant update to the CPP Housing Chapter, which the King County Council adopted and the cities ratified in 2023. The goals of both the statute and this implementation work are to encourage cities and King County to work together to provide a full range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices to every resident in King County.

Since the plan review program launched in 2023, the AHC has reviewed draft comprehensive plans from 29 jurisdictions, the majority of jurisdictions within King County. These jurisdictions are now working hard to incorporate AHC recommendations into their comprehensive plans. Six jurisdictions that submitted materials late in 2024 are scheduled for review in early 2025. Two jurisdictions have deferred AHC review due to ongoing GMPC discussions about growth target reconciliation and are in communication with the AHC about their plans. Three

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<sup>1</sup> CPP H-26 states: "The Growth Management Planning Council or its designee will conduct a housing-focused review of all King County jurisdiction's draft periodic updates for alignment with the Housing Chapter goals and policies prior to plan adoption and provide comments."

jurisdictions, including Mercer Island, have not participated in the plan review program.

### **Status of Mercer Island's Submission**

To date, the City of Mercer Island has yet to submit all required documents to the AHC. To bring its plan into alignment with the CPP Housing Chapter, Mercer Island should submit the housing-focused elements of its draft periodic comprehensive plan update, a completed [CPP completeness checklist](#), and [implementations strategies workbook](#) to the AHC. After receiving the submission, the AHC will complete review of the draft plan and provide comments on draft plan consistency with the CPP Housing Chapter.

If the AHC issues comments after the City of Mercer Island adopts its periodic comprehensive plan update, the City can bring its plan into alignment with the CPP Housing Chapter by incorporating the AHC's recommendations in the City's next annual comprehensive plan amendment process, consistent with RCW 36.70A.130(2).

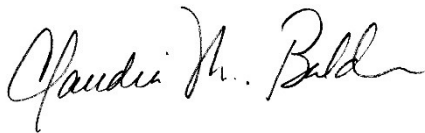
### **Resources for Preparing Mercer Island's Submission**

AHC staff are available to assist Mercer Island in preparing materials for submission. For immediate resources and guidance on aligning with the CPP Housing Chapter, refer to the:

- [Engrossed 2021 King County CPPs](#);
- [AHC Housing-focused Draft Comprehensive Plan Review Program Guide](#); and
- [King County Resources for Documenting the Local History of Racially Exclusive and Discriminatory Land Use and Housing Practices](#).

If you have questions or need additional information regarding alignment with the CPP Housing Chapter, please contact the AHC plan review program at [AHCplanreview@kingcounty.gov](mailto:AHCplanreview@kingcounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Claudia Balducci  
Affordable Housing Committee Chair  
King County Councilmember, District 6

CC Dow Constantine  
Growth Management Planning Council Chair  
King County Executive

Salim Nice  
City of Mercer Island Mayor

David Rosenbaum  
City of Mercer Island Deputy Mayor

Lisa Anderl  
City of Mercer Island Councilmember

Jake Jacobson  
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Wendy Weiker  
City of Mercer Island Councilmember

Ted Weinberg  
City of Mercer Island Councilmember

Laura Hodgson  
Senior Planner  
Washington State Department of Commerce

Plan Review Team  
Puget Sound Regional Council

Plan Review Team  
King County Affordable Housing Committee