

KING COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA TITLE: Growth Target Reconciliation Process
PRESENTED BY: Rebecca Maskin, Demographic Planner

Today's Meeting

Building from its June meeting, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) will review the Interjurisdictional Team's recommendation on guiding principles and continue the growth target reconciliation process to resolve jurisdictional inconsistencies between growth assumptions used in comprehensive plans and growth targets adopted in the Countywide Planning Policies.

Background

The June GMPC [staff report](#) on growth targets reconciliation contains essential background on the policy framework and scope of need for reconciliation, as well as the IJT's initial recommendation on guiding principles for this process.

At its June meeting, GMPC discussed IJT's initial recommendations on principles to guide this process. GMPC members offered feedback on potential amendments to the guiding principles and stressed the importance of setting a high standard for jurisdictions to qualify to participate in reconciliation, supported by clear documentation and data on unanticipated changes in local circumstances since targets were adopted in 2021.¹ To strengthen the guiding principles along these lines, GMPC members offered specific amendments to two guiding principles. These amendments are reflected in guiding principles one and seven, and are included in the *Guiding Principles, as amended* section below.

During the remainder of the summer, GMPC staff will collect additional information from jurisdictions interested in pursuing reconciliation, so that each request for reconciliation can be considered on its individual merits. With GMPC's concurrence, this includes asking jurisdictions to submit communication from their elected bodies that present their request and supporting information to GMPC before its September meeting.

GMPC may pursue a number of different options including, but not limited to, the following: 1) accept all claims for reconciliation and amend the Countywide Planning Policies, 2) accept claims consistent with policy and principles for reconciliation and deny others, and amend the Countywide Planning Policies as needed, or 3) not pursue reconciliation. Staff will return in September to present a proposed approach for reconciliation among these (or other) options. It remains anticipated that reconciliation decisions will occur in 2025, following adoption of

¹ The City of Sammamish's growth target was adopted in 2022.

Comprehensive Plans and the CPP ratification process, although GMPC decisions may warrant a different timeline.

Guiding Principles, as amended

The Interjurisdictional Team drafted guiding principles to support decision making about reconciliation. The following guiding principles are inclusive of GMPC's amendments from its June meeting.

Guiding Principles

1. Reconciliation/amendments may be pursued when significant changes to the planning framework or local circumstances that could not have been anticipated have occurred since target adoption.
2. Reconciliation/amendments may be allowed where adherence to the adopted targets creates a conflict with other GMA goals (e.g., environmental issues, infrastructure to serve growth).
3. Jurisdictions are responsible for demonstrating need, consistent with the threshold and principles for reconciliation, for the requested target change.
4. Jurisdictions should directly request reconciliation or amendment of their target.
5. Amended targets must further King County's alignment with the Regional Growth Strategy and protect the integrity of the growth target setting process.
6. GMPC staff will coordinate with PSRC and Commerce to minimize any risks to plan certification.
7. Growth targets should only be redistributed when countywide housing needs are addressed.
8. Reconciliation should limit impacts to jurisdictions not requesting amended targets.

Future Activity

With GMPC concurrence, GMPC staff will communicate further with jurisdictions that have expressed interest in reconciliation and seek to prepare a recommendation at the September GMPC meeting. If GMPC needs more time for program development, additional time would also be available at its October meeting.

For More Information

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