

1 **GMPC MOTION 26-3**

2 A MOTION recommending amendments to the King County Countywide
3 Planning Policies to the King County Council.

4 WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act, Revised Code of
5 Washington 36.70A.110, requires counties to designate an urban growth area within which urban
6 growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in
7 nature;

8 WHEREAS, the King County Countywide Planning Policies establish a countywide
9 framework for growth management planning by King County and the cities within King County;

10 WHEREAS, the King County Countywide Planning Policies include procedures and
11 criteria for amendments to the Urban Growth Area;

12 WHEREAS, existing procedures require proposed amendments to the Urban Growth
13 Area to be submitted to the Growth Management Planning Council for review and
14 recommendation to the King County Council;

15 WHEREAS, from time to time, minor technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area
16 boundary may be needed to correct mapping discrepancies, resolve parcel splits, align the
17 boundary with rights-of-way or other mapped features, encompass existing urban-serving
18 infrastructure within the Urban Growth Area boundary, or address similar technical issues;

19 WHEREAS, these technical amendments are distinct from policy amendments that
20 expand the Urban Growth Area to accommodate growth, implement the Four-to-One Program,
21 or redesignate urban land to rural land based on growth needs or other policy considerations; and

22 WHEREAS, establishing a King County process for technical changes to the Urban
23 Growth Area boundary will allow minor technical issues to be resolved efficiently while
24 retaining the Growth Management Planning Council’s role in reviewing substantive amendments
25 to the Urban Growth Area;

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Growth Management Planning
27 Council hereby recommends approval of amendments to the King County Countywide Planning
28 Policies establishing a process for technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary,
29 included with this motion as Attachment A.

30

31

Girmay Zahilay, Chair, Growth Management Planning Council

33

34 Attachments

35 A. Amendments to 2021 Countywide Planning Policies – UGA Technical Amendments

Attachment A: Amendments to 2021 Countywide Planning Policies – UGA Technical Amendments

Amendments:

In the Vision and Framework Chapter, amend Policy FW-1 as follows:

FW-1 Maintain the currency of the Countywide Planning Policies through periodic review and amendment. Initiate and review ~~((a))~~ amendments at the Growth Management Planning Council through the process described below~~((:))~~.

- a) Only the Growth Management Planning Council may propose amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies except for amendments to the Urban Growth Area that may also be proposed by King County in accordance with policies DP-16 through DP-~~((18B;))~~19.
- b) Growth Management Planning Council recommends amendments to the King County Council for consideration, possible revision, and approval; proposed revisions by the King County Council that are of a substantive nature may be sent to the Growth Management Planning Council for their consideration and revised recommendation based on the proposed revision~~((:))~~.
- c) A majority vote of the King County Council both constitutes approval of the amendments and ratification on behalf of the residents of Unincorporated King County;
- d) After approval and ratification by the King County Council, amendments are forwarded to each city and town for ratification. Amendments cannot be modified during the city ratification process~~((; and))~~.
- e) Amendments must be ratified within 90 days of King County approval and require affirmation by the county and cities and towns representing at least 70 percent of the county population and 30 percent of those jurisdictions. Ratification is either by an affirmative vote of the city's or town's council or by no action being taken within the ratification period.
- f) Subsections b), d), and e) of this policy do not apply to technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area consistent with Policy DP-18C. A technical amendment to the Urban Growth Area consistent with Policy DP-18C may be approved by enactment of an ordinance by the King County Council and does not require Growth Management Planning Council review or recommendation or ratification by cities and towns.

In the Development Patterns Chapter, amend Policy DP-16 as follows:

DP-16 Allow amendment of the Urban Growth Area only when the following steps have been satisfied:

- a) The proposed amendment is under review by the County as part of an amendment process of the King County Comprehensive Plan;

- b) Except for technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area consistent with Policy DP-18C, King County submits the proposal to the Growth Management Planning Council for the purposes of review and recommendation to the King County Council on the proposed amendment to the Urban Growth Area;
- c) The King County Council approves ~~((or denies))~~ the proposed amendment; and
- d) Except for technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary under Policy DP-18C, ((t))if approved by the King County Council, the proposed amendment is ratified by the cities following the procedures set forth in policy FW-1.

In the Development Patterns Chapter, amend Policy DP-17 as follows:

DP-17 Allow expansion of the Urban Growth Area as follows:

- a) A countywide analysis determines that the current Urban Growth Area is insufficient in size and additional land is needed to accommodate the housing and employment growth targets, including institutional and other non-residential uses, and there are no other reasonable measures, such as increasing density or rezoning existing urban land, that would avoid the need to expand the Urban Growth Area. Expansions under this subsection shall also be consistent with the criteria in DP-18A;
- b) Through the Four-to-One Program, where a proposed expansion of the Urban Growth Area is accompanied by dedication of permanent natural area that is at least four times the size of the proposed expansion to the King County Open Space System. Expansions under the Four-to-One Program shall also be consistent with the criteria in DP-18B; ~~((or))~~
- c) The area is currently a King County park being transferred to a city to be maintained as a park in perpetuity; or
- d) The proposed expansion is a technical amendment to the Urban Growth Area, consistent with the criteria in DP-18C.

In the Development Patterns Chapter, after Policy DP-18B, add a new policy as follows:

DP-18C Technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area are allowed if not inconsistent with the Growth Management Act and made in order to correct mapping errors or discrepancies, resolve situations where buildings or parcels are split by the Urban Growth Area boundary, align the Urban Growth Area boundary with either edge of a right-of-way or similar linear feature it currently touches, encompass urban-serving infrastructure existing prior to January 1, 2027 within the Urban Growth Area boundary, or address similar technical issues. Technical amendments shall not be made for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth.

In the Development Patterns Chapter, amend Policy DP-19 as follows:

DP-19 Allow redesignation of Urban land currently within the Urban Growth Area to Rural land outside of the Urban Growth Area if the redesignation is a technical amendment consistent with the criteria in DP-18C, or if the land is not needed to accommodate projected urban growth, is not served by public sewers, is adjacent to the Rural Area, and:

- a) Is not characterized by urban development;
- b) Is currently developed with a low-density lot pattern that cannot be realistically redeveloped at an urban density;
- c) Is characterized by critical areas making it inappropriate for higher density development.