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**Subject:** Population Projections

Dear Members of the Whatcom County Council and Planning Commission,

As you consider how to vote on the latest population projections, I urge you to be conservative. If the City adopts population numbers that are too high, we will be obligated by the Growth Management Board to extend services and allow for development in some of the most sensitive and valuable areas of our County. Once agricultural or other resource land has been upzoned to accommodate presumed growth, it will be incredibly difficult to downzone. We should be cautious and accurate in our land use planning, rather than overestimating the need to grow out.

Economically, we are in no position to take on the heavy burden of expanded infrastructure which would accompany an inflated population projection. Particularly as the housing market sputters and stalls, we should take the time to reflect on a realistic, conservative estimate for the population increase.

Thank you for taking the time to read this note and I hope that you will adopt an appropriate population projection.

Sincerely, Amy Mann