



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Growth Management Coordinating Council  
FROM: David Stalheim, Director  
DATE: March 26, 2009  
RE: Urban Growth Area Update

At the last Growth Management Coordinating Council, we reviewed a timeline where cities would provide Whatcom County with proposals regarding population and employment allocation by March 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone has not yet had the opportunity to complete this process with their respective councils. The following is a summary of where we are with each jurisdiction:

### **Whatcom County**

Whatcom County has three urban growth areas not associated with cities: Birch Bay, Columbia Valley and Cherry Point Industrial.

Birch Bay – A public meeting was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to review with the community their interests. No conclusions were drawn. However, there was a strong interest in upholding the community plan adopted in 2004.

Columbia Valley – The Whatcom County Council voted on March 17<sup>th</sup> to continue designation of Columbia Valley as an Urban Growth Area and to allocate a future residential population total of 5,000.

Cherry Point – County Planning staff are researching the history of the Cherry Point industrial UGA designation. This area was designated under separate GMA authority (see RCW 36.70A.365 and Countywide Planning Policies).

### **Bellingham**

The Bellingham City Council voted on March 23<sup>rd</sup> as follows:

County Forecast: 234,017  
UGA Population: 44.5% of growth (19,543)  
UGA Employment: 18,829

### **Blaine**

An update report has not been submitted.

**Everson**

The Everson City Council voted on March 24<sup>th</sup> for allocations that correspond to “Alternative Y” in the EIS alternatives:

UGA Population: 1,948  
 UGA Employment: 446

**Ferndale**

An update report has not been submitted.

**Lynden**

An update report has not been submitted. It is our understanding that the Council may be making a recommendation shortly.

**Nooksack**

The Nooksack City Council voted on March 16<sup>th</sup> for allocations that correspond to “Alternative Y” in the EIS alternatives:

UGA Population: 1,159  
 UGA Employment: 266

**Sumas**

The Sumas City Council voted on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for allocations that correspond to “Alternative Y” in the EIS alternatives:

UGA Population: 793  
 UGA Employment: 182

**Summary**

Study Area	Population			Employment		
	2008 Population	Phase II Requested Allocation	2029-31 Total	2008 Population	Phase II Requested Allocation	2029-31 Total
Bellingham UGA	89,284	19,543	108,827	51,153	18,829	69,982
Birch Bay UGA	5,290	TBD	5,290	436	TBD	436
Blaine UGA	5,754	TBD	5,754	2,971	TBD	2,971
Cherry Point UGA			-	1,182	TBD	1,182
Columbia Valley UGA	3,924	1,076	5,000	90	TBD	90
Everson UGA	2,395	1,948	4,343	638	446	1,084
Ferndale UGA	12,019	TBD	12,019	5,534	TBD	5,534
Lynden UGA	11,613	TBD	11,613	4,832	TBD	4,832
Nooksack UGA	1,137	1,159	2,296	206	266	472
Sumas UGA	1,279	793	2,072	254	182	436
<i>Rural</i>	58,305	TBD	58,305		TBD	
TOTALS (to date)	191,000	24,519	215,519	67,296	19,723	87,019
GMCC Recommendation		60,490	251,490		33,909	101,205