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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Planning Commission Members
FROM: Warner Webb, Fire Marshal
DATE: May 20, 2010
SUBJECT: Fire LOS Direction

On 3/11/2010 and 4/8/2010 the planning commission had work sessions on county-wide Fire Level of Service (LOS) Standards. A public hearing was held on 4/22/2010.

On 5/27/2010 we will be asking for direction from the planning commission. I will be going through a process with you on "what we asked" and "what we heard the public say."

The following questions are "what we asked" at the public hearing on Fire Level of Service Standards.

- 1. Should we establish a Level of Service for fire?**
- 2. Do we want a LOS for both urban and rural areas in Whatcom County?**
- 3. Should we establish a LOS for both FIRE and EMS?**
- 4. What measure should we use to establish a LOS for fire and, possibly, EMS?**
- 5. Should we continue to let the fire districts do their own Capital Facilities Plans?**
- 6. Should Whatcom County work with the fire districts to help them collect impact fees?**

We will also then ask for your guidance on the direction in which we proceed. The Fire Level of Service can go two directions. One is to set a fire LOS. The other is to build in some options for each fire district to build their own LOS and Capital Facilities Plans using Whatcom County planning policy guidelines. This second approach allows the local service provider to implement the existing level of service.

Staff will be looking for direction on what approach is most favorable to the planning commission. Staff will also provide the planning commission with a summary of planned activities.