



Memorandum

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Warner Webb, Fire Marshal

DATE: August 31, 2010

SUBJECT: Fire Level Of Service PLN2010-00015

On August 22, 2010 the Whatcom County Planning Commission held a public hearing on fire level of service. The record was held open for additional written comment until August 30, 2010.

Based on commissioner discussion at the previous Planning Commission meeting and public comment received, staff recommends this new Policy 4H-4

Policy 4H-4

Adopt the following levels of service for fire facilities and services:

Urban levels of service for fire protection shall be a response time of 8 minutes 80% of the time when the department covering the urban area has staffed the station. When the station is not staffed the response time shall be 10 minutes 80% of the time.

Rural levels of service for fire protection shall be a response time of 12 minutes 80% of the time when the department covering the rural area has staffed the station. When the station is not staffed the response time shall be 14 minutes 80% of the time.

Staffed station shall be a fire station that is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year. Staff may be paid, volunteer or combination of the two.

Should a LOS be adopted staff recommends this revision to Policy 4H-3

Policy 4H-3

~~Whatcom County should define an urban level of service for fire protection~~

~~by December 1, 2011.~~ The 7-year comprehensive plan review and update process should demonstrate that the urban growth areas are served by urban levels of fire protection facilities and service. If the level of service standard adopted by the County can not be provided over the 20-year planning period, then re-designation of UGAs to rural designations should be considered.