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February 23, 2010

Sam Crawford
Whatcom County Council
311 Grand Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: Long Range Planning Docket – Bellingham UGA – Yew Street

Dear Council Chairperson Crawford :

This law firm represents Yew Street Associates, Hillside Associates, West Pac Management, Inc., Frank and Sandra Muljat, and J&M, LLC (the “Yew Street Owners”). The Yew Street Owners own property new Yew Street Road that was recently re-designated as Urban Growth Area (UGA) Reserve. Prior to that time this property had been an UGA for over a decade.

The Yew Street Owners understand that the Planning Department, in its draft Long Range Work Program – 2010-2011, recommends that consideration of the Bellingham UGA – Yew Street not be docketed at this time. The Yew Street Owners strenuously oppose the Planning Department’s position and request that the Whatcom County Council docket the Bellingham UGA – Yew Street matter for consideration this year.

The Yew Street Owners have been involved in the discussion and debate over Whatcom County’s UGAs since that discussion began well over a year ago. Throughout that process, the Yew Street Owners have demonstrated not only the necessity of keeping the Yew Street UGA intact but the flaws in the logic for placing it in Reserve. The Yew Street UGA, as it existed prior to placing the Yew Street Owners’ properties in Reserve was a logical place for growth. Further, significant public and private monies and time has been invested in it in planning for growth. Finally, it was a mistake to place it in Reserve in the first place. This area meets all of the requirements of an UGA for which reserve status should be removed, it is located between already urbanized areas, and it is adjacent to the City of Bellingham’s city limits.

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This area should be considered for UGA status now. The Yew Street Owners respectfully request that the Whatcom County Council docket this matter for consideration this year. Please contact us with any questions or comments. We look forward to working with you on this in the future.

Very truly yours,



BRADLEY D. SWANSON

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BDS:hc

Cc: Clients

Pete Kremen

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