

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: December 19, 1994

- Consent agenda
- Hearing agenda

- AGENDA CATEGORY
- Hearing
  - Annexation
  - Report
  - Contract
  - Resolution
  - Emergency Ord.
  - 1st Rdg. Ord.)
  - Report of City Manager

- RECOMMENDATION
- Accept
  - Approve
  - Deny
  - Place on File
  - Set Hrg. / Review
  - Date For:
  - Defer / Continue
  - To: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Council Direction

Notify Prior to Meeting:  
 Spokane Valley Advisory Council? [ ]  
 Other? \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

File # OPR 94-930 sh  
 Eng. / LID# \_\_\_\_\_ BID# \_\_\_\_\_

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
 For Action  
 For Information

DEC 13 1994

(OPR 94-817)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
SPOKANE, WA

**AGENDA WORDING:** Proposed "Interlocal" Agreement among the City, Spokane County, and the other ten municipalities in the County to continue the cooperative process under Growth Management to implement County-Wide Planning Policies.

**BACKGROUND:** Spokane County and its 11 incorporated cities have prepared Countywide Planning Policies, as mandated by the Growth Management Act, to provide a regional framework for comprehensive planning at the local level. These policies also require the County and its cities to continue a cooperative process to recommend urban growth area boundaries, recommend the allocation of projected population growth, and oversee planning of regional needs. The proposed interlocal agreement continues the activity of the Growth Management Steering Committee of Elected Officials to implement these Countywide Planning Policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL FINDING: \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL IMPACT: \_\_\_\_\_

BUDGET ACCOUNT #: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHMENTS: (list) Copy, "GMA Joint Planning Interlocal Agreement"

Signatures of:

Chas D...  
 Submitting Department-Planning

Michael Piccolo  
 Legal

[Signature]  
 Manager - Engineering

Peter J. Peter  
 Finance

B.C. [Signature]  
 City Manager

COUNCIL ACTION:

APPROVED BY  
 SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL:  
 DEC 19 1994

DISTRIBUTION AFTER COUNCIL ACTION:  
 Planning  
 Legal-Piccolo

Marilyn J. Montgomery  
 CMC/AEE, SPOKANE CITY CLERK

5-1

# GMA Joint Planning

## INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

**THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**, is entered into by and among the cities of Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Fairfield, Latah, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle, Spokane, and Waverly, hereinafter sometimes jointly referred to as "Cities," and the County of Spokane, sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "County," jointly, hereinafter referred to along with the Cities as the "Parties," or "Jurisdictions."

### WITNESSETH

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW Section 36.70A.210, the legislative authority of a county that plans under the Growth Management Act (GMA) shall adopt a county-wide planning policy or policies in cooperation with the Cities located in whole or in part within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties anticipate that the County-wide Planning Policies, to be adopted by the County, will call for the continued collaboration and cooperation among the Parties in their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to adopt comprehensive plans and development regulations implementing such plans; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW Section 36.70A.110, each county that is required or chooses to plan under the Growth Management Act (GMA) shall designate an urban growth area or areas in consultation/agreement with cities within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 39.34 RCW, two or more public agencies may enter into agreements with one another for joint or cooperative action; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the above-cited statutory provisions, the Parties hereto desire to enter into an interlocal cooperation agreement pursuant to which the Parties will (1) establish a Steering Committee of elected officials and other committees to perform certain duties and provide recommendations to the Parties in conjunction with their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA); (2) establish the responsibilities of the Steering Committee of elected

officials and other committees; (3) establish a process to amend the initially adopted County-wide Planning Policies; (4) establish a distribution formula for grant funds received from Washington State Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development or its successor for growth management; and (5) provide for other matters related to the preceding items.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the mutual obligations hereinafter set forth, and as authorized by chapter 39.34 RCW, RCW Section 36.70A.210 and RCW Section 36.70A.110, the Parties hereto do mutually agree as follows:

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### **Section 1: PURPOSE**

The Parties hereto recognize that it is in the public's interest that local governments cooperate with each other and coordinate their respective obligations for planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA). The Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates that the County adopt County-wide Planning Policies in cooperation with cities located in whole or in part within the county. Additionally, the Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates that the County designate urban growth areas in cooperation and consultation with Cities within the County.

The Parties have entered into prior interlocal cooperation agreement(s) establishing a collaborative process for the adoption of County-wide Planning Policies and related matters. These interlocal agreement(s) terminate upon the County's adoption of County-wide Planning Policies. The Parties now desire to enter into another interlocal agreement which will continue the cooperative and collaborative process in conjunction with their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA). The purpose of this interlocal agreement is to (1) establish a steering committee of elected officials and other committees to perform certain duties and provide recommendations to the Parties in conjunction with their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA); (2) establish the responsibilities of the steering committee of elected officials and other committees; (3) establish a process to amend the initially adopted County-wide Planning Policies; (4) establish a distribution formula for grant funds received from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development or its successor for growth management; and (5) provide for other matters related to the preceding items.

**Section 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF STEERING COMMITTEE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS THEREOF, ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND A TECHNICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

There is hereby established a steering committee of elected officials, hereinafter referred to as the Steering Committee, having those responsibilities set forth in Section 3 hereinafter. The Steering Committee shall consist of three County Commissioners from the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners; three elected officials from the City of Spokane; one elected official each from Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Medical Lake and Millwood; and one elected official to represent the five towns of Fairfield, Latah, Rockford, Spangle and Waverly. Representatives will be selected by the legislative bodies of each jurisdiction in any manner they choose. Jurisdictions may also appoint alternates, who must be an elected official. Alternates may vote during the absence of the regular representative.

The Steering Committee will strive for consensus on all matters; however, when a vote is required, each member shall have one vote and a total of nine (9) votes is required for a motion to succeed unless otherwise specified within this interlocal agreement.

The chair and vice-chair of the committee shall be elected from the membership on an annual basis.

In addition to the voting members of the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee shall also include five (5) ex-officio (non-voting) members as follows, three (3) members representing the junior taxing districts (school districts, water districts, and fire protection districts), one (1) representing the electrical / gas / telecommunications utilities, and the chair of the advisory committee known as the Growth Management Advisory Committee. The ex-officio members, with the exception of the chair of the Growth Management Advisory Committee, are nominated by consensus among their peers and are then appointed by the Steering Committee. Nominations shall be submitted by the second regular meeting of the Steering Committee held under the terms of this interlocal agreement.

An advisory committee, to be known as the Growth Management Advisory Committee, is hereby established in order to broaden representation and to provide input to the Steering Committee on its responsibilities as set forth in Section 3 hereinafter. The advisory committee shall consist of representatives from each jurisdiction's Planning Commission and other individuals / groups as may

be identified and appointed through an affirmative vote of nine (9) voting members of the Steering Committee.

The advisory committee shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among its membership on an annual basis. The chair shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Steering Committee.

A technical support committee, to be known as the Technical Support Committee, is hereby established to advise and provide support to the Steering Committee. The Technical Support Committee shall consist of the staff personnel of the Parties plus the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, representing the disciplines of planning, transportation, public works/engineering, finance, geographic information systems, and other appropriate agencies of local government. The junior taxing districts and / or electrical / gas / telecommunication utilities may assign staff representatives to meet with the Technical Support Committee.

In the event that additional general purpose governmental entities are created through incorporation, they shall become represented in such number(s) as may be hereafter agreed to on both the Steering Committee and the Technical Support Committee on the effective date of their incorporation. In all subsequent decisions, the number of the Steering Committee members needed to reach a decision will be adjusted to account for the new member(s). However, prior decisions will not be reconsidered and re-voted.

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### **Section 3: RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Steering Committee, as established under Section 2, will have those responsibilities as set forth in the County-wide Planning Policies adopted under RCW Section 36.70A.210. Rather than repeat those responsibilities verbatim within this section, the parties agreed to generally outline those responsibilities referencing the exact policy. It is expected that the parties, when necessary, will look to the exact language when further explanation is necessary of any responsibility set forth hereinafter. The parties further recognize that from time to time the County-wide Planning Policies may be amended as provided for in section 4 hereinafter. In instances where such amendments occur, the parties agree that the responsibilities set forth within this section shall automatically be amended, when applicable, to include such changes without the necessity of formal amendment of the agreement.

**A. Recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Spokane County**

The Steering Committee will:

1. establish a date by which each jurisdiction will submit proposals for interim Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) (*Urban Growth Areas #4*).
2. analyze each jurisdiction's interim and final Urban Growth Area (UGA) proposal (*Urban Growth Areas #6*).
3. oversee development of a carrying capacity study for regional capital facilities (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #8*).
4. recommend allocation of population growth to jurisdictions (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #9*).
5. review amendment proposals to the County-wide Planning Policies (*interlocal agreement*).

**B. Recommendations to all the jurisdictions**

The Steering Committee will:

1. specify minimum levels of service (*Urban Growth Areas #2 and Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #1*).
2. establish employment projections and ratios in cooperation with the Spokane area business community (*Urban Growth Areas #9*).
3. develop regionally consistent programs to protect natural resource lands, critical areas, and open space (*Urban Growth Areas #15*).
4. oversee preparation of a regional utility corridor plan (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #11*).
5. oversee development of a management plan for wastewater treatment (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #13*).
6. identify or establish siting and service delivery criteria to locate essential public facilities (*Siting of Capital Facilities of a County-wide or State-wide Nature #2*).
7. establish a process for distributing essential public facilities among jurisdictions (*Siting of Capital Facilities of a County-wide or State-wide Nature #3*)

### C. Miscellaneous responsibilities

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The Steering Committee will:

1. prepare a regional formula to designate and acquire public access to open space corridors (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #4*).
2. pursue strategies for regional water resource management (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #14*).
3. promote a proactive planning approach between Washington and Idaho to establish uniform environmental protection measures (*Economic Development #6*).

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### Section 4: AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING POLICIES

Upon initial adoption of County-wide Planning Policies by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County pursuant to the provisions of RCW Section 36.70A.210, the Parties agree that such adopted County-wide Planning Policies may be amended only through the following procedures:

1. The County-wide Planning Policies may be reviewed and amendments considered, as appropriate, once every five years following the initial adoption date of the County-wide Planning Policies and each successive five year period thereafter. Amendment proposals must be submitted for Steering Committee consideration by a voting member of the Steering Committee. Members of the general public must submit amendment proposals through a voting member of the Steering Committee. All such amendments shall be considered concurrently so the cumulative effect of each individual proposal can be ascertained.
2. The County-wide Planning Policies may be reviewed and amended more frequently than prescribed in paragraph #1 above. Such amendment proposals must be submitted for Steering Committee consideration by a voting member of the Steering Committee. Members of the general public must submit amendment proposals through a voting member of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee must pass a motion by an affirmative vote of nine (9) voting members in order to place such an amendment proposal before the Steering Committee for review and recommendation. The Steering Committee may establish criteria to help assess the need for processing such amendments.

3. The process of amending the County-wide Planning Policies shall be consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA) provisions for original adoption of the County-wide Planning Policies. The Steering Committee in reviewing and making recommendations on proposed amendments to the County-wide Planning Policies shall take into consideration the intent that County-wide Planning Policies are a written policy statement or statements used solely for establishing a county-wide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted. As such, each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan relies upon the long term goal or vision statement of each policy. There is an expectation of policy stability which must be weighed, along with the impact to each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan, when considering an amendment to the County-wide Planning Policies.

4. The Steering Committee shall establish procedures for processing, reviewing, and recommending amendments to the County-wide Planning Policies.

5. The Steering Committee's recommendation or action on each and every amendment proposal shall be forwarded, together with all amendment proposals to the Board of County Commissioners in order for the Board to have the benefit of considering the amendment proposal(s) concurrently so the cumulative effect of each individual proposal can be ascertained.

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#### **Section 5: TERM, AMENDMENT, OR TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

The term of this interlocal agreement shall commence upon the County's adoption of the County-wide Planning Policies as provided for in RCW Section 36.70A.210.

agreement may be amended or terminated by an affirmative vote of nine (9) voting members of the Steering Committee.

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#### **Section 6: FUNDING**

Grant funds received from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development or its successor for Growth Management Act (GMA) responsibilities shall be distributed



to the Parties pursuant to a distribution formula mutually agreed upon. Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the distribution formula will be re-evaluated. Factors included in such re-evaluation will include per capita allocation based on the annual Office of Financial Management estimate of population and the projected need for multi-jurisdictional programs requiring special skills consultants.

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**Section 7: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Upon termination of this interlocal agreement, all real or personal property acquired by any of the Parties hereto with monies which they have respectively received under Section 6 herein above, shall remain the sole property of such Parties.

2. The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, shall, as provided for in RCW Section 39.34.040, file an executed copy of this interlocal agreement with the Secretary of State and Spokane County Auditor.

3. The section headings in this interlocal agreement have been inserted solely for the purpose of convenience and ready reference. In no way do they purport to, and shall not be deemed to, define, limit or extend the scope or intent of the sections to which they appertain.

4. This interlocal agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the Parties. No other understandings, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this interlocal agreement shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto.

5. Should (1) any section or portion thereof of this interlocal agreement be held unlawful and unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, and/or (2) should the Washington State Legislature adopt any legislation which is subsequently signed by the Governor affecting any sections or portions thereof within this interlocal agreement, and/or (3) should the qualified electorate voters approve a combined City-County form of government as provided for in Amendment 58 of the Washington State Constitution, the Parties agree to immediately meet and amend this interlocal agreement as may be deemed necessary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this interlocal agreement to be executed on the date shown below their signature block.

CITY OF AIRWAY HTS., WASHINGTON  
Don A. Hansen  
Mayor

Dated: 12-20-94

CITY OF CHENEY, WASHINGTON  
Al Oylon  
Mayor

Dated: 14-Dec-94

CITY OF DEER PARK, WASHINGTON  
Robert W. Dano  
Mayor

Dated: 1-26-95

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, WASHINGTON  
Henry Stebbins  
Mayor

Dated: 7-3-95

TOWN OF LATAH, WASHINGTON  
Edward L. Crockett  
Mayor

Dated: 3-1-95

CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE, WASHINGTON  
Maralyn Stearn  
Mayor

Dated: 12/14/94

TOWN OF MILLWOOD, WASHINGTON  
Jeanne Batson  
Mayor

Dated: 12/13/94

TOWN OF ROCKFORD, WASHINGTON  
Jim Ray  
Mayor

Dated: 2/3/95

TOWN OF SPANGLE, WASHINGTON  
Loretta on Layton  
Mayor

Dated: 2-3-95

CITY OF SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
Paul Murray  
Mayor

Dated: 1/30/95

TOWN OF WAVERLY, WASHINGTON  
Don McEwen  
Mayor

Dated: 2-3-95

SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
Patricia A. Murray  
Mayor

Dated: December 20, 1994

Resolution Number: 94 1719

94-930  
OPR ~~93-566~~

Attachment "A"

SUBMITTED TO CITY COUNCIL  
BY: Charles Watson  
DATE: January 5, 1995  
Deputy CITY CLERK

*County-wide  
Planning Policies  
and  
Environmental  
Analysis  
for  
Spokane County  
(December 22, 1994)*

Distributed by:  
Spokane County Planning Department  
1026 West Broadway Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99260

(509) 456-2205

Resolution Number: 94 1719

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF )  
COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING POLICIES )  
FOR SPOKANE COUNTY )

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6) the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, has the care of County property and management of County funds and business; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 1990 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature enacted the Growth Management Act (chapter 36.70A RCW); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040(1), any county which has a population of fifty thousand or more and has had its population increase by more than ten percent in the previous ten years shall conform with all requirements of the Growth Management Act (chapter 36.70A RCW); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040(4), if the Office of Financial Management certifies that the population of a county, that had not been required to plan under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, has changed sufficiently to meet either criteria specified under subsection (1), such county shall be subject to the Growth Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 1, 1993, the Office of Financial Management certified that Spokane County had its population increase by more than ten percent in the previous ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.210(2), the county legislative authority of a county required to plan under the Growth Management Act shall adopt County-wide Planning Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.210(2), County-wide Planning Policies are used solely for establishing a county-wide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted and such framework shall ensure that city and county comprehensive plans are consistent; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 8, 1993 Spokane County, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.210(2), convened a meeting with representatives of all cities and towns within the county in order to establish a collaborative process for the development, adoption, and ratification of the County-wide Planning Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 22, 1993, the Cities and/or Towns of Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Fairfield, Latah, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle, Spokane and Waverly entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Spokane County establishing a process for developing County-wide Planning Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Interlocal Agreement established a council of elected officials, consisting of twelve (12) individuals (The Steering Committee of Elected Officials). Representation on the Steering Committee consisted of the three (3) County Commissioners from the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners, three (3) elected officials from the City of Spokane, and a total of six (6) elected officials from the other cities and towns in Spokane County. One of the six Steering Committee members came from and represented the five towns of Fairfield, Latah, Rockford, Spangle and Waverly. The remaining five members on the Steering Committee consisted of one elected official from each of the other cities and/or towns in Spokane County: Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Medical Lake, and Millwood. The twelve representatives had one vote each. The representatives, each an elected official, were selected by the legislative bodies of each jurisdiction in a manner they chose. Each representative had one alternate, also an elected official, that could vote during the absence of her/his representative. Decisions of the Steering Committee became official upon the affirmative vote of nine (9) members. The Steering Committee of elected officials included four non-voting ex-officio members representing junior taxing districts/utilities: school districts, water districts, fire protection districts and electrical/gas/telecommunication utilities. The ex-officio members were selected by consensus among their peers and were appointed to the Steering Committee by the Board of County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 1993, upon recommendation of the Board of County Commissioners, the Steering Committee entered into an agreement under Resolution No. 93-1294 with Langlow/Hall Associates, Inc., to accomplish the following tasks:

- 1.) to develop and facilitate a public participation process with the purpose of educating the citizenry and soliciting public opinion on county and sub-county issues relating to planning under the Growth Management Act; and
- 2.) to develop recommendations for continuing public participation throughout the planning process under the Growth Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, in October, 1993, the Steering Committee, with the assistance of consultants Langlow/Hall Associates, Inc., began developing the County-wide Planning Policies framework, including, but not limited to, the policy components required by 36.70A.210(3); and

**WHEREAS**, on October 1, 1993, an Advisory Committee consisting of twelve (12) individuals, who for the most part were planning commission members from each of the twelve jurisdictions within Spokane County, was formed to make recommendations and provide information to the Steering Committee on the development of the public participation process for County-wide Planning Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, from mid October 1993, through mid April 1993, eight (8) citizen based Technical Committees, (1) Economic Development, (2) Affordable Housing, (3) Private and Public Utilities, (4) Public Facilities and Services, (5) Land Use, (6) Transportation, (7) Siting of Essential Public Facilities, and (8) Urban Growth Areas, identified and evaluated technical issues relating to, but not limited to, the policy components required by RCW 36.70A.210(3); and

**WHEREAS**, the Spokane County Planning Department and consultants Langlow/Hall Associates, Inc., formulated an extensive public participation process to inform interested parties and the public regarding the County-wide Planning Policies program and its progress, which process was revised from time to time to obtain and encourage broader citizen participation, as well as public education; and

**WHEREAS**, after public notice, the Steering Committee held six (6) county-wide open houses on March 3, March 9, March 16, March 24, March 30 and March 31, 1994, in geographically dispersed areas throughout the county, for the purpose of identifying issues concerning the County-wide Planning Policies and generally inform and educate the public on the Growth Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, as recommended by consultants Langlow/Hall Associates, Inc., 96 citizens individually hosted workshops between March, 1994 and April, 1994, for the purpose of issue identification for County-wide Planning Policies and for generally informing and educating the public on the Growth Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Steering Committee, after public notice, held five (5) county-wide open houses on September 21, September 22, September 26, September 29 and September 29, 1994, in geographically dispersed areas throughout the county for the purpose of considering public comment on the "Draft County-wide Planning Policies"; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 20, 1994, the Steering Committee, after public notice, held a public forum for the purpose of considering public comments and testimony on the "Draft County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County"; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 25, 1994, the Board of County Commissioners, after public notice, held a public forum for the purpose of considering public testimony and comments on the "Draft County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County"; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW, chapter 197-11 WAC, and the Spokane Environmental Ordinance, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Nonproject Environmental Checklist dated December 6, 1994 was prepared by the Spokane County Planning Department, concurrent with development of the County-wide Planning Policies, and integrated as part of the County-wide Planning Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the SEPA Responsible Official (Spokane County Planning Director, Wallis D. Hubbard), issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) dated December 7, 1994, after review of the Integrated SEPA Environmental Checklist dated December 6, 1994 regarding adoption of the County-wide Planning Policies pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW, chapter 197-11 WAC, and the Spokane Environmental Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 7, 1994, the Steering Committee forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County a recommendation to adopt the "County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County," (dated December 7, 1994); and

**WHEREAS**, on December 20, 1994, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.210(2)(e), after public notice, the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County held a public hearing for the purpose of considering public testimony and comments on the "County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County," (dated December 7, 1994); and

**WHEREAS**, at the conclusion of the public hearing held on December 20, 1994, the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County directed the Spokane County Planning Department staff to respond to certain testimony received at said public hearing in the form of proposed modifications to the "County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County," (dated December 7, 1994), said response to be in writing and considered by the Board of County Commissioners at its continued public hearing for a decision on the "County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County," (dated December 7, 1994) set for December 22, 1994 at 9:00am or as soon as possible thereafter; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 22, 1994 at 9:00am or as soon as possible thereafter, the Board of County Commissioners met to consider the proposed modifications to the "County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County," (dated December 7, 1994) submitted in writing by the Spokane County Planning Department staff .

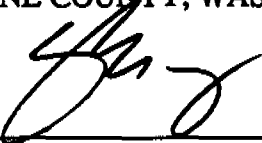
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.210 (2) (e), that the Board does hereby adopt the "County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County," a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment "A" dated December 20, 1994, and incorporated herein by reference which attachment includes those modifications recommended by the Spokane County Planning Department staff at the December 22, 1994 continued public hearing.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County does hereby concur with the Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) for a Nonproject Action issued by the Responsible Official on December 7, 1994, pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW, chapter 197-11 WAC, and the Spokane Environmental Ordinance and does hereby direct the Spokane County Planning Department to issue a Notice of Action as provided in chapter 43.21C RCW, chapter 197-11 WAC, and the Spokane Environmental Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, that inasmuch as the action herein is legislative, no Findings of Fact are required, however, the Board in taking such action does acknowledge the Recitals herein as statements of the facts giving rise to its action to include an environmental review.

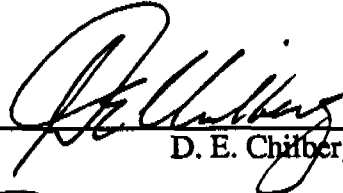
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22 day of December, 1994.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON




VOTE  
No

Steven Hasson



D. E. Chilberg



Patricia A. Mummey

ATTEST:  
WILLIAM E. DONAHUE,  
Clerk of the Board

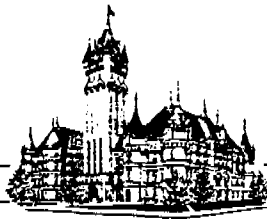
By   
Deputy Clerk



*Countywide Planning Policies  
and  
Environmental Analysis  
for  
Spokane County  
(December 22, 1994)*

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**DETERMINATION OF  
NONSIGNIFICANCE - "DNS"  
WAC 197-11-970 and Section 11.10.230(3)  
SPOKANE ENVIRONMENTAL ORDINANCE**

**NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:** County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County.

The proposal is a non-project action known as the County-wide Planning Policies (CWPP) for Spokane County. The CWPPs are required to be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners as the first step in compliance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.210). The County-wide Planning Policies (CWPP) were prepared by the Steering Committee of Elected Officials which is composed of 12 (twelve) elected officials representing Spokane County and each of the 11 (eleven) cities and towns within the County and 4 (four) ex-officio non-voting members representing special purpose districts. The purpose of the County-wide Planning Policies is to serve as a framework for the development and adoption of individual jurisdictions' comprehensive plans pursuant to the Growth Management Act (GMA).

The County-wide Planning Policies address nine topics:

1. Urban Growth Areas (UGAs);
2. Joint Planning within UGAs;
3. Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services;
4. Parks and Open Space;
5. Transportation;
6. Siting of Capital Facilities of a County-wide or State-wide Nature;
7. Affordable Housing;
8. Economic Development;
9. Fiscal Impacts.

**FIRST STEP OF PHASED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** This Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) and environmental checklist, integrated with the County-wide Planning Policies, is the first step in the phased environmental review anticipated for each of the subsequent Growth Management Act milestones to be accomplished by each of the 12 (twelve) local government jurisdictions in Spokane County. These milestones include designation of interim Urban Growth Area boundaries, adoption of comprehensive plans and adoption of development regulations. Phased review is encouraged for the Growth Management process according to WAC 197-11-060: "Phased review is appropriate when the sequence is from a nonproject document to a document of narrower scope such as a site specific analysis. If used, phased review assists agencies and the public to focus on issues that are ready for decision and exclude from consideration issues already decided or not yet ready."

Additional environmental analysis is anticipated as information becomes available and issues become more specific. Issuance of additional environmental determinations will occur for future milestones. Whenever possible, environmental analysis will be combined with planning documents and development regulations to reduce paperwork and facilitate the integration of environmental review and the decision making process.

**PROPONENT:** Spokane County Board of County Commissioners

**LOCATION OF PROPOSAL** This is a nonproject action pertaining to Spokane County and all the incorporated jurisdictions within the County.

**LEAD AGENCY:** Spokane County Planning Department

**DETERMINATION:** The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does **not** have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is **not** required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

There is no comment period for this Determination of Nonsignificance.

COMMENTS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARE WELCOME AT THE HEARING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 20, 1994 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS ASSEMBLY ROOM, PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING, W. 1026 BROADWAY OR IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING BY SENDING YOUR COMMENTS

TO JOHN MERCER, LONG RANGE ADMINISTRATOR, SPOKANE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT,  
WEST 1026 BROADWAY AVE., SPOKANE, WA 99260.

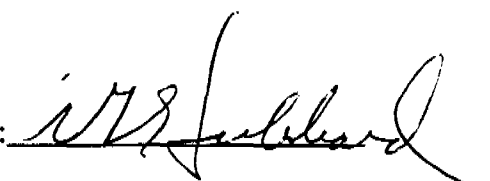
Ⓔ

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**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: WALLIS D. HUBBARD, PLANNING DIRECTOR**

Phone: (509) 456-2205

Address: Spokane County Planning Department  
West 1026 Broadway  
Spokane, WA 99260

DATE ISSUED: Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994 SIGNATURE: 

#####

**APPEAL OF THIS DETERMINATION**, after it becomes final, may be made to the SPOKANE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT, West 1026 Broadway, Spokane, WA 99260. The appeal deadline is ten (10) calendar days after the recommendation of the Steering Committee to the Board of County Commissioners to approve or disapprove the County-wide Planning Policies. This appeal must be written and the appellant should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Contact the Planning Department to assist you with the specifics for a SEPA appeal.

#####

This DNS was mailed to:

1. WA State Department of Ecology (Olympia)

# *County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County*

## An Introduction

You may have noticed more traffic on the way to work or to the grocery store. You have discovered that there are more stores and restaurants to choose from. And it seems that almost overnight new homes and shopping centers are appearing in what used to be open fields. All in all, the community you live in is changing - some changes you like and others you don't like. Ultimately, the key to change is balance.

### The Growth Management Act (GMA)

The Growth Management Act (GMA), initially adopted by the State of Washington Legislature in the 1990-91 session, is a law that responds to, and tries to balance, the very changes you see happening around you. GMA requires the state's largest and fastest growing counties, and each of their cities and towns, to address such items as significant population growth, suburban sprawl, and the damage occurring to natural resource and environmentally 'critical' areas by requiring them to plan for the future. Simply put, GMA translates into 'quality of life' questions. That is, through good planning, how do we balance the changes happening around us without significantly affecting 'quality of life'?

When enacted, fifteen counties on the west-side of the state were required to plan 'fully' under GMA. Those counties experienced a 10% growth rate over the previous 10 years and had a base population of 50,000 or greater. Although Spokane County was not one of those initial counties, the county did have to meet the Act's minimum requirements. Since that time, between 1983 and 1993, Spokane County experienced a 10.23% increase in population; growing from 318,000 (*correct figure is 348,000*) to 383,600 people. This increase in population exceeded the 10% growth rate requirement and required Spokane County to plan 'fully' under the GMA as of July 1, 1993.

So, what exactly does it mean to plan 'fully' under the Act? For starters, the State Legislature developed 13 goals meant to provide general guidance for counties and cities planning under the Act. Those goals are meant to:

1. encourage development in urban areas;
2. reduce sprawl;
3. encourage efficient multi-modal transportation systems;
4. encourage affordable housing to all segments of the population and encourage preservation of existing housing stock;
5. encourage economic development;
6. protect property rights;
7. permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner;
8. maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, i.e., forestry, agriculture and fishing, and discourage incompatible uses;
9. encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife, develop parks;
10. protect the environment and enhance the quality of life;
11. encourage involvement of citizens in the planning process;
12. ensure public facilities and services are adequate; and
13. encourage the preservation of lands, sites and structures that have historical or archeological significance.

Following the 13 goals, and contained within the 100-plus pages of legislation, are the specifics - the who, the what, the where and the when - of growth management planning. Those specifics are easiest to explain by dividing them into four major phases:

**Phase 1: HOW WE PLAN**

Establishing the framework for planning within Spokane County through County-wide Planning Policies

**Phase 2: WHERE WE PLAN**

Establishing Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) within Spokane County

**Phase 3: DEVELOPING THE PLANS**

Developing or updating comprehensive plans by each city and town in Spokane County as well as the county itself

**Phase 4: MAKING THE PLANS WORK**

Implementing the Comprehensive Plans with development regulations

## Spokane County's GMA Planning Process - An Overview

Spokane County is currently in the first phase of GMA; the development of County-wide Planning Policies. A County-wide Planning Policy is a written policy statement(s) "... used solely for establishing a county-wide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted ...". "This framework will ensure that city and county comprehensive plans are consistent ...". Essentially, the policies are statements of how each jurisdiction should interact with one another in regards to specific issues when developing individual comprehensive plans.

### **The Steering Committee of Elected Officials**

Spokane County, along with its eleven cities and towns, began the process to develop County-wide Planning Policies in July of 1993; almost immediately upon being mandated to plan under GMA. Elected officials from each of the twelve Spokane County jurisdictions met to organize themselves into a Steering Committee responsible for developing that framework of policies within which each jurisdiction will eventually develop its own Comprehensive Plan.

With tasks at hand, the jurisdictions entered into an interlocal agreement outlining the cooperative process for developing the County-wide Planning Policies. The agreement outlined the structure of the Steering Committee, voting procedures, initiation of a citizen participation and scoping process, and a formula to distribute Washington State GMA planning grant funds.

The Steering Committee consists of twelve voting members made up of elected officials from the twelve jurisdictions as follows:

- Spokane County - (3 members)
- City of Spokane - (3 members)
- Airway Heights - (1 member)
- Cheney - (1 member)
- Deer Park - (1 member)
- Medical Lake - (1 member)
- Millwood - (1 member)
- Fairfield, Latah, Rockford, Spangle, and Waverly - (1 member)

In addition, the Steering Committee consists of four non-voting ex officio members representing junior taxing districts, such as school districts, water districts, fire protection districts, and private electrical / gas / telecommunications utilities.

## **Education and Scoping the Issues**

After August of 1993 and for the next eight to nine months, the Steering Committee underwent an education and scoping process. The process involved gathering information from two sources:

1. technical committees whose task was to identify technical issues relating to the County-wide Planning Policy topics; and
2. a public participation and opinion process.

The intent was to provide the Steering Committee with a knowledge of technical issues as well as an awareness of public sentiment with regard to the topics to be covered under the County-wide Planning Policies. The Steering Committee met on average twice a month.

### **• The Technical Committees •**

The purpose of the technical committees was to help educate and inform the Steering Committee on the wide range of technical issues related to the County-wide Planning Policy topics. The eight topics, required to be addressed by the Growth Management Act (GMA), were:

1. policies to implement Urban Growth Area(s) (UGAs);
2. policies for promotion of contiguous and orderly development with urban services;
3. policies for siting county-wide or state-wide public capital facilities;
4. policies for county-wide transportation facilities and strategies;
5. policies that consider the need for affordable housing for all economic segments;
6. policies for joint county and city planning within urban growth areas;
7. policies for county-wide economic development and employment; and
8. an analysis of the fiscal impact.

As a local option, the Steering Committee added a ninth issue regarding policies for county-wide parks and recreation.

The core group of the technical committees consisted of the planning staffs of each of the jurisdictions. Given the topic being covered, persons with technical expertise on that particular topic were asked to join the technical committee for several three-hour brainstorming sessions to identify technical issues. In addition to the brainstorming sessions, each committee produced a written report as well as provided an oral presentation to the Steering Committee as to their findings.

There were eight technical reports produced and presented to the Steering Committee as follows:

1. 'Economic Development Final Report' (*no report date, however, it was presented to Steering Committee on October 28, 1993*)



2. 'Spokane County Growth Management, Affordable Housing Technical Committee - Preliminary Report,' November 24, 1993
3. 'Spokane County Growth Management, Private and Public Utilities, Solid Waste, Wastewater and Water Technical Committee - Preliminary Report,' January 13, 1994
4. 'Spokane County Growth Management, Private and Public Utilities Technical Advisory Committee, Electric Gas and Telecommunication Utilities' Subcommittee Report,' January 13, 1994
5. 'Spokane County Growth Management, Public Facilities and Services Technical Committee - Preliminary Report Draft,' January 27, 1994
6. 'Spokane County Growth Management, Siting of Essential Public Facilities Technical Committee - Preliminary Report,' March 24, 1994
7. 'Spokane County Growth Management, Land Use and Transportation Technical Committee - Preliminary Report,' March 10, 1994
8. 'Spokane County Growth Management, Urban Growth Area Technical Committee - Preliminary Report,' April 28, 1994

• **The Initial Public Participation Process** •

GMA calls for early and continuous public participation. In addition, the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) provides for a scoping process which is the consideration of public comment in determining the range of proposed actions, alternatives, and impacts to be analyzed for a particular project. In September of 1993, the Growth Management Steering Committee responded to the need for public participation by hiring the consulting team of Langlow/Hall and Alliance Pacific to develop and facilitate a public participation process. Specifically, the consulting team was given the task of educating Spokane County citizens about GMA and gathering public opinion on issues related to growth and GMA. The information gathered was critical and will be used throughout the GMA and SEPA process.

To oversee the public participation process, the Steering Committee created an Advisory Committee to work with the consultant team. The Advisory Committee consisted of one representative from the Planning Commission of each of the twelve jurisdictions within Spokane County. Their role was to advise and assist the public participation consultant team in carrying out the public participation process and to act as a liaison between the Steering Committee, the individual jurisdictions, and the consultant team.

Phase 1 of the formal public participation process, conducted during the Spring of 1994, included the following activities:

- interviews with 30 people throughout the county to identify key issues and effective communication methods

- 600 person random sample telephone survey to explore values and attitudes about growth management-related issues in the Spokane area.
- 6 large, county-wide public meetings that received approximately 40 to 60 per open house
- 96 small, individually hosted open house / coffee hours that received anywhere from five to 200 people per open house
- produced "Preparing for Growth," a 14-minute informational video on Spokane County trends and GMA
- prepared and distributed 4,500 packets of GMA related information including: 'Preparing for Growth,' a 10-page informational handout on Spokane County trends and GMA and 'GMA Fact Sheet,' a 1-page informational sheet
- designed a monthly GMA newsletter, entitled '*DIRECTIONS* • Spokane County' with a circulation of approximately 4,500
- set-up a GMA telephone hotline for general information and calendar of events
- conducted speaking engagements on GMA to interested organizations and clubs.

The public meetings and coffee hours had three purposes:

1. to allow an opportunity for Spokane County residents to learn about GMA and the GMA planning process;
2. to initiate community thinking and discussion about growth management-related issues; and
3. to develop a participant base and mailing list for later planning activities.

In addition to the information packets and video, on hand at both large and small meetings were visual displays of:

- the GMA process;
- existing conditions for major roads, school districts, fire districts, major streams and lakes, and parks;
- historical growth patterns; and
- natural systems.

Public comment was taken at the open houses through individual and group written questionnaires. Roundtable groups were set-up at the large open houses to facilitate discussion. A total of 152 group questionnaires and 1,004 individual questionnaires were received.

A written report on Phase 1 of the public participation process represented the culmination of the meetings and questionnaires. The report, entitled 'Citizen Report Spokane County, Growth Management Citizen Participation, Final Report Phase One' was presented to the Steering Committee in May, 1994, for their use in developing the County-wide Planning Policies.

## Developing the County-wide Planning Policies

After receiving the last of eight technical reports and the report on Phase 1 of the public participation process, the Steering Committee divided itself into four subcommittees so that members could further discuss the many issues contained in all nine reports. The subcommittees were grouped according to the following County-wide Planning Policy topics:

- transportation and urban services;
- urban growth areas and joint planning;
- parks and essential public facilities; and
- housing and economic development.

Subcommittees consisted of four Steering Committee members and were aided by two planners from several of the various jurisdictions.

Each subcommittee set out to accomplish the following three tasks:

1. to further identify and refine issues;
2. to separate out those issues that were specific to a particular jurisdiction as opposed to being applicable to the county as a whole; and
3. to group interrelated issues into policy questions.

For example, grouping interrelated issues of urban growth, housing, and economic development might result in the following policy question:

*"Should small cities function as urban villages which provide their own service needs or should they serve as 'bedroom' communities to the Spokane metropolitan area?"*

The Steering Committee spent the next three months, from June to September of 1994, drafting a variety of policies and alternatives based on the policy questions generated by the subcommittees. The Steering Committee, along with the GMA planners, met on a weekly basis to fine-tune and reach consensus on the draft policy statements.

In September and October of 1994, the Steering Committee took the entire DRAFT County-wide Planning Policies package to the public and individual jurisdictions for review, comment, and further fine-tuning. As part of this effort, the Steering Committee launched an extensive public participation process to assist them in finalizing the policies.

Phase 2 of the public participation process, occurring during September and October of 1994, included the following activities:

- 5 large, county-wide open houses that received approximately 15 to 30 people per open house
- 20 small, individually hosted open house / coffee hours

- produced an update of 'Preparing for Growth,' a 10-minute informational video on the County-wide Planning Policies and GMA
- prepared and distributed 4,500 summaries of the DRAFT County-wide Planning Policies document
- prepared and circulated 170,000 tabloids (newspaper inserts) of the DRAFT County-wide Planning Policies which included a survey questionnaire
- prepared and distributed 500+ 'Get the Facts,' a 1-page informational handout on County-wide Planning Policies
- continued the monthly GMA newsletter, '*DIRECTIONS • Spokane County*', with a circulation of approximately 4,500
- continued GMA telephone hotline for general information and calendar of events
- continued speaking engagements on GMA to interested organizations and clubs

The purpose of the open houses were:

1. to allow an opportunity for Spokane County residents to learn about, review, and comment on the DRAFT County-wide Planning Policies;
2. to see how public comments gathered in Phase 1 of the public participation process, during the Spring of 1994, were reflected in the draft policy statements; and
3. to gather additional public information and opinions necessary to complete the integration of the environmental analysis with the process for developing County-wide Planning Policies and the policies themselves.

In addition to the written materials and updated video, on hand at both large and small meetings there were visual displays of:

- the GMA process;
- the County-wide Planning Policy process;
- how the draft policy statements were linked with previous public comments;
- existing conditions for major roads, school districts, fire districts, major streams and lakes, and parks;
- historical growth patterns; and
- natural systems.

Public comment was taken during the open houses through completion of survey questionnaires. Additional questionnaires, which were distributed by the 170,00 newspaper inserts, were also received by mail. Completed questionnaires were received from 336 respondents.

A written report, entitled '*Draft County-wide Planning Policies Public Opinion Questionnaire for Spokane County*' regarding Phase 2 of the public participation process represented the culmination of the meetings and questionnaires. The report provided a detailed analysis of the responses and a listing of individual comments and suggestions for policy changes. Also contained in the report was a brief summary of responses by policy topic.

To provide even more opportunity for public comment, the Steering Committee held a public forum on October 20, 1994. The forum, which was broadcast on Government Cable Channel 5, lasted approximately three-and-a-half hours during which the Steering Committee heard from 24 people. In addition to private citizens, comments were made by representatives from various organizations and interest groups from around the county.

During November, the Steering Committee reconvened at the subcommittee level to receive additional public comment through informal workshops. Members of the technical committees were specifically invited to attend. Again, the subcommittees were grouped into issue or topical areas as follows:

- transportation and urban services;
- urban growth areas and joint planning;
- parks and essential public facilities; and
- housing and economic development.

The subcommittees' charge was twofold:

1. to review each draft policy together with the public and receive additional comments; and
2. with the written report from Phase 2 of the Citizen Participation process and additional public comments in hand, review the draft policies and propose any changes to the full Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee received the subcommittee's changes and held three additional Steering Committee review meetings to fine-tune the policies. The Steering Committee will forward a final recommendation regarding the County-wide Planning Policies to the Board of County Commissioners on December 7, 1994. The Board of County Commissioners is expected to conduct a public hearing regarding adoption of the County-wide Planning Policies on December 20, 1994.

### **Environmental Analysis Process**

Prior to the October 20, 1994 Steering Committee public forum, Spokane County circulated a preliminary version of this State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) document entitled "Draft County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County" for informal review and comment. Solicitation of informal comments was advertised in an edition of the GMA Newsletter *DIRECTIONS* as well as in all legal and commercial notices for the GMA meetings listed below. In addition to submitting comments by mail, the public and environmental review agencies had the opportunity to make comments at the following meetings:

- Growth Management Steering Committee Public Forum      October 20, 1994
- Spokane County Board of County Commissioners Meeting      October 25, 1994
- Growth Management Steering Committee Meeting      October 26, 1994
- Growth Management Steering Committee Meeting      November 3, 1994
- Growth Management Steering Committee Meeting      November 23, 1994
- Growth Management Steering Committee Meeting      November 30, 1994

The informal review and comment period lasted approximately a month and half from October 20, 1994 to approximately December 6, 1994. For a compilation of the comments received and corresponding responses, see question #8 - BACKGROUND Section of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist incorporated into this document.

The purpose of the County-wide Planning Policies are to provide an overall framework under which each local government jurisdiction will develop or update its comprehensive plan. The County-wide Planning Policies will also guide how each jurisdiction should interact with one another in regards to specific issues during the update or development of comprehensive plans. Environmental information gathered through the County-wide Planning Policies process will be integrated into future phases of the Growth Management Act process. This current phase of GMA, the development and adoption of County-wide Planning Policies, helped scope environmental issues that will need further study as the Growth Management Act process continues.

## Integrated County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Checklist

### Purpose of Checklist

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help identify impacts from the proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help decide whether an EIS is required.

This environmental analysis and checklist have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (chapter RCW 43.21C RCW), Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code, and an emergency rule-making order adopted by the State Department of Ecology on May 24, 1994. They serve as the first phase of a series of environmental analyses which will occur as local governments carry out their requirements under the GMA.

A SEPA environmental checklist format is being utilized for the analysis of County-wide Planning Policies. The checklist has been modified, consistent with WAC 197-11-235, so that the formal SEPA document (the Environmental Analysis) and the GMA product (County-wide Planning Policies) can be integrated into a single document much like the integrated processes used to achieve that document. Hopefully, this will ensure a more complete document and useful overall.

The adoption of a policy, as in the case of County-wide Planning Policies, is considered a *nonproject action* subject to environmental review under the provisions of SEPA. Chapter 197-11 WAC defines *nonproject action* as those "... actions which are different or broader than a single site specific project, such as plans, policies, and programs."

County-wide Planning Policies, since they are by necessity broad and general, make the identification of specific environmental impacts problematic. Additional environmental review, and potentially the completion of other environmental documents such as an Environmental Impact Statement, will occur as Spokane County and individual local government jurisdictions proceed further into the GMA planning process.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

(WAC 197-11-235(5))

### **Introduction (objectives, purpose, and need)**

The County-wide Planning Policies primarily reiterate the planning goals, policies and philosophy of the Growth Management Act. The policies promote better planning of growth by requiring urban density development to occur in areas either currently served with a full range of urban services or in areas where those services may be efficiently extended. Many policies are specifically oriented towards environmental protection; for example, calling for preservation of identified critical areas, open spaces, and natural resource lands; protection of designated aquifers; and implementation of transportation management strategies to reduce motor vehicle travel and air pollution.

Numerous policy statements serve as a form of interlocal agreement by which either the Steering Committee or each jurisdiction in the county is committed to carry out specified tasks in the future. These future tasks will serve as mitigation measures to offset the potential of adverse impacts resulting from concentrating growth in urbanized areas. The exact mechanisms for implementing these requirements are not defined at this time, but will be developed by the appropriate agency and subject to further environmental analysis at that time.

Like most publicly initiated planning activities, the County-wide Planning Policies primarily provide benefits in terms of environmental protection. The policies are intended to establish a framework for better management of population growth and land development which will occur regardless of the existence of these policies. The policies should minimize the negative impacts of growth while preserving those features which are integral to the area's quality of life. Numerous policy statements call for governmental actions which will result in preservation of sensitive environmental features, protection of the area's water supply, and minimize the potential of increasing automobile related air pollution as the area continues to grow.

### **Significant areas of controversy, uncertainty, and issues to be resolved**

At the time of writing this environmental analysis, there did not appear to be any significant areas of controversy in the proposed policies, either from individual jurisdictions or from public review and comment. Since all jurisdictions have been participants in the process of developing the policies and no major disagreements have been evident in the Steering Committee at this time, concurrence to adopt the policies is expected from each jurisdiction. Results of public comments on the various topic areas of the County-wide Planning Policies indicate approximately 60% agreement, 20% disagreement and 20% with no opinion.



## Mitigation measures

No specific mitigation measures are proposed as part of the environmental checklist. However, there are numerous future actions specified in the planning policies which will serve as mitigation measures for growth-related impacts which would occur with or without the adoption of the policies. Those actions, which are either the responsibility of the Steering Committee or individual jurisdictions to accomplish, are listed below:

- Specification of minimum levels of service for urban governmental services within Urban Growth Areas.
- Develop a regionally consistent Transfer of Development Rights program to protect resource lands and critical areas.
- Identify implementation and management strategies to protect open space.
- Include policies in individual comprehensive plans to address adequate fire protection in forested areas.
- Utilize an environmental 'carrying capacity' model for determining future distribution of growth throughout the county.
- Develop a regional utility corridor plan with appropriate mitigation measures; including an evaluation of environmental and health factors.
- Develop a wastewater management plan.
- Coordinate wellhead protection plans and measures.
- Establish policies, standards, and regulations for acquiring parks and open space within unincorporated Urban Growth Areas.
- Designate areas in each jurisdiction with sufficient densities to support public transportation; establish site design criteria supportive of public transportation use.
- Designate high capacity transportation corridors in comprehensive plans.
- Support the use of telecommuting, tele-shopping and videoconferencing as an alternative to vehicle travel; design transportation improvements to encourage alternatives to single occupant vehicle use.

- Use regulatory tools for increasing housing density; specify means for attaining fair share housing objectives.
- Establish uniform environmental protection measures between Washington and Idaho relating to water and air quality.

The above actions and many others throughout the County-wide Planning Policies, although not specifically identified as mitigation measures, are intended to facilitate the process of mitigating the negative impacts often associated with growth and development.

### **Major conclusions**

The County-wide Planning Policies are broad statements which establish an overall framework from which individual jurisdictions' comprehensive plans will be developed. They provide a common basis for the development of more specific policies in each jurisdiction's planning process while foreclosing few policy options for the future. Being general in nature, the policies present few environmental impacts and should provide a positive impact for protection of the environment.

## BACKGROUND

(WAC 197-11-960 Part A)

1. *Name of proposed project, if applicable*  
County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County [as provided for by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.210) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (chapter 43.21C RCW)]
  
2. *Name of applicant:*  
Spokane County Board of County Commissioners
  
3. *Address and phone number of applicant or contact person:*  
Contact person: John Mercer, GMA Coordinator  
  
Spokane County Planning Department  
1026 West Broadway Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99260  
  
(509)456-2205
  
4. *Date checklist prepared:*  
October 20, 1994 and revised December 6, 1994
  
5. *Agency requesting checklist:*  
Spokane County Planning Department
  
6. *Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):*  
The Spokane County Steering Committee of Elected Officials is scheduled to make a recommendation to the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners regarding County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) on December 7, 1994. The Board of County Commissioners is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) on December 20, 1994. The adoption deadline for County-wide Planning Policies established by GMA was September 1, 1994.

Development and adoption of County-wide Planning Policies is the first of an anticipated four stage process required by the Growth Management Act (GMA). Environmental analysis will be integrated into, and used throughout, the entire GMA process. Phased environmental review, consistent with WAC 197-11-060(5), will be utilized throughout the GMA process with formal SEPA environmental documents prepared at the four major GMA milestones. Those milestones include:

- development and adoption of County-wide Planning Policies;
- designation of Interim Urban Growth Areas (IUGAs);
- development and adoption of Comprehensive Plans; and
- development and adoption of Development Regulations.

Environmental analysis at the last two stages, adoption of Comprehensive Plans and Development Regulations, will occur individually by each city and town in Spokane County as well as by the county itself.

Each subsequent environmental analysis throughout the GMA process and at each milestone is anticipated to build upon the analysis related to previous GMA products or actions. Each environmental analysis should not only become narrower in focus and detail, but it should also continue to add to the base of environmental information. In the future, therefore, review of specific projects of a private development or construction nature may be able to use that detailed composite GMA environmental analysis as a basis for its own environmental analysis.

7. a. *Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.*  
Spokane County and the cities and towns within will use the adopted County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) as a framework around which comprehensive plans will be developed and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act (GMA). The adopted County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) also represent initial scoping topics to be addressed in future SEPA environmental analysis for the various GMA stages and products.
- b. *Do you own or have options on land nearby or adjacent to this proposal? If yes, explain.*  
Not applicable.

8. *List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.*

Environmental information for the current phase of the Growth Management Act, County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs), is represented by the 18-month process that resulted in:

1. the development of eight technical reports and two separate reports as a result of the citizen participation process; and
2. the development of County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs).

The ten total reports and the County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) themselves are supporting information for this environmental analysis and are incorporated by reference.

The Introduction to this document, provides a more detailed description of how the Growth Management Act (GMA) process for the development of County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) was integrated with SEPA environmental analysis.

SEPA Environmental Checklists have been completed and Threshold Determinations issued for designation and / or regulation of critical areas by most of the local government jurisdictions in Spokane County.

Environmental analysis and review will also be integrated into future phases of the Growth Management Act (GMA) process. As a result, directly related environmental information is anticipated as part of the continuing Growth Management Act (GMA) process.

***SEPA informal review comments and responses -***

The following is a summary of oral and written comments received during the informal SEPA review and comment period (October 20th to December 6th, 1994) regarding the "Draft County-wide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County". The comments are not reproduced in their entirety but are paraphrased. The following organizations and individuals provided comments on environmental issues:

1. J. Grant Person - letter dated October 18, 1994
2. Spokane Home Builders Association - letter dated October 20, 1994
3. Cathy Ramm - oral comments at the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners Meeting on October 25, 1994
4. Frank Yuse - oral comments at the Growth Management Steering Committee Meeting on October 26, 1994
5. Margo Wolf - letter dated October 30, 1994
6. Micaview Landowner's Association - 2 letters both dated November 3, 1994

#### **A. General Comment**

**Comment:** - No consideration has been given through an environmental impact statement on the economic impact of the policies to the Spokane region.

**Response:** - An economic analysis of impacts is an optional issue to address within an environmental impact statement. In addition, further environmental analysis will be conducted at subsequent phases of the GMA process where an economic analysis of impacts may be more appropriate and meaningful.

#### **B. General Comment**

**Comment:** - The public has been given virtually no information regarding SEPA compliance. The draft policies raise significant issues and should be reviewed and discussed in the context of policy alternatives.

**Response:** - The environmental analysis was distributed on October 20, 1994 providing approximately 6 weeks for public review and comment.

Opportunities for oral comment have been provided at the conclusion of six publicly advertised Growth Management meetings. While an environmental analysis and determination is required by law, an E.I.S. is not a mandatory outcome of that analysis. Policy alternatives have been thoroughly debated during the 18 months of formulating the draft County-wide Planning Policies.

#### **C. Background Section question #8**

**Comment:** - Technical reports are included by reference, but do not analyze options and alternatives.

**Response:** - The technical reports were prepared to identify issues to be considered in the formulation of the draft policies. A complete listing of the technical reports is provided in the introductory section of this checklist.

#### **D. Policy Topic 1 - Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)**

**Comment:** - Urban and rural lands are identified but not suburban. Need to better address human impacts of UGA policies.

**Response:** - The draft policies discuss urban and rural lands, as required by GMA. Suburban lands are not identified nor encouraged by the Act, nor by these policies. A review of socioeconomic impacts is an optional element to address within an environmental impact statement and has not been included within this environmental checklist.

#### **E. General Comment**

**Comment:** - Regarding population projections and accommodating 20 years of growth, how can the physical and human impacts be addressed now?

**Response:** - The impacts of concentrating the 20-year urban growth projection within UGAs is more appropriately addressed at the next stage of the GMA process, i.e., establishing UGA boundaries.

#### **F. General Comment**

**Comment:** - Transportation corridors need to be identified now as do their associated physical and human impacts.

**Response:** - The County-wide Planning Policies establish a general framework within which further comprehensive planning (including the establishment of transportation corridors) will be conducted and appropriate environmental analysis will be conducted at that time.

#### **G. General Comment**

**Comment:** - The County needs to keep in place the current method of environmental analysis such as those conducted for separate projects and private development, rather than committing to streamline the SEPA process at this time.

**Response:** - Neither the Countywide Planning Policies nor this environmental analysis commit to minimizing the amount of analysis to be required of individual development projects in the future.

#### **H. Introduction: The Initial Public Participation Process**

**Comment:** - Would like to see stronger language when referring to public comments and what will be done with them.

**Response:** - Comment was noted and appropriate changes have been made.

#### **I. Integrated Environmental Checklist: Purpose of Checklist**

**Comment:** - Suggests different wording for clarification purposes.

**Response:** - Comment was noted and appropriate changes have been made.

#### **J. Integrated Environmental Checklist: Purpose of Checklist**

**Comment:** - Noted that they assumed the public would be able to comment on each environmental analysis.

**Response:** - Early and continuous public involvement is integral to all GMA activities.

**K. Background Section question #7b**

**Comment:** - The spirit of the question not answered. Should address adjacent jurisdictions that could be impacted by this proposal.

**Response:** - While the Countywide Planning Policies do have implications for adjacent jurisdictions, they apply only within Spokane County. Several policies note the need to coordinate with these adjacent jurisdictions regarding planning issues.

**L. Background Section question #12**

**Comment:** - Should include adjacent jurisdictions that could be impacted by this proposal such as parts of Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties and Kootenai County in Idaho.

**Response:** - See response to number 11, above.

**M. Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions**

**Comment:** - The County and other jurisdictions have done something to protect critical areas and resource lands. This body of work should be included in this section.

**Response:** - Comment was noted and appropriate changes have been made.

**N. Environmental Summary**

**Comment:** - Noted that they assumed the public would be able to comment on each environmental analysis.

**Response:** - Early and continuous public involvement is integral to all GMA activities.

**O. Environmental Summary: Significant areas of controversy, uncertainty, and issues to be resolved**

**Comment:** -The public did not have sufficient time to testify or comment regarding the policies; wishes to view statistics supporting comment that 60% of the people agree with the proposed policies.

**Response:** - The County-wide Planning Policies were published for public review and comment in mid-September through a newspaper insert (170,000 distributed) in the Spokesman-Review on September 26, 1994. Statistical information regarding public comments is found within the report "*Draft County-wide Planning Policies Public Opinion Questionnaire for Spokane County* .



9. *Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.*

There are no other actions pending at this time. However, there will be future required actions under by the Growth Management Act (GMA) during the GMA planning process throughout Spokane County.

10. *List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.*

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires formal adoption of County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) by the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners following at least one public hearing. The Board of County Commissioners is expected to hold that public hearing on December 20, 1994. There is no other agency with jurisdiction with regard to the adoption of the County-wide Planning Policies.

The County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) for Spokane County must be adopted in order to comply with the Washington State Growth Management Act. Failing to do so will subject Spokane County and each of the other 11 local government jurisdictions in the county to specific sanctions set forth in the Growth Management Act (GMA). A hold on the distribution of Growth Management Act (GMA) grant funds could be an immediate sanction imposed. Eligibility for obtaining other grants could also be affected. Imposition of other sanctions is provided for in RCW Section 36.70A.210(5).

11. *Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.*

The Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A.210, requires the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners to adopt County-wide Planning Policies. Spokane County is currently developing, for adoption, County-wide Planning Policies. This is the first phase of the required GMA process.

A County-wide Planning Policy is a written policy statement(s) "... used solely for establishing a county-wide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted ...". "This framework will ensure that city and county comprehensive plans are consistent ...". Essentially, the policies are statements of how each jurisdiction should interact with one another with regard to specific issues when developing individual comprehensive plans and development regulations.

12. *Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit application related to this checklist.*

The County-wide Planning Policies for Spokane County will affect and pertain to each of the 12 local government jurisdictions in Spokane County. Those include:

- Airway Heights
- Cheney
- Deer Park
- Fairfield
- Latah
- Medical Lake
- Millwood
- Rockford
- Spangle
- Spokane
- Spokane County
- Waverly

13. *Does the proposed action lie within the Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)? The General Sewer Service Area? The Priority Sewer Service Area? The City of Spokane? (See: Spokane County's ASA Overlay Zone Atlas for boundaries). The geographic area associated with the County-wide Planning Policies includes all of Spokane County and, therefore, the proposal encompass all four separate areas identified by the question.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

(WAC 197-11-960 Part B)

This integrated Growth Management Act (GMA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) document has been prepared in accordance with WAC 197-11-235, Emergency Rule Making Order, issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology on May 24, 1994. The Environmental Elements section of the SEPA Environmental Checklist (WAC 197-11-960 Part B) is not included here consistent with the provisions of WAC 197-11-235 which allows the checklist to be modified to better assess a nonproject action not likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts; such as adoption of County-wide Planning Policies. Part B of the SEPA Checklist pertains more to specific construction or management activities rather than broad general policy statements. The responses to WAC 197-11-960 Part D - Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions and the Environmental Summary are the more appropriate format for analyzing County-wide Planning Policies.

The County-wide Planning Policies for Spokane County are integrated with this Environmental Analysis and are, therefore, incorporated as part of this document.

## SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(WAC 197-11-960 Part D)

1. *How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?*

Nothing in the County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) is likely to increase discharge to water, emissions to air; production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or the production of noise. Population growth over the long term is probably inevitable with or without the County-wide Planning Policies and increases in discharges to water, emissions to air, and increases in noise are likely to result from such growth. The County-wide Planning Policies are the beginning of a process to develop plans to manage growth and negative impacts.

*Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:*

Not applicable. However, environmental analysis and review will be integrated into all future phases of the Growth Management Act (GMA) process. Each future phase of the GMA process becomes more specific and focused regarding growth issues and plans. Subsequent environmental reviews integrated into those phases will also be more detailed and therefore better able to identify impacts and mitigating measures if appropriate.

2. *How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?*

The County-wide Planning Policies contain policies, especially in Policy Topic No. 1, Urban Growth Areas, which are intended to protect open space and give prime consideration to the location of critical areas and natural resource lands in delineating urban growth areas. Critical areas include priority habitats for plants, animals and fish such as wetlands and riparian areas. Natural resource lands include forest lands which are a habitat for many species of plants and animals. Policy Topic No. 4, Parks and Open Space includes policies which are intended to identify and protect open space corridors and lands of environmental significance.

*Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such effects are:*

Not applicable. However, environmental analysis and review will be integrated into all future phases of the Growth Management Act (GMA) process. Each future phase of the GMA process becomes more specific and focused regarding growth issues and plans. Subsequent environmental reviews integrated into those phases will also be more detailed and therefore better able to identify impacts and mitigating measures if appropriate.

3. *How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?*  
The proposal should help to conserve energy and natural resources. For example, Policy Topic No. 5, Transportation, encourages a variety of efficient transportation systems (such as bikeways and pedestrian systems) and the reduction of urban sprawl. The transportation policies support increased public transportation service, ride sharing programs, and demand management strategies. These policies should decrease energy use in the overall transportation system. Policy Topic No. 1, Urban Growth Areas, includes policies to protect resources such as aquifers and natural resource lands such as agricultural lands, timber lands and mining deposits through various means; including designation as open space and transfer of development rights.

*Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:*  
Not applicable. However, environmental analysis and review will be integrated into all future phases of the Growth Management Act (GMA) process. Each future phase of the GMA process becomes more specific and focused regarding growth issues and plans. Subsequent environmental reviews integrated into those phases will also be more detailed and therefore better able to identify impacts and mitigating measures if appropriate.

4. *How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, flood plains, or prime farmlands?*

The County-wide Planning Policies provide for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas including priority fish and wildlife habitats, wetlands, forest lands, flood plains and agricultural lands. Policy Topic No. 1, Urban Growth Areas, provides that natural resource lands shall be excluded from Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) or designated as open space within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). Critical areas will also be a prime consideration in UGA designation. Rural areas are to be used as a buffer to protect natural resource lands. Policy Topic No. 4, Parks and Open Space, states that open space corridors to be identified and encourages their purchase for use as greenbelts, parks or wildlife habitats.

The County-wide Planning Policies are broad general policy statements and do not specifically address historic and cultural preservation. Subsequently, the County-wide Planning Policies do not contain any guidelines that will negatively affect historic and cultural preservation.

Policy Topic No. 7, Affordable Housing, states that standards for future development should not inhibit rehabilitation or restoration of housing.

*Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:*  
Not applicable. However, environmental analysis and review will be integrated into all future phases of the Growth Management Act (GMA) process. Each future phase of the GMA process becomes more specific and focused regarding growth issues and plans. Subsequent environmental reviews integrated into those phases will also be more detailed and therefore better able to identify impacts and mitigating measures if appropriate.

5. *How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?*

The proposal provides a general policy framework for the development of comprehensive plans which will serve to guide future development in each jurisdiction in Spokane County. In the long term, the County-wide Planning Policies and the subsequent comprehensive plans they foster are likely to have a significant impact on land uses and how they relate to each other. The focus of the County-wide Planning Policies is to implement the goals of the Growth Management Act which include, for example: reducing urban sprawl; encouraging affordable housing and maintenance of existing housing; maintaining natural resource based industries and discouraging incompatible uses; and ensuring that public facilities and services are adequate to meet future needs.

The County-wide Planning Policies support the protection of critical areas which include shoreline areas (wildlife habitats). As general policy statements, nothing contained in the County-wide Planning Policies would be likely to affect shoreline use or alter existing shoreline regulations.

*Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:*  
Not applicable. However, environmental analysis and review will be integrated into all future phases of the Growth Management Act (GMA) process. Each future phase of the GMA process becomes more specific and focused regarding growth issues and plans. Subsequent environmental reviews integrated into those phases will also be more detailed and therefore better able to identify impacts and mitigating measures if appropriate.

6. *How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?*

The proposal is not likely to increase demand for transportation, public services or utilities. The County-wide Planning Policies contain policies that specifically require each jurisdiction to document its ability to provide a full range of urban services within its existing boundaries before designating any Urban Growth Areas outside of existing boundaries. In addition, the capital facilities element of each jurisdictions comprehensive plan shall at a minimum demonstrate the ability to provide domestic water, sanitary sewer and transportation improvements concurrent with development.

The response to question #3 above concerning energy and transportation issues is also applicable to this question.

*Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:*

Not applicable. However, environmental analysis and review will be integrated into all future phases of the Growth Management Act (GMA) process. Each future phase of the GMA process becomes more specific and focused regarding growth issues and plans. Subsequent environmental reviews integrated into those phases will also be more detailed and therefore better able to identify impacts and mitigating measures if appropriate.

7. *Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.*

Each jurisdiction within Spokane County is required by the Growth Management Act to meet specific requirements when planning for future growth. Formulation of the County-wide Planning Policies is the first stage in a four stage process mandated by the Growth Management Act. The County-wide Planning Policies do not conflict with any local, state or federal laws that have been identified by this analysis.

# SIGNATURE

(WAC 197-11-960 Part C)

I, the undersigned, swear under the penalty of perjury that the above responses are made truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that, should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part, the agency must withdraw any determination of nonsignificance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist.

Date: December 6, 1994

Signature: John Mercer by [Signature]

Proponent: John Mercer, GMA Coordinator  
Phone: (509) 456-2205

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Prepared:  
October 20, 1994

Revised:  
December 6, 1994

Staff Member(s) Reviewing Checklist:

David J. Ferguson

Based on this staff review of the environmental checklist and other pertinent information, the staff:

- A.  Concludes that there are no probable significant adverse impacts and recommends a determination of nonsignificance.
- B.  Concludes that probable significant adverse environmental impacts do exist for the current proposal and recommends a mitigated determination of nonsignificance with conditions.
- C.  Concludes that there are probable significant adverse environmental impacts and recommends a determination of significance.



# *County-wide Planning Policies for Spokane County*

## **Statement of Principles**

### **Introduction**

The Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates that each county develop County-wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) which shall serve as “... *written policy statements used solely for establishing a county-wide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted* ...”. The policies are intended to guide interaction between the cities, towns, and county government and ensure consistency between individual jurisdictions’ comprehensive plans. While completing the County-wide Planning Policies ensures compliance with the legal mandates of GMA, it also offered the residents of Spokane County the opportunity to create a broad vision for the future of the community.

Developing the County-wide Planning Policies was an intense and lengthy process which, as the title suggests, was truly a county-wide effort. The process brought together a very special interest group; people who share the goal of protecting and enhancing those qualities that make Spokane County a unique and special place. This group was comprised of individuals from diverse backgrounds: including neighborhoods, the business community, technical experts, government officials, and the general public. The Steering Committee of Elected Officials had the difficult task of balancing often conflicting ideas and developing policies which provide the greatest benefit for Spokane County and its citizens.

Throughout the 18 months of listening to residents and debating their ideas, several themes emerged which were discussed over and over again. These became the overriding *principles* which guided the development of the County-wide Planning Policies. Although they may not be expressly stated in any particular policy, their importance is reflected in the overall tone and viewpoint of the policies.

These principles, identified by the Steering Committee, are summarized below with a brief explanation of their importance.

### **Citizen Participation**

Citizen participation occurred throughout the process of formulating the County-wide Planning Policies. The Steering Committee intends to also involve citizens in every aspect of policy implementation. The County-wide Planning Policies specify numerous responsibilities that the Steering Committee will need to fulfill in the future (e.g.: specifying minimal levels of urban governmental services, determining a date for submittal of interim Urban Growth Area (UGA) proposals). Citizens will be encouraged to be involved in each of these tasks and others to ensure the vision contained in the policies is maintained in the future.

### **Protection of Neighborhood Character**

Spokane County has well established neighborhoods, each with its unique identity and character. For most citizens, neighborhood character is one of the primary ingredients in their perceived quality of life. Although growth in the region is inevitable it is the intent of these policies to maintain neighborhood character and prevent neighborhoods from becoming segmented, fragmented, or degraded by that growth.

### **Aquifer Protection**

Most of the Spokane area is dependent upon the same large aquifer for its drinking water supply. Protection of that water supply is vital for both the economic and physical health of the area. Aquifer protection is identified in several specific policies and numerous other policies support and strengthen that philosophy. For example, the policies call for the construction of infrastructure that will protect designated aquifers.

### **Ethnic Diversity**

Spokane County does not currently have a wide diversity of peoples from differing ethnic, cultural, or racial backgrounds. Early in the process of drafting the policies, the importance of encouraging ethnic diversity was recognized. Increased diversity is important to the area's quality of life and economic vitality as it links with the global economy.

### **Urban and Rural Character**

The designation of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) is the most significant tool in the County-wide Planning Policies for managing growth. Within UGAs, lands will be developed with an urban character, while lands outside will remain rural or retain the character they have today. In urban areas, land will be used intensively and have adequate public facilities and services to support that intensity. In rural areas, lower densities protect the rural character and avoid the need for extensive government services and facilities.

### **Economic Vitality**

The economic vitality of Spokane County is brought about by a collaborative effort of the public and private sectors. A healthy economy maintains jobs, as well as creates job opportunities. Additionally, it provides the ability to access housing for all economic segments of the community. A jobs-based economy brings together the environmental and the economic implications of managed growth and seeks a balanced consideration which will help secure a quality community for future generations.

### **Private Property Rights**

Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.

# Policy Topic 1

## Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)

### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA), encourages development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner. The Growth Management Act (GMA) also established a goal to reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development. The concept of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) is one of the primary tools to meet the goals of the Growth Management Act (GMA).

Each jurisdiction must propose an Urban Growth Area (UGA) within which urban growth shall be encouraged. The Board of County Commissioners has the final responsibility for designating Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). 'Urban growth' is defined as " ... growth that makes intensive use of land for buildings, structures, and other impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use of such land for the production of food, other agricultural products or fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources" [RCW 36.70A.030 (14)].

Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) will include sufficient land and densities to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county for the next twenty years. Each city and town in the county must be included within an Urban Growth Area (UGA). Land outside city or town boundaries may also be included within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) to accommodate the twenty year growth projection. Growth outside of the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) can occur only if not urban in character. Urban Growth Area (UGA) designations are a required element of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan. Interim Urban Growth Areas (IUGAs) must be adopted prior to development of each jurisdictions comprehensive plan. Final Urban Growth Area (UGA) designations are established before adoption of those comprehensive plans.

#### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

The County-wide Planning Policies provide the direction, process, and framework to analyze, propose, and eventually adopt Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) are the primary tool to control sprawl and ensure that adequate services and infrastructure are provided to developing areas. Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) must accommodate the twenty-year growth projection and

also include greenbelts and other open space. Each jurisdiction must also protect sensitive environmental and wildlife habitat areas.

A goal of the Growth Management Act (GMA) is for Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) to be consistently planned and designated throughout the county. The Steering Committee of Elected Officials has the responsibility of recommending how the population allocation and distribution will occur. The Steering Committee will also ensure consistency in Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) by specifying standards for Urban Growth Area (UGA) delineation and minimum levels of service for transportation, sewer, water, etc.

Lands outside of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) will have low densities that can be sustained by minimal infrastructure improvements such as septic systems, individual wells and rural roads. Growth outside of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) should not alter the rural character, degrade the environment, or create a need for urban services. However, areas outside of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) must be adequately planned in order to accommodate future expansions of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).

## **POLICIES**

### **Urban**

1. Urban growth areas (UGAs) are areas within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature. Urban growth Areas (UGAs) shall include areas and densities sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county for the succeeding twenty-year period. [RCW 36.70A.110]

'Urban growth' refers to growth that makes intensive use of land for the location of buildings, structures, and impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use of such land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources. [RCW 36.70A.030 (14)]

Urban growth should be located first in areas already characterized by urban growth that have existing public facility and service capacities to serve such development, and second in areas already characterized by urban growth that will be served by a combination of both existing public facilities and services and any additional needed public facilities and services that are provided by either public or private sources. Further, it is appropriate that urban government services be provided by cities, and urban government services should not be provided in rural areas. [RCW 36.70A.110 (3)]

Urban growth areas (UGAs) include all lands within existing cities, including cities in rural areas.

Urban growth areas may be established independent of incorporated areas. Within these independent Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), urban governmental services may be provided by other than cities.

2. The determination and proposal of an Urban Growth Area (UGA) outside existing incorporated limits shall be based on a jurisdiction's ability to provide urban governmental services at the minimum level of service specified by the Steering Committee. Jurisdictions may establish higher level of service standards in their respective comprehensive plans.

The location of critical areas and natural resource lands should be a prime consideration in delineating Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). Whenever possible and practical, natural resource lands should not be included within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) unless used as open space.

3. Each jurisdiction will initially determine land capacity by that particular jurisdiction's ability to accommodate growth within current city limits or within unincorporated areas of the county using the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's guidelines for designating Urban Growth Areas ("*Issues in Designating Urban Growth Areas Part I -- Providing Adequate Urban Area Land Supply*" March, 1992 or as revised and "*The Art and Science of Designating Urban Growth Areas Part II -- Some Suggestions for Criteria and Densities*" March, 1992 or as revised). Jurisdictions shall use as primary criteria the availability and capacity of urban governmental services and public facilities.

In determining how much additional population can be accommodated within an UGA, jurisdictions should first encourage new development in areas where all urban governmental services and public facilities currently exist and secondly encourage new development in areas where all urban governmental services and public facilities can be provided economically.

Each jurisdiction shall accommodate its fair share of population growth based on its ability to provide urban governmental services and public facilities. New fully contained communities and master-planned resorts will be addressed through Spokane County's Comprehensive Plan and population allocation process.

4. The Steering Committee shall establish a date by which each jurisdiction will submit its preliminary proposal for interim Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).
5. Each jurisdiction shall submit proposed interim and final Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundaries to the Steering Committee including:
  - a. justification in the form of its land capacity analysis and the ability to provide urban governmental services and public facilities;
  - b. the amount of population growth which could be accommodated and the analytical basis by which this growth figure was derived; and
  - c. how much unincorporated land is required to accommodate growth, including maps indicating the additional areas.
6. The Steering Committee shall analyze each jurisdiction's proposed interim and final Urban Growth Area (UGA) through the use of a multi-jurisdictional planning team and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for interim and final Urban Growth Area (UGA) adoption.
7. Whenever possible, interim and final Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) shall have identifiable physical boundaries and / or jurisdictional or special purpose district boundaries.
8. Each municipality must document its ability to provide urban governmental services within its existing city limits prior to the designation of an Urban Growth Area (UGA) outside of existing city limits. To propose an Urban Growth Area (UGA) designation outside of their existing city limits, municipalities must provide a full range of urban governmental services based on each municipality's capital facilities element of their Comprehensive Plan.
9. Jurisdictions shall provide for new commercial / industrial land uses within UGAs based on employment projections and ratios established by the Steering Committee in cooperation with the Spokane area business community and in conjunction with a citizen participation process. The comprehensive plan will address future expansion of existing commercial / industrial land uses which may be located outside of Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundaries.

10. Within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), lands that fall within planned high capacity transportation corridors should be designated for sufficient intensity of land use to support the economic provision of multi-modal transportation.
11. Each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan shall, at a minimum, demonstrate the ability to provide necessary domestic water, sanitary sewer and transportation improvements concurrent with development. Small municipalities (those with a population of 1,000 or less) may utilize approved interim ground disposal methods inside of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) until such time as full sanitary sewer services can be made available. Each jurisdiction should consider long-term service and maintenance requirements when delineating Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) and making future land use decisions.
12. Within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), new developments should be responsible for infrastructure improvements attributable to those developments.
13. On-site septic wastewater disposal should not be permitted for any new use located over a designated aquifer within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).
14. Where applicable, comprehensive plans should contain land use policies which provide protection for the continued viability of Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane International Airport, Felts Field, Deer Park Airport, and other publicly-owned airports within Spokane County.
15. Jurisdictions should work together to develop and implement regionally consistent incentive-based programs such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to protect natural resource lands outside of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) and to protect critical areas and open space within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).

## **Rural**

16. Rural density shall be based on the remaining portion of the 20-year growth not accommodated within the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). The County should identify Urban Reserve Areas and within those areas discourage densities and land use patterns which preclude future conversion to urban densities.



Designated rural lands shall have low densities which can be sustained by minimal infrastructure improvements such as septic systems, individual wells and rural roads, without altering the rural character, degrading the environment, or creating the necessity for urban level of services.

Clustering of rural development may be permitted as a tool for the preservation of rural open space as long as it can be demonstrated that the rural character of the area can be maintained and that urban services are not required to serve the new development.

'Rural' will be characterized by one or more of the following:

- a. opportunities exist for farming and forestry activities which do not qualify for natural resource land designation;
  - b. the rural designation serves as a buffer for designated natural resource lands;
  - c. significant environmental constraints make the area generally unsuitable for intensive urban development;
  - d. major physical barriers exist to providing urban governmental services and public facilities at reasonable cost;
  - e. the area is contiguous to other designated rural lands or natural resource lands;
  - f. the area has outstanding scenic, and / or historic value that can best be protected by rural land uses and densities; and
  - g. the area has limited public facilities, extension of urban governmental services is not planned, or in-fill at higher densities is not feasible or necessary to meet regional needs.
17. Unplatted property should not be allowed to be developed to urban densities unless and until located within an Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundary or designated as a master planned resort.
18. Extension of urban governmental services outside of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) should only be provided to maintain existing levels of service in existing urban-like areas or for health and safety reasons, provided that such extensions are not an inducement to growth.

# Policy Topic 2

## Joint Planning Within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)

### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the establishment of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) and policies for joint county and city planning within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). A goal of the Growth Management Act (GMA) is to encourage citizen involvement in the planning process and to ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts. Spokane County and each jurisdiction must plan jointly in the establishment of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) and for future activity within those areas.

#### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

The Steering Committee of Elected Officials will be responsible to ensure joint planning within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). The Steering Committee will specify standards for defining Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), minimum levels of service within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), distribution of future growth, negotiating Urban Growth Area (UGA) designations, and making recommendations regarding Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) to the Board of County Commissioners.

### POLICIES

1. Joint planning shall be accomplished pursuant to an interlocal agreement entered into between and / or among the jurisdictions.

2. The joint planning process should:

- a. include a 40-year planning horizon to address eventual expansion of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) beyond the 20-year boundary required by the Growth Management Act (GMA);
- b. ensure the ability to expand urban governmental services and avoid land use barriers to expansion; and
- c. identify growth corridors beyond the 20-year Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundary.

Densities and land use patterns in identified growth corridors should not preclude later subdivision to urban densities.

Policy Topic 3  
**Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly  
Development  
and  
Provision of Urban Services**

## INTRODUCTION

### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Growth Management Act requires the adoption of County-wide Planning Policies concerning the promotion of contiguous and orderly development and the provision of urban services. The Growth Management Act (GMA) established a goal of encouraging development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can efficiently be provided. Growth planning must ensure that needed facilities and services are adequate to serve new development without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards. The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that adequate urban governmental services and public facilities be available at the time growth occurs; commonly known as concurrency. Realistically, growth would go first to areas with existing public services and facilities and then into areas in which those urban governmental services and public facilities could be efficiently extended.

### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

The County-wide Planning Policies address four general areas:

1. the specification of minimum level of service standards;
2. the planning for utilities, open space corridors, critical areas, natural resource lands, and water management;
3. the provision of urban governmental services and public facilities; and
4. the distribution of future growth and population within the County.

The policies call for the establishment of a county-wide database with compatible information systems between jurisdictions, an analysis of the maximum capacity of regional capital facilities, development of minimum standards for urban governmental services within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), and specification of minimum development and transportation standards to promote efficient land use.

In order to coordinate population and the distribution of services, the County and each city and town should accommodate its fair share of housing and essential public facilities needed for the region. Small cities and towns will serve as the focal point and function as the "urban center" for the surrounding area. The policies also recognize Fairchild Air Force Base as an urban center.

## **POLICIES**

1. Each jurisdiction shall include policies in its comprehensive plan to address how urban development will be managed to promote efficiency in the use of land and the provision of urban governmental services and public facilities. The Steering Committee shall specify regional minimum level of service standards for urban governmental services within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). Local jurisdictions may choose higher standards. In its comprehensive plan, each jurisdiction shall include, but not be limited to, level of service standards for:
  - a. fire protection;
  - b. police protection;
  - c. parks and recreation;
  - d. libraries;
  - e. public sewer;
  - f. public water;
  - g. solid waste disposal and recycling;
  - h. transportation; and
  - i. schools.
  
2. Each jurisdiction and other providers of public services should use compatible information technologies to monitor demand for urban governmental and regional services and the efficiency of planning and services delivery. Spokane County shall coordinate the development of a common database, a regional Geographic Information System (GIS), and computer linkages among system participants.

3. Each jurisdiction shall include policies in its comprehensive plan to ensure that obstructions to regional transportation or utility corridors are not created. In addition, each jurisdiction should include policies in its comprehensive plan to ensure sustainable growth beyond the 20-year planning horizon.
4. The Steering Committee shall prepare a regional formula to provide consistency among jurisdictions to designate and acquire public access to open space corridors. Each jurisdiction shall include policies in its comprehensive plan to provide open space corridors within the expanding urban landscape.
5. All jurisdictions shall coordinate plans which classify, designate and protect natural resource lands and critical areas.
6. Each jurisdiction should establish programs or projects that demonstrate and identify the elements which ensure compatibility of mixed density residential developments (for example; single family, townhouses, duplex, condominiums, apartments).
7. Each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan shall include, at a minimum, the following policies to address adequate fire protection:
  - a. limit growth to areas served by a fire protection district or within the corporate limits of a city providing its own fire department;
  - b. commercial and residential subdivisions and developments and residential planned unit developments shall include the provision for road access adequate for residents, fire department or district ingress / egress, and water supply for fire protection; and
  - c. development in forested areas must provide defensible space between structure and adjacent fuels and require that fire rated roofing materials be used.
8. The Steering Committee, with the help of the multi-jurisdictional planning staff, shall oversee the development of a regional capital facilities "carrying capacity" to address the capacity of environmental factors such as air quality and the quantity and quality of ground and surface water. The Steering Committee should use this information when determining how much additional population can be accommodated in a given area.

9. The Steering Committee shall recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the allocation of population growth to jurisdictions based, in part, on each jurisdiction's contribution to regional housing goals, ability to serve special needs populations, and acceptance of its share of state and regional essential public facilities.
10. Each jurisdiction shall enter into agreements with special purpose districts within its Urban Growth Area (UGA) to address the provision of urban governmental services and public facilities. Interlocal agreements between jurisdictions and special purpose districts relating to the provision of urban governmental services and public facilities shall address fiscal impacts and ensure that services provided by special purpose districts outside of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) are not degraded.
11. The Steering Committee shall oversee the preparation of a regional utility corridor plan for incorporation into local comprehensive plans, that includes the following elements:
  - a. protection of existing and designation of future regional corridors;
  - b. dimensional guidelines for regional corridors;
  - c. provision for multi-use corridors for compatible utilities;
  - d. measures to mitigate impacts on adjacent areas;
  - e. land uses which are appropriate on or adjacent to corridors; and
  - f. vegetation clearance guidelines for electrical transmission and distribution lines in order to reduce fire hazard.
12. Each jurisdiction shall participate in regional planning for solid waste reduction and disposal.
13. The Steering Committee shall oversee the development of a management plan for wastewater treatment, which includes:
  - a. an inventory of the region's existing wastewater treatment capacity;

- b. an analysis of regional wastewater treatment needs; and
  - c. an analysis of regional wastewater treatment alternatives including implementation of reduction techniques.
14. Wellhead protection plans should be coordinated with water purveyors and implemented by local jurisdictions. The Steering Committee shall pursue strategies for regional (to include Idaho jurisdictions) water resource management which sustain projected growth rates and protect the environment.
  15. Each jurisdiction shall include provisions in its comprehensive plan for facilities for special needs populations consistent with the Steering Committee's equitable distribution of essential public facilities. The siting of these facilities shall be consistent with transportation and infrastructure requirements.
  16. Each jurisdiction shall include policies in its comprehensive plan that encourage providers of urban governmental services and public facilities to participate in "mixed-use," multi-purpose facilities within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) as a cost effective alternative to single-use buildings.
  17. Recognize Fairchild Air Force Base as an urban center with a major influence on the regional economy.
  18. Each jurisdiction in its comprehensive plan should provide policies that support the compatible incorporation of utilities, greenbelts, and open space within common corridors.
  19. Each jurisdiction shall review environmental and health issues regarding regional utility corridors sited within its boundaries for use in the decision making process by respective agencies.
  20. Each jurisdiction shall plan for growth within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) which uses land efficiently, adds certainty to capital facilities planning, and allows timely and coordinated extension of urban governmental services, public facilities, and utilities for new development. Each jurisdiction shall identify



intermediate growth areas (six to ten year increments) within its Urban Growth Area (UGA) or establish policies which direct growth consistent with land use and capital facility plans.

# Policy Topic 4 Parks and Open Space

## INTRODUCTION

### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) encourages the retention of open space and the development of parks and recreational opportunities. Within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires open space corridors to be identified and authorizes their purchase for use as greenbelts, parks, or wildlife habitat.

Although the Growth Management Act (GMA) does not expressly require County-wide Planning Policies on parks and open space, the Steering Committee of Elected Officials chose to include it as a County-wide Planning Policy topic.

### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

Included in the policies for Parks and Open Space are the following:

1. establish a system to coordinate regional park planning;
2. utilize open space corridors between major developments;
3. identify and protect large open space areas of regional significance;
4. develop parks and retain open space to lessen the impact of high density land uses; and
5. utilize utility corridors as open space and for recreational opportunities.

## POLICIES

1. The County and each jurisdiction shall establish by interlocal agreement policies, standards, and regulations to plan for and acquire parks and open space

that fall outside a municipality's corporate boundary and within its Urban Growth Area (UGA).

2. Each jurisdiction shall establish open space corridors as greenbelt buffers between and among developments to maintain and enhance quality of life.
3. All jurisdictions shall cooperate to identify and protect regional open space lands, natural areas, and corridors of environmental, recreational and aesthetic significance to form a functionally and physically connected system which balances passive and active recreational uses.

All jurisdictions shall identify implementation, management, preservation, and conservation strategies, through both regulatory and non-regulatory techniques, to protect identified lands and corridors to sustain their open space benefits and functions. Impact fees, if used, shall be established during the implementation process in order to accomplish park and recreation developments. Implementation and management strategies should include collaboration and coordination with land trusts and other land preservation organizations.

4. Each jurisdiction shall require the development of parks and open space as a means to balance the impacts associated with higher density development.
5. Each jurisdiction should encourage cooperation with both utilities and users for the purpose of including compatible passive recreational and open space uses with existing utilities or when siting new utilities.
6. Each jurisdiction shall make appropriate provisions for parks and recreation areas.

# Policy Topic 5

## Transportation

### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

Regional transportation systems include major highways, airports and railroads, as well as bikeways, trails, and pedestrian systems. The Growth Management Act (GMA) encourages a variety of efficient transportation systems in order to reduce sprawl while improving the efficient movement of people, goods and services. Therefore, close coordination is necessary between transportation planning and the land use element of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan. The Growth Management Act (GMA), as well as other State and Federal legislation, requires transportation planning to be conducted on a regional basis.

According to RCW 36.70A, local jurisdictions must adopt and enforce ordinances which prohibit development approval if the development causes the level of service on the transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the transportation element of the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made concurrent with the development. The strategies could include increased public transportation services, ride sharing programs, demand management strategies, and other transportation system management strategies.

#### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

The County-wide Planning Policies propose that transportation planning in Spokane County be carried out by the Spokane Regional Transportation Council. Consequently, each jurisdiction's land use plan should be consistent with the regional transportation system.

The policies recognize the need to preserve corridors capable of providing for high capacity transportation such as commuter lanes, rail, or dedicated busways. Through their comprehensive plans, local jurisdictions will be responsible for planning for developments along these corridors that would support public transportation services.

The County-wide Planning Policies also recognize the need to preserve our existing regional transportation system. New land developments would not be allowed to lower the level of service of the existing transportation system. To accomplish this, developments would be required to pay for transportation improvements at the time of construction or to identify other transportation strategies to offset the impacts. These strategies could include increased public transportation services, ride sharing programs, and other alternative programs.

## **POLICIES**

- 1. Regional transportation planning shall be conducted by the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC). The SRTC shall coordinate with local jurisdictions and the Spokane Transit Authority (STA) to ensure that the regional transportation plan and local jurisdiction's land use plans are compatible and consistent with one another.**
  
- 2. The regional transportation plan shall be developed in accordance with Federal and State planning requirements in order to ensure that:**
  - a. coordinated, comprehensive and consistent transportation plans are adopted;**
  - b. air quality is evaluated and maintained; and**
  - c. the Spokane metropolitan area maintains eligibility for federal and state funding programs.**
  
- 3. The regional transportation plans shall include, in addition to state and federal mandates:**
  - a. alternative modes of transportation to the automobile including public transportation, pedestrian facilities, bikeways, and air and rail facilities;**
  - b. an assessment of the environmental and economic impacts of the plan;**
  - c. coordination with land uses to reduce transportation demands;**
  - d. standards for accessibility to major institutions, manufacturing and industrial centers, and air and rail terminals;**
  - e. incorporation of utility easements into transportation corridors;**

- f. provisions for special needs populations; and
  - g. access management to regional arterials.
4. Comprehensive plans shall include, where applicable, the master plans of identified major transportation facilities to ensure that they are reasonably accommodated and compatible with surrounding land uses. Such facilities shall include, but not be limited to, airports, state highways, railroads and major freight terminals.
  5. Local jurisdictions shall develop and adopt land use plans that have been coordinated through the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) to ensure that they preserve and enhance the regional transportation system. These plans may include high capacity transportation corridors and shall fulfill air quality conformity and financial requirements of the Inter-Modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Growth Management Act (GMA).
  6. Local jurisdictions shall designate within land use plans areas that can support public transportation services. These areas shall include existing as well as new development. Each jurisdiction's land use plan, the regional transportation plan, and the Spokane Transit Authority's (STA) transit development plan shall support, complement, and be consistent with each other.
  7. In the long term, growth and change will necessitate the designation of specific transportation corridors which can support high capacity transportation. These corridors shall:
    - a. be identified for the specific purpose of preserving the right-of-way necessary to implement a high capacity transportation system and to provide a development density that will support such a system;
    - b. be recognized in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan and development regulations. These plans and codes should provide the authority to establish high capacity transportation activity centers and urban villages having a land use pattern of mixed use density and intensities;
    - c. be incorporated into capital facilities programs to provide a unified approach for preserving the character and quality of neighborhoods;

- d. be evaluated to identify both interim and ultimate transportation strategies for each corridor;
  - e. encourage capital infrastructure investment to facilitate high capacity transportation and supporting land uses;
  - f. be supported through a public education process; and
  - g. be planned for a 40-year horizon with a financial plan that demonstrates the capability of development within 20 years.
8. The regional transportation plan and comprehensive plan of each jurisdiction shall include roads, air and rail service that accommodates the need for freight and goods movement.

Plans should identify specific routes that are, or could be, subject to available funding, designed and constructed utilizing a regional standard for heavy truck traffic to serve the movement of goods from industrial and rural areas to the market. Future land uses requiring heavy freight movement should be encouraged to locate along these routes.

9. Recognizing the need to maintain existing rail lines for shipments of commodities, which reduces the impacts of shipping commodities by roads, local jurisdictions should protect rail facilities to the extent possible.
10. Each jurisdiction should coordinate their housing and transportation strategies to support existing, or develop new, public multi-modal transportation systems.
11. Each jurisdiction shall address land use designations and site design requirements that are supportive of and compatible with public transportation, including, but not limited to:
- a. pedestrian-scale neighborhoods and activity centers;
  - b. mixed use development; and
  - c. pedestrian-friendly and non-motorized design.

12. Each jurisdiction should support the use of telecommunications technologies for tele-commuting, tele-shopping and video conferencing as alternatives to vehicle travel.
13. Each jurisdiction's transportation facilities shall be planned within the context of county-wide, multi-county, and bi-state air, land and water resources and shall not cause or contribute to exceeding Federal or State environmental quality standards.
14. Each jurisdiction shall strive, through transportation system strategies, to optimize the use of and maintain existing roads to minimize the construction costs and impacts associated with roadway facility expansion.
15. In accordance with regional minimum level of service standards specified by the Steering Committee, each jurisdiction shall establish roadway standards, level of service standards and methodologies, and functional road classification schemes to ensure consistency throughout the region and to support the use of alternative transportation modes.
16. Each jurisdiction shall address energy consumption / conservation by:
  - a. designing transportation improvements for alternatives to the single occupant vehicle;
  - b. locating and adopting design standards for new development to support pedestrian or non-motorized travel;
  - c. providing regulatory and financial incentives to promote efforts of the public and private sector to conserve energy; and
  - d. reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled and number of vehicle trips.
17. The transportation element of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan will include level of service standards for transit routes and services. Each jurisdiction will coordinate the level of service standards with all adjacent jurisdictions and appropriate agencies.



18. Each jurisdiction shall use its adopted level of service standards to evaluate concurrence for long-range transportation planning, development review, and programming of transportation investments.
19. The annual process to update and approve the Six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) shall be used to prioritize regional transportation improvements and programming regional transportation revenues.
20. Transportation elements of comprehensive plans shall reflect the preservation and maintenance of transportation facilities as a high priority to avoid costly replacement and to meet public safety objectives in a cost-effective manner.
21. Each jurisdiction, Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), and other transportation agencies shall identify significant regional and / or county-wide land acquisition needs for transportation and establish a process for prioritizing and siting the location of transportation corridors and facilities.

# Policy Topic 6

## Siting of Capital Facilities of a County-wide or State-wide Nature

### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

Public capital facilities of a county or state-wide nature generally have characteristics which typically make them difficult to site. Such characteristics may include, for example, the number of jurisdictions served by the facility, the size of the facility, or the facility's potential impacts such as noise, odor, traffic, or pollution.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) recognizes those difficulties typically encountered in attempts to find locations for 'essential public facilities', such as airports, colleges and universities, correctional facilities, solid waste stations, major highways or freeways, in-patient substance abuse treatment and mental health facilities, and group homes. The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that County-wide Planning Policies address the need to site these necessary facilities throughout the county in an equitable manner and specifically prohibits local comprehensive plans and development regulations from precluding these uses from their communities.

#### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

The County-wide Planning Policies stress the necessity of active citizen involvement in siting decisions and the need to carefully consider transportation, site design, and other service needs when evaluating potential locations for essential public facilities. Finally, the policies encourage major institutions such as colleges and hospitals to develop 'master plans' that can be adopted as elements of local comprehensive plans.

### POLICIES

1. Each jurisdiction should encourage regional institutional facilities to prepare a master plan to be adopted as an amendment to the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan. Preparation of the master plan should include a public participation

process and the plan should be compatible and consistent with the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan.

2. Locate essential public facilities based on respective siting and service delivery criteria regardless of Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundaries. The criteria shall be identified or established by the Steering Committee, subsequently incorporated into each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan, and should include but not be limited to:
  - a. a definition of these facilities;
  - b. an inventory of existing and future facilities;
  - c. a public involvement strategy;
  - d. community-wide distribution or fair share of sites; and
  - e. other considerations such as:
    - assurance that the environment and public health and safety are protected;
    - transportation needs and services;
    - availability of supporting public facilities and public services;
    - availability of alternative sites; and
    - site design.
3. The Steering Committee shall implement a process for the equitable distribution of essential public facilities among jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction shall make physical and / or financial provisions in its comprehensive plan for essential public facilities consistent with the Steering Committee's distribution
4. Each jurisdiction should identify, in its comprehensive plan, protective measures to prevent incompatible land uses from encroaching upon essential public facilities.
5. Each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan shall identify those specific local facilities which are essential public facilities. The comprehensive plan shall also identify public funding priorities for these facilities to better recognize the significance of each facility's service(s) and its relationship to the local area's growth and development.

# Policy Topic 7

## Affordable Housing

### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) stresses the importance of housing by requiring local governments to include it as an element in their comprehensive plans and requiring that affordable housing be addressed in County-wide Planning Policies. Goals within the Growth Management Act (GMA) encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population and preservation of existing housing stock. The Growth Management Act (GMA) goals also promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, discourage urban sprawl, and encourage a fair and efficient permit process for development.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) does not define the term 'affordable housing', but its use in the Act indicates that it should be broadly construed to refer to a wide range of housing types at varying costs, capable of meeting the needs of all economic segments of the community.

The housing element in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan must, at a minimum, include the following:

- a. an inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs;
- b. a statement of goals, policies and objectives for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing;
- c. identification of sufficient land for housing, including, but not limited to, government-assisted housing, housing for low income families, manufactured housing, multi-family housing, group homes and foster care facilities; and
- d. adequate provisions for existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community.

These legislative requirements, together with the County-wide Planning Policies, provide a consistent framework for the County and each city and town as they develop the housing elements of their comprehensive plans.

## Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

"Affordable housing" applies to a wide range of housing types at varying costs which can meet the needs of a diverse community. The marketplace is generally capable of meeting the housing demands of the upper income segment of the population. Therefore, the primary focus of these policies is on mechanisms to increase the availability of affordable housing for middle and lower income households. Such mechanisms may include regulatory reform, inclusionary zoning, mixed use developments, incentives for increased housing densities, and other incentives to encourage a variety of housing types to meet the needs of a diverse population.

The affordable housing policies provide a framework by which each jurisdiction can help meet the overall housing needs of Spokane County in a fair, consistent, and coordinated fashion. They direct each jurisdiction to accommodate a wide variety of development and housing types; they call for consistency in development regulations and standards within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs); and they encourage reform of regulations which are unnecessary or costly barriers to the provision of affordable housing.

### **POLICIES**

1. All jurisdictions shall establish, through an interlocal agreement, consistent residential development regulations and standards within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).
2. Each jurisdiction's development policies, regulations, and standards shall not discourage the creation of affordable housing in its community. The following housing types shall be considered as appropriate for meeting this need:
  - a. apartments;
  - b. single room occupancy;
  - c. accessory dwelling units;
  - d. elderly housing;
  - e. manufactured homes on individual lots;
  - f. mobile / manufactured home parks;
  - g. townhouses;
  - h. single family homes; and
  - i. other types of housing.

3. Each jurisdiction should use regulatory tools, such as inclusionary zoning, performance / impact zoning, mixed use development, and incentives for increasing density to promote greater choice and affordable housing.
4. Each jurisdiction shall ensure that standards in existing or future development regulations facilitate rehabilitation, restoration, and relocation of existing structures or new construction of affordable housing.
5. Each jurisdiction shall review existing and proposed building and development regulations, standards, and permitting processes to: increase regulatory efficiencies; eliminate redundant and unnecessary requirements; and establish mandatory processing times. This review should result in simplified development regulations and procedures and eliminate those for which the cost of implementation exceeds the public benefit provided.
6. Each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan shall specify the strategies for attaining its affordable housing objectives. These strategies should include a diverse mix of housing types and prices, including low income housing.
7. Each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan shall include policies and strategies to promote accessibility to service / activity centers, jobs, and public transportation for special needs populations.
8. In conjunction with other policy topics, coordinate housing and economic development strategies to ensure that sufficient land and densities for affordable housing are provided in locations readily accessible to employment centers.
9. Each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan and development regulations shall recognize and incorporate the mandates of federal and state fair housing laws, particularly as they relate to siting and development of housing for special needs populations.

# Policy Topic 8

## Economic Development

### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) established overall goals for economic development throughout the state and requires the topic to be addressed as part of the County-wide Planning Policies. Although not required by the Act, each jurisdiction in Spokane County has agreed through these County-wide Planning Policies to include an economic development element as part of their individual comprehensive plans.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) established the following as economic development goals for the State of Washington:

- encourage economic development that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans;
- promote economic opportunity for all citizens of the state, especially for unemployed and disadvantaged persons;
- encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth; and
- ensure economic growth occurs within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.

These goals, together with the County-wide Planning Policies, will provide guidance to individual jurisdictions as they develop the economic development elements of their comprehensive plans.

#### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

The County-wide Planning Policies establish overall direction for economic development efforts in the region, both public and private, and also provide guidance to individual jurisdictions as they develop their comprehensive plans. The policies call for greater cooperation between the private sector and government in

measuring both the performance of the local economy and the relationship between economic development and preservation of the area's environment and quality of life. The policies stress the need to maintain downtown Spokane as a retail and cultural hub. In addition, the policies indicate a need for a regional (Washington and Idaho) approach to the critical environmental issues of water and air quality and their potential influence on the region's economic development. Finally, the policies provide specific guidance regarding those topical areas to be addressed in the economic development element of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan.

## **POLICIES**

1. Include an economic development element in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan which includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. an inventory of available land suitable for agricultural, commercial, and industrial development and use;
  - b. the identification of available infrastructure including transportation (air, rail, roads) and utilities;
  - c. the identification of available housing to support economic growth;
  - d. a process to analyze commercial and industrial sectors, and provide for job creation and retention strategies consistent with community desires; and
  - e. encouraging diversification of the economy and consideration of business classifications that are not represented.
2. Jurisdictions shall adopt in their comprehensive plans economic development policies which will help protect the environment as a key economic value in the region. The comprehensive plans shall define how the jurisdictions will work cooperatively with businesses to assist them with compliance of environmental regulations.
3. Each jurisdiction, in conjunction with a citizen participation process, shall utilize economic development organizations to identify level of service and performance standards to encourage economic development for infill areas and to take advantage of existing infrastructure.



4. Each jurisdiction shall develop plans for extending infrastructure to meet the demands of economic growth.
5. Jurisdictions shall cooperate to establish county-wide economic development and employment goals and participate with the private sector to annually evaluate economic trends and progress towards achieving economic development and employment goals on a county-wide level.
6. The Steering Committee should promote a proactive planning approach between Washington and Idaho to establish uniform environmental protection measures related to water and air quality on the local, state, and federal level and economic impacts. This may include the establishment of a regional planning association with adjacent counties and the State of Idaho.
7. Maintain the integrity of downtown Spokane as a center for retail, business, and cultural activity.
8. Each jurisdiction should designate sites for industrial and service employers to encourage their location throughout urban areas in proximity to housing and regional transportation facilities (including public transportation).
9. Each jurisdiction should ensure the long term holding of appropriate land in large parcel sizes to allow for future development with industrial uses.
10. Spokane County should maintain commercial agricultural areas to protect the long term viability of agriculture as an important element of the local economy.

# Policy Topic 9

## Fiscal Impacts

### INTRODUCTION

#### Overview of Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that County-wide Planning Policies "... address an analysis of the fiscal impact". The Act, however, does not clarify nor define the scope of the required financial analysis. The type of analysis is left to the discretion of the County, cities and towns, to be defined within their County-wide Planning Policies.

#### Overview of County-wide Planning Policies

The purpose of fiscal impact analysis is to assess the relative costs of providing urban governmental services to areas consistent with the plans developed by each jurisdiction. The County-wide Planning Policies establish overall direction for fiscal impact analysis as jurisdictions adopt their comprehensive plans. They call for revenue sharing and cooperation between jurisdictions to help finance shared needs and maintain levels of service. The policies require an examination of infrastructure costs and impacts caused by development along with the capital resources available to accommodate growth. Finally, the policies provide specific guidance for conducting an analysis of comprehensive plan elements such as capital facilities, Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), housing, and orderly development.

### POLICIES

1. If new non-urban density development is to be included within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), jurisdictions shall charge the full cost of infrastructure. Each jurisdiction shall address in the capital facilities element of their comprehensive plan how this will be accomplished. For those lands outside of a jurisdiction's corporate limits but within their Urban Growth Area (UGA), the affected jurisdictions shall, by interlocal agreements, demonstrate how the full cost of infrastructure will be charged.

2. Each jurisdiction shall identify, within the capital facilities element of its comprehensive plan, capital resources that will be available to accommodate the additional development which is anticipated within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).
3. Areas outside a municipality's corporate boundary and within its Urban Growth Area (UGA) shall be jointly planned with funding structures to ensure adequate land for parks, open space, and greenbelts prior to urban development.
4. Each jurisdiction's fiscal analysis should evaluate, at a minimum, a mechanism for future intergovernmental (including city to city) revenue-sharing and cooperation to finance shared needs and maintain adopted levels of service.
5. Jurisdictions choosing to use impact fees shall apply a formula which is consistent with other jurisdictions within Spokane County.
6. Each jurisdiction shall consider a number of financing measures to provide for transportation facilities, including but not limited to:
  - a. general revenues;
  - b. fuel taxes;
  - c. toll roads;
  - d. bonding;
  - e. congestion pricing;
  - f. public / private partnerships; and
  - g. assessment and improvement districts, facility benefit assessments, impact fees, dedication of right-of-way and voluntary funding agreements.
7. Each jurisdiction shall make adequate financial provisions to maintain parks and recreation areas.

# Glossary

## County-wide Planning Policy Terms

**Access management** - the controlling or managing of access along arterial roadways for the purpose of improving average travel speeds and increasing the capacity of the road.

**Accessory dwelling unit** - a dwelling unit that is a building, part of a building, or structure which is subordinate to, and the use of which is incidental to, that of the main building, structure or use on the same lot.

**Adequate public facilities** - facilities which have the capacity to serve development without decreasing levels of service below locally established minimums.

**Affordable housing** - adequate, appropriate shelter costing no more (including basic utilities) than 30 percent of a household's gross monthly income.

**Air quality conformity** - a mechanism for ensuring that transportation activities (plans, programs, and projects) are reviewed and evaluated for their impacts on air quality prior to funding or approval.

**Available public facilities** - means that facilities or services are in place or that a financial commitment is in place to provide the facilities or services within a specified time. In the case of transportation, the specified time is six years from the time of development.

**Carrying capacity** - the finite limits of the environment, our physical resources, and government's ability to respond to growth.

**Clustering** - a development design technique that concentrates buildings on a portion of a site to allow the remaining land to be used for recreation, common open space, agricultural uses, preservation of environmentally sensitive features, or preserved for future development.

**Commercial agricultural** - agriculture primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees not subject to the excise tax imposed by RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, or livestock.

**Concurrent / concurrency** - means that adequate public facilities are available when the service demands of development occur. This definition includes the two concepts of "adequate public facilities" and of "available public facilities" as defined above.

**Congestion pricing** - the application of pricing to control demand for road and parking use in congested areas.

**Critical Areas** - includes the following areas and ecosystems:

- a. wetlands;
- b. areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water;
- c. fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas;
- d. frequently flooded areas; and
- e. geologically hazardous areas.

**Designated aquifer** - aquifers designated by Spokane County in cooperation with the Department of Ecology (DOE) to be protected from business and residential pollution.

**Equitable distribution** - the allocation of population, essential public facilities, affordable housing, etc. by the Steering Committee based upon each jurisdiction's ability to provide urban governmental services and public facilities and land availability. The term *fair share* has the same meaning as equitable distribution.

**Essential public facilities** - includes those facilities that are typically difficult to site; such as airports, colleges, universities, correctional facilities, solid waste stations, major highways or freeways, in-patient substance abuse treatment facilities, mental health facilities, and group homes.

**Fair share** - see definition for "equitable distribution."

**Functional road classification** - the division of highways, roads, and streets into groups having similar characteristics of providing transportation mobility and / or land access.

**Geographic Information System (GIS)** - a computer system that stores and links non-graphic characteristics or geographically related data with graphic map features. A GIS system allows for a wide range of information processing and display operations, including the production of maps, analysis, and modeling.

**Growth Management Act (GMA)** - a series of laws passed by the Washington State Legislature in 1990-91 that requires cities and counties to plan for and manage growth and development.

**High capacity transportation** - includes high occupancy vehicle lanes, rapid transit [light or heavy rail], busways, and commuter rail.

**High capacity transportation activity center** - a concentrated area with an adequate mix and intensity of land uses and services to support high capacity transportation.

**Inclusionary zoning** - regulations which increase housing choice by providing the opportunity to construct more affordable, diverse and economical housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income families.

**Jurisdiction** - The government of Spokane County and / or an incorporated city and / or town located within Spokane County.

**Level of service** - an established minimum capacity of public facilities or services that must be provided per unit of demand or other appropriate measure of need.

**Low income housing** - housing that is economically feasible for families whose income level is categorized as low within the standards set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Low-income is defined as 80% or less of the median family income for a particular market area.

**Master planned resort** - means a self-contained and fully integrated planned unit development, in a setting of significant natural amenities, with primary focus on destination resort facilities consisting of short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of developed on-site indoor or outdoor recreational facilities.

**Mixed use development** - the development in a compact urban form of a tract of land or building or structure with two or more different uses such as, but not limited to, residential, office, manufacturing, retail, public, or entertainment.

**Multi-jurisdictional planning team** - an established group of planning professionals that represent each jurisdiction within Spokane County for the purpose of supporting the Spokane County Steering Committee in issues related to the County-wide Planning Policies.

**Multi-modal transportation** - means a transportation system consisting of many travel choices or modes.

**Municipality** - an incorporated city or town.

**Natural resource lands (resource lands)** - lands not already characterized by urban growth which have long-term significance for the commercial production of: food or other agricultural products, timber, or the extraction of minerals.

**New development** - the improvement of vacant land with utilities, roads, storm drainage facilities, and other features.

**New fully contained community** - is a development proposed for location outside of the existing designated Urban Growth Areas which is characterized by urban densities, uses, and services, and meets the criteria of RCW 36.70A.350.

**New use** - any change in land use by construction or expansion or a new or existing building or structure.

**Open space corridors** - lands within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails and connection of critical areas.

**Performance / impact zoning** - a zoning category that does not specifically prescribe a use but leaves the means for achieving the classification or goal through established standards.

**Public facilities** - include, but are not limited to, streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities, and schools.

**Public services** - include fire protection and suppression, law enforcement, public health, education, recreation, environmental protection, and other governmental services.

**Regional** - county-wide activities involving the jurisdictions and, when applicable, the special purpose districts within Spokane County; may also include adjacent counties in Washington State and / or Idaho State as indicated in specific policies.

**Regional arterials** - roads and streets on the Federal Functional Classification System which are designated as Interstate, Principal, or Minor arterials (regionally significant Collector arterials may also be included).

**Regional institutional facilities** - includes all those facilities defined as essential public facilities above as well as major health care facilities and major industrial parks.

**Regional transportation plan** - means the transportation plan for the regionally designated transportation system which is produced by the regional transportation planning organization.

**Regional transportation planning organization (RTPO)** - the voluntary organization conforming to RCW 47.80.020, consisting of local governments within a region containing one or more counties which have common transportation interests.

**Revised Code of Washington (RCW)** - legislation that has been passed by the state and documented in the form of a code.

**Roadway standards** - minimum standards for street development, including right-of-way, street width, bike lanes, curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, drainage, etc.

**Rural lands** - means all lands which are not within an Urban Growth Area and are not designated as natural resource lands having long term commercial significance for production of agricultural products, timber, or the extraction of minerals.

**Shall** - indicates that an action specified in a policy statement is mandatory.

**Should** - indicates that an action specified in a policy statement is discretionary.

**Single room occupancy (SRO)** - A type of housing that is commonly one room with cooking facilities and private or shared bathroom facilities. Examples of SRO units are found in residence hotels and apartments.

**Special purpose district** - a district created by act, petition, or vote by the residents within a defined area for a specific purpose with the power to levy taxes.

**Special needs populations** - groups of individuals who, by reason of age, physical, mental, or other characteristics, require non-traditional living arrangements, and, in some instances, are not able to operate a motorized vehicle.

**Spokane area business community** - a diverse group of local area businesses and organizations such as the Economic Development Council, Momentum, and the Chamber of Commerce.

**Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC)** - the regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) that has been designated by the Governor for Spokane County.

**Steering Committee of Elected Officials / Steering Committee** - A body composed of twelve elected officials from jurisdictions throughout Spokane County, established by interlocal agreement, with the responsibility of developing and carrying out the County-wide Planning Policies.



**Townhouses** - a series of single-family dwelling units attached to other single family dwellings each by a common wall.

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)** - the transfer of the right to develop or build, from land in one zoning district to land in another district where such transfer is permitted.

**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** - a schedule of proposed transportation improvements within a specific time period.

**Urban center / urban village** - a neighborhood, community or town that has an adequate mix of land uses and services to support local needs.

**Urban governmental services** - include those governmental services historically and typically delivered by cities, and include storm and sanitary sewer systems, domestic water systems, street cleaning services, fire and police protection services, public transit services, and other public utilities associated with urban areas and normally not associated with non-urban areas.

**Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)** - are areas within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature. Urban growth areas (UGAs) shall include areas and densities sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county for the succeeding twenty-year period.

**Urban Reserve Areas** - those lands which may be designated within the rural element of Spokane County's Comprehensive Plan having the potential for inclusion within an Urban Growth Area (UGA) as expansion of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) is deemed necessary to meet land availability requirements of future Washington State Office of Financial Management (O.F.M.) population projections. Selection of lands as Urban Reserve Areas shall utilize the criteria for Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) found within the Growth Management Act (GMA) (chapter 36.70A RCW).

**Utilities** - means enterprises or facilities serving the public by means of an integrated system of collection, transmission, distribution, and processing facilities through more or less permanent physical connections between the plant of the serving entity and the premises of the customer. Included are systems for the delivery of natural gas, electricity, telecommunications services, and water, and for the disposal of sewage.

**Wellhead protection areas** - designated areas surrounding wells that supply water to a public water system, that require protection from contaminants.

**Will** - has the same meaning as the term *shall*.

94-1686

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FILED OR RECORDED  
REQUEST OF *Co. Commissioner*

AUG 30 2 33 PM '95

# APPENDIX

WILLIAM E. DONAHUE  
AUDITOR  
SPOKANE COUNTY WASH.  
DEPUTY

*Alta Skanne*

[INTEROFFICE]

## Amendments

to

Growth Management Act

# GMA Joint Planning

## INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

This is to Certify this is a true and correct copy of the original document *amendment to*  
NO. 94-1686 on file in the County  
Commissioners minutes of 12-20-94  
dated this 19 day of Sept 1995  
BY: *Alta Skanne*  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

**Amendment Number:** 95-01

**Adopted:** February 17, 1995

**Section 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF STEERING COMMITTEE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS THEREOF, ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND A TECHNICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

There is hereby established a steering committee of elected officials, hereinafter referred to as the Steering Committee, having those responsibilities set forth in Section 3 hereinafter. The Steering Committee shall consist of three County Commissioners from the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners; three elected officials from the City of Spokane; one elected official each from Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Medical Lake and Millwood; and one elected official to represent the five towns of Fairfield, Latah, Rockford, Spangle and Waverly. Representatives will be selected by the legislative bodies of each jurisdiction in any manner they choose. Jurisdictions may also appoint alternates, who must be an elected official. Alternates may vote during the absence of the regular representative.

The Steering Committee will strive for consensus on all matters; however, when a vote is required, each member shall have one vote and a total of nine (9) votes is required for a motion to succeed unless otherwise specified within this interlocal agreement.

The chair and vice-chair of the committee shall be elected from the membership on an annual basis.

In addition to the voting members of the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee shall also include ~~five (5)~~ eight (8) ex-officio (non-voting) members as follows: three (3) members representing the junior taxing districts (school districts, water districts, and fire protection districts), one (1) representing the electrical / gas / telecommunications utilities, the chair of the advisory committee known as the Growth Management Advisory Committee, and three (3) members representing unincorporated areas of Spokane County. ~~Ex-officio members, with the exception of the chair of the Growth Management Advisory Committee those representing unincorporated areas of Spokane County,~~ are nominated by consensus among their peers and are then appointed by the Steering Committee. Ex-officio members representing unincorporated areas of Spokane County shall be nominated by the Board of County Commissioners and appointed by the Steering Committee. ~~Nominations shall be submitted by the second regular meeting of the Steering Committee held under the terms of this interlocal agreement.~~

An advisory committee, to be known as the Growth Management Advisory Committee, is hereby established in order to broaden representation and to provide input to the Steering Committee on its responsibilities as set forth in Section 3 hereinafter. The advisory committee shall consist of representatives from each jurisdiction's Planning Commission and other individuals / groups as may be identified and appointed through an affirmative vote of nine (9) voting members of the Steering Committee.

The advisory committee shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among its membership on an annual basis. The chair shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Steering Committee.

A technical support committee, to be known as the Technical Support Committee, is hereby established to advise and provide support to the Steering Committee. The Technical Support Committee shall consist of the staff personnel of the Parties plus the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, representing the disciplines of planning, transportation, public works/engineering, finance, geographic information systems, and other appropriate agencies of local government. The junior taxing districts and / or electrical / gas / telecommunication utilities may assign staff representatives to meet with the Technical Support Committee.

In the event that additional general purpose governmental entities are created through incorporation, they shall become represented in such number(s) as may be hereafter agreed to on both the Steering Committee and the Technical Support Committee on the effective date of their incorporation. In all subsequent decisions, the number of the Steering Committee members needed to reach a decision will be adjusted to account for the new member(s). However, prior decisions will not be reconsidered and re-voted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this amendment to the interlocal agreement to be executed on the date shown below their signature block.

CITY OF AIRWAY HTS., WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8-18-95

CITY OF CHENEY, WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 4-11-95

CITY OF DEER PARK, WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: August 4, 1995

TOWNS OF FAIRFIELD, LATAH, ROCKFORD, SPANGLE, WAVERLY WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8/4/95

CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE, WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: August 4/1995

TOWN OF MILLWOOD, WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8/4/95

CITY OF SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8-4-95

SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8/4/95

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8-4-95

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8-24-95

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8-4-95

[Signature]  
Steering Committee Member

Dated: 8/24/95

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2009

AgSht04.25.2008



AGENDA SHEET FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: January 26, 2009

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
SPOKANE, WA

Submitting Dept.  
Planning Services

Contact Person/Phone No.  
Tirrell Black 625-6185

Council Sponsor  
Nancy McLaughlin

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

- Contract
- Report
- Claims

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Emergency Ord
- Resolution
- Final Reading Ord
- First Reading Ord
- Special Consideration
- Hearing

CITY PRIORITY

- Communications
- Economic Development
- Growth Management
- Human Services
- Neighborhoods
- Public Safety
- Quality Service Delivery
- Racial Equity/Cultural Diversity
- Rebuild/Maintain Infrastructure

- CLERK'S FILE
- RENEWS
- CROSS REF
- ENG
- BID
- REQUISITION

APR 1994-0930

STANDING COMMITTEES

- (Date of Notification)
- Finance \_\_\_\_\_
  - Neighborhoods \_\_\_\_\_
  - Planning/Community & Econ Dev \_\_\_\_\_
  - Public Safety \_\_\_\_\_
  - Public Works \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood/Commission/Committee Notified: \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA

WORDING:

(If contract, include the term.)

Update to GMA Steering Committee of Elected Officials Interlocal Agreement entered into by the cities of Spokane, Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Fairfield, Latah, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle, Spokane Valley, Waverly, and the County of Spokane for the purpose of revising the GMA Joint Planning Interlocal Agreement (for Steering Committee) as amended on October 9, 2003, and originally adopted August 24, 1995 by County Resolution 94-1686.

BACKGROUND:

(Attach additional sheet if necessary)

This revision to the existing agreement clarifies procedural rules for the GMA Steering Committee. The steering committee met on November 19, 2008 and proposed this amendment. These changes include establishment of process for rotation of Chair and Vice Chair; establish process for Ad Hoc Committee appointment; set criteria and define composition for Non Voting Members; define role of PTAC and Spokane County; establish procedure for transmittal of Official Actions to Board of County Commissioners; adopt public participation guidelines; set regular meeting time; and clarify the amendment of agreement procedure.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve.

<b>Fiscal Impact:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>Budget Account:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure: \$		#	
<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue: \$		#	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Neutral			

ATTACHMENTS:

Include in Packets:  
On file for Review in Office of City Clerk:

SIGNATURES:

Department Head

*FOL T.S.*  
  
Division Director

Finance  
  
Council President

Legal

For the Mayor

DISTRIBUTION: Nancy McLaughlin

Tirrell Black, Planning Services  
Vickie Merritt  
vmerritt@spokanecounty.org

Susan Winchell  
swinchell@spokanecounty.org

COUNCIL ACTION:

APPROVED BY  
SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL:

*January 26, 2009*  
  
CITY CLERK

G r o w t h   M a n a g e m e n t   A c t  
**GMA Joint Planning**  
**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

**THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**, is entered into by and among the cities of Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Fairfield, Latah, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle, Spokane Valley, Spokane, and Waverly, hereinafter sometimes jointly referred to as "Cities," and the County of Spokane, sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "County," jointly, hereinafter referred to along with the Cities as the "Parties," or "Jurisdictions."

**FURTHERMORE, THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**, having been finalized at the November 19, 2008 Steering Committee meeting, will replace the GMA Joint Planning Interlocal Agreement, as amended on October 9, 2003, and originally adopted August 24, 1995 by Resolution 94-1686.

**WITNESSETH**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW Section 36.70A.210, the legislative authority of a county that plans under the Growth Management Act (GMA) shall adopt a Countywide planning policy or policies in cooperation with the Cities located in whole or in part within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties realize the Countywide Planning Policies call for the continued collaboration and cooperation among the parties in their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to adopt comprehensive plans and development regulations implementing such plans; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of RCW Section 36.70A.110, each county that is required or chooses to plan under the Growth Management Act (GMA) shall designate an urban growth area or areas in consultation/agreement with cities within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 39.34 RCW, two or more public agencies may enter into agreements with one another for joint or cooperative action; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the above-cited statutory provisions, the parties hereto desire to enter into an interlocal cooperation agreement pursuant to which the parties will (1) establish a Steering Committee of elected officials and other committees to perform certain duties and provide recommendations to the Parties in conjunction with their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA); (2) establish the responsibilities of the Steering Committee of elected officials and other committees; (3) establish a process to amend the adopted Countywide Planning Policies; (4) establish a distribution formula for grant funds received from Washington State Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development or its successor for growth management; and (5) provide for other matters related to the preceding items.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the mutual obligations hereinafter set forth, and as authorized by chapter 39.34 RCW, RCW Section 36.70A.210 and RCW Section 36.70A.110, the parties hereto do mutually agree as follows:

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**Section 1: PURPOSE**

The parties hereto recognize that it is in the public's interest that local governments cooperate with each other and coordinate their respective obligations for planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA). The Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates that the County adopt Countywide Planning Policies in cooperation with cities located in whole or in part within the county. Additionally, the Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates that the County designate urban growth areas in cooperation and consultation with Cities within the County.

The parties have entered into prior interlocal cooperation agreement(s) establishing a collaborative process for the adoption of Countywide Planning Policies and related matters. These interlocal agreement(s) terminate upon the County's adoption of Countywide Planning Policies. The parties now desire to enter into another interlocal agreement which will continue the cooperative and collaborative process in conjunction with their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA). The purpose of this interlocal agreement is to (1) establish a steering committee of elected officials and other committees to perform certain duties and provide recommendations to the parties in conjunction with their respective obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA); (2) establish the responsibilities of the steering committee of elected officials and other committees; (3) establish a process to amend the adopted Countywide Planning Policies; (4) establish a distribution formula for grant funds received from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development or its successor for growth management; and (5) provide for other matters related to the preceding items.



---

**Section 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF STEERING COMMITTEE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS THEREOF, AND A TECHNICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

There is hereby established a steering committee of elected officials, hereinafter referred to as the Steering Committee, having those responsibilities set forth in Section 3 hereof. The Steering Committee shall consist of three (3) County Commissioners from the Spokane County Board of Commissioners, three (3) elected officials from the City of Spokane, two (2) elected officials from the City of Spokane Valley, one (1) elected official each from Liberty Lake, Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Medical Lake and Millwood; and one (1) elected official to represent the five towns of Fairfield, Latah, Rockford, Spangle and Waverly. Representatives will be selected by the legislative bodies of each jurisdiction in any manner they choose. Jurisdictions may also appoint alternates, who must be an elected official. Alternates may vote during the absence of the regular representative.

The Steering Committee will strive for consensus on all matters; however, when a vote is required, each member shall have one vote and a majority of the voting members in attendance is required for a motion to succeed, unless otherwise specified within this interlocal agreement. In order to conduct business, a quorum must be present; a quorum will consist of a simple majority of the total Steering Committee voting membership.

The Steering Committee shall at the end of its regular meeting in June of each year, elect from among its voting members a Chair and Vice Chair, each of whom shall serve for a period of one year and thereafter until their respective successors have been elected, but the Chair and Vice Chair may be removed at any time by a vote of 2/3 of the total voting membership. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected on a rotational basis in the following order: Spokane County, City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, Small City (under 15,000 population). The Vice Chair is intended to serve as Chair the following year. In the event of a vacancy of the Chair or Vice Chair, another Chair or Vice Chair shall be elected from that same category. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair at a meeting, a Chair Pro Tem shall be selected by a majority of those members present to serve as Chair.

Subcommittees of the Steering Committee will be appointed by the Chair as needed on an ad hoc basis. Ad hoc committees are intended to serve a specific purpose for a limited amount of time.

In addition to the voting members of the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee shall also include three (3) elected officials as non voting members representing the school districts, water districts, and fire protection districts and one (1) citizen-at-large member representing the urban

growth areas of Spokane County. Elected non voting members are nominated by consensus among their peers and are then appointed by the Steering Committee. The citizen-at-large member shall be nominated by the Board of County Commissioners and appointed by the Steering Committee at the applicable June meeting for a four-year term.

A Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) is hereby established to advise and provide support to the Steering Committee. The PTAC shall consist of the staff personnel of the Parties plus the Spokane Regional Transportation Council. A Chair for the PTAC will be selected by the PTAC on an annual basis to chair the PTAC meetings and serve as liaison to the Steering Committee. It is the intention to rotate the chair of the PTAC among jurisdictions and to share responsibilities for specific tasks among the PTAC members.

Spokane County Building and Planning Department will serve as the repository for all records of the Steering Committee and will provide administrative staff to work in conjunction with the Chair to arrange meetings, prepare agendas and minutes, advertise public hearings, and provide notice and necessary documents to the Steering Committee.

In the event that additional general purpose governmental entities are created through incorporation, they shall become represented in such number(s) as may be hereafter agreed to by the Steering Committee on the effective date of their incorporation, and their adoption of this document. In all subsequent decisions, the number of the Steering Committee members needed to reach a decision will be adjusted to account for the new member(s). However, prior decisions will not be reconsidered and re-voted. Such entities shall be entitled to a non-voting seat until the official date of incorporation. The Representatives will be selected by the legislative body in any manner it chooses.

---

### **Section 3: RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Steering Committee, as established under Section 2, will have those responsibilities as set forth in the Countywide Planning Policies adopted under RCW Section 36.70A.210. Rather than repeat those responsibilities verbatim within this section, the parties agreed to generally outline those responsibilities referencing the exact policy. It is expected that the parties, when necessary, will look to the exact language when further explanation is necessary of any responsibility set forth hereinafter. The parties further recognize that from time to time the Countywide Planning Policies may be amended as provided for in section 4 hereinafter. In instances where such amendments occur, the parties agree that the responsibilities set forth within this section shall automatically be

amended, when applicable, to include such changes without the necessity of formal amendment of the agreement.

The general outline of Steering Committee responsibilities are as follows:

**A. Recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Spokane County**

The Steering Committee will:

1. establish a date by which each jurisdiction will submit proposals for interim Urban Growth Areas (IUGAs) (*Urban Growth Areas #4*).
2. analyze each jurisdiction's interim and final Urban Growth Area (UGA) proposal (*Urban Growth Areas #6*).
3. analyze each jurisdiction's UGA amendment proposals and population allocations for recommendation to the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners.
4. oversee development of a carrying capacity study for regional capital facilities (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #8*).
5. recommend allocation of population growth to jurisdictions (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #9*).
6. review amendment proposals to the Countywide Planning Policies and/or UGAs (*interlocal agreement*).

**B. Recommendations to all the jurisdictions**

The Steering Committee will:

1. specify minimum levels of service (*Urban Growth Areas #2 and Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #1*).
2. establish employment projections and ratios in cooperation with the Spokane area business community (*Urban Growth Areas #9*).
3. develop regionally consistent programs to protect natural resource lands, critical areas, and open space (*Urban Growth Areas #15*).
4. oversee preparation of a regional utility corridor plan (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #11*).
5. identify or establish siting and service delivery criteria to locate essential public facilities (*Siting of Capital Facilities of a Countywide or State wide Nature #2*).
6. establish a process for distributing essential public facilities among jurisdictions (*Siting of Capital Facilities of a Countywide or State-wide Nature #3*).

**C. Miscellaneous responsibilities**

The Steering Committee will:

1. prepare a regional formula to designate and acquire public access to open space corridors (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #4*).
2. pursue strategies for regional water resource management (*Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services #14*).

3. promote a proactive planning approach between Washington and Idaho to establish uniform environmental protection measures (*Economic Development #6*).

**D. Official Actions**

All official actions of the Steering Committee shall be reduced to writing and incorporated in the official minutes and signed by the Chair. Recommendations from the Steering Committee shall be transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners by a letter from the Chair of the Steering Committee and shall include the motion and vote of the Committee including an indication of which members supported and which did not support the motion.

**E. Public Participation Guidelines**

The Steering Committee will use the Public Participation Program Guidelines adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on February 24, 1998 and as amended on September 29, 1998.

**F. Regular Meeting**

The Steering Committee will set a regular meeting time, date, and place on or before its July meeting of each year.

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**Section 4: AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES**

Upon initial adoption of Countywide Planning Policies by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County pursuant to the provisions of RCW Section 36.70A.210, the Parties agree that such adopted Countywide Planning Policies may be amended only through the following procedures:

1. The Countywide Planning Policies may be reviewed and amendments considered, as appropriate, once every five years following the initial adoption date of the Countywide Planning Policies and each successive five year period thereafter. Amendment proposals must be submitted for Steering Committee consideration by a voting member of the Steering Committee. Members of the general public must submit amendment proposals through a voting member of the Steering Committee. All such amendments shall be considered concurrently so the cumulative effect of each individual proposal can be ascertained.
2. The Countywide Planning Policies may be reviewed and amended more frequently than prescribed in paragraph #1 above. Such amendment proposals must be submitted for Steering Committee consideration by a voting member of the Steering Committee. Members of the

general public must submit amendment proposals through a voting member of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee must pass a motion by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the total voting membership in order to place such an amendment proposal before the Steering Committee for review and recommendation. The Steering Committee may establish criteria to help assess the need for processing such amendments.

3. The process of amending the Countywide Planning Policies shall be consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA) provisions for original adoption of the Countywide Planning Policies. The Steering Committee in reviewing and making recommendations on proposed amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies shall take into consideration the intent that Countywide Planning Policies are a written policy statement or statements used solely for establishing a Countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed, amended, and adopted. As such, each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan relies upon the long term goal or vision statement of each policy. There is an expectation of policy stability which must be weighed, along with the impact to each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan, when considering an amendment to the Countywide Planning Policies.

4. The Steering Committee shall establish procedures for processing, reviewing, and recommending amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies.

5. The Steering Committee's recommendation or action on each and every amendment proposal shall be forwarded, together with all amendment proposals to the Board of County Commissioners in order for the Board to have the benefit of considering the amendment proposal(s) concurrently so the cumulative effect of each individual proposal can be ascertained.

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**Section 5: TERM, AMENDMENT, OR TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

The term of this interlocal agreement shall commence upon the County's adoption of the Countywide Planning Policies as provided for in RCW Section 36.70A.210.

This interlocal agreement may be amended or terminated by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the total voting membership of the Steering Committee and ratified by each jurisdiction.

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**Section 6: FUNDING**

Grant funds received from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development or its successor for Growth Management Act (GMA) responsibilities shall be distributed to the Parties pursuant to a distribution formula mutually agreed upon. Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the distribution formula will be re-evaluated. Factors included in such re-evaluation will include per capita allocation based on the annual Office of Financial Management estimate of population and the projected need for multi-jurisdictional programs requiring special skills consultants.

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**Section 7: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Upon termination of this interlocal agreement, all real or personal property acquired by any of the Parties hereto with monies which they have respectively received under Section 6 herein above, shall remain the sole property of such Parties.

2. The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, shall, as provided for in RCW Section 39.34.040, file an executed copy of this interlocal agreement with the Secretary of State and Spokane County Auditor.

3. The section headings in this interlocal agreement have been inserted solely for the purpose of convenience and ready reference. In no way do they purport to, and shall not be deemed to, define, limit or extend the scope or intent of the sections to which they appertain.

4. This interlocal agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the Parties. No other understandings, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this interlocal agreement shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto.

5. Should (1) any section or portion thereof of this interlocal agreement be held unlawful and unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, and/or (2) should the Washington State Legislature adopt any legislation which is subsequently signed by the Governor affecting any sections or portions thereof within this interlocal agreement, and/or (3) should the qualified electorate voters approve a combined City-County form of government as provided for in Amendment 58 of the Washington State Constitution, the Parties agree to immediately meet and amend this interlocal agreement as may be deemed necessary.

DATED: 2/2/09

CITY OF SPOKANE

By: [Signature]  
Title: City Administrator

Attest:

Approved as to form:

[Signature]  
City Clerk

[Signature]  
Assistant City Attorney

