



Planning & Development Services

1800 Continental Place ▪ Mount Vernon, Washington 98273
office 360-416-1320 ▪ pds@co.skagit.wa.us ▪ www.skagitcounty.net/planning

Public Comments on 2026 Docket

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Comment 1.1

Deepti Khanna

From: Jan Edelstein <jmeten@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Robby Eckroth; PDS comments
Cc: Jason D'Avignon; 'Ellen Bynum'
Subject: Exhibit A 2026 Docket C26-1 General Code Language Cleanup--Draft

Hello All,

I submit this as a formal comment assuming the public comment period for the 2026 Docket C26-1 has opened. I did not find information in the Planning Commission's agenda packet stating when that period opens and closes.

I appreciate your return to the definition of Party of Record. Although this version returns a 4th avenue to qualify for notice, it is not clearly consistent with RCW 36.70B.130, which requires that notice of any local project decision shall be distributed to "any person who, prior to the rendering of the decision, requested notice of the decision or submitted substantive comments on the application." Given that the definition of "Party of Record" determines who has standing to file an administrative appeal, this definition should be clearly as broad as 36.70B.130. One wonders why the County doesn't use the language of .130.

If you are to continue with the list of 4 subsets of the definition, please make it clear that each of the 4 sentences apply to "any person who, prior to the rendering of the decision, requested notice of the decision or submitted substantive comments on the application" as required by RCW 36.70B.130. As written, notice could be withheld from a commentor who submitted comments outside of the limited public comment, but before the decision was written, and did not know that he or she was required to specifically request notice of the decision and rights of appeal.

Please also amend SCC 14.06.150 Table 1 to provide that Type 1 review does require notice in view of the right of local appeal. See 36.70B.110(9) which, if a right to an administrative appeal is provided, requires that the appeal "shall be filed within fourteen days after the notice of the decision or after other notice that the decision has been made and is appealable." Without such notice, the party of record cannot effectively exercise its right to appeal. "A necessary element in due process is that the opportunity to defend must be given at a time when it can be effective. Unless the defense can speak at a time when there is a chance to be heard fairly, the opportunity to speak is a hollow one." Ritter v. Board of Com'rs of Adams County Public Hospital Dist. No. 1, 96 Wn.2d 503, 525; 637 P.2d. 949 (1981).

I have dealt with the very situation of being a party of record in a Type 1 permit review, who filed an appeal within 14 days of learning of the permit revision issue, but had my appeal summarily dismissed when the Director said (no written documentation) that he issued the permit revision 22 days earlier. This is contrary to American law, as well as RCW 36.70B.020 and SCC 14.06.110 which establish the two goals of the permitting regulations: a efficient process for the applicant and for the public to provide timely comments on land use proposals.

14.06.110 Purpose.

This Chapter establishes standard procedures for review of [project permit](#) applications and [appeals](#). **These procedures are intended to promote timely review and informed public participation**, eliminate redundancy in the process, minimize delay and expense, and result in approvals that further the goals and policies of the [Comprehensive Plan](#). These procedures are intended to be consistent with RCW Chapter [36.70B](#) and integrate the land use permit process with the [SEPA](#) environmental review process. (Ord. O20240005 § 1 (Exh. A)) (Emphasis added.)

RCW 36.70B.010

(3) This regulatory burden has significantly added to the cost and time needed to obtain local and state land use permits **and has made it difficult for the public to know how and when to provide timely comments on land use proposals...** Emphasis added.

Please give me notice by e-mail of future hearings, work sessions, or scheduled votes, as well as public comment periods, further work on 2026 Docket C26-1. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Jan M. Edelstein

17173 West Big Lake Blvd.

Mt. Vernon, WA 98274

jmeten@comcast.net

208-720-0709

From: Jan Edelstein <jmeten@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 7:59 AM
To: Robby Eckroth; PDS comments
Cc: Jason D`Avignon; 'Ellen Bynum'
Subject: Public Comment on Exhibit A 2026 Docket C26-1 General Code Language Cleanup--Draft

Hello All,

More comments on the 2026 Docket C26-1 – Changes to 14.04 Definition of Party of Record.

The County's description of this provision contained in its SEPA Checklist makes clear the problem of how the County proposes to change the definition.

- SCC 14.04.020 – Party of Record Definition. The amendment to the definition of “Party of Record” clarifies that an individual must submit written comments during the official public comment period or provide testimony at an openrecord public hearing in order to qualify as a Party of Record, or have formally requested notifications in writing and provided a complete mailing address, consistent with RCW 36.70B.130. The revised definition also expressly includes property owners and applicants.

This definition is NOT consistent with RCW 36.70B.130 which requires submitting of comments or request for information to be filed prior to the decision being made. It does not restrict the definition to only those who filed comments within the limited, specified, comment period as your proposed change would do.

Please drop this change.

By reference, I incorporate the e-mail below in this comment.

Regards, Jan Edelstein

17173 West Big Lake Blvd.

Mt. Vernon, WA 98274

208-720-0709

From: Jan Edelstein <jmeten@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 4:39 PM
To: 'Robby Eckroth' <reckroth@co.skagit.wa.us>; 'PDS comments' <pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us>
Cc: 'Jason D`Avignon' <jasond@co.skagit.wa.us>; 'Ellen Bynum' <skye@cnw.com>
Subject: Exhibit A 2026 Docket C26-1 General Code Language Cleanup--Draft

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RCW 36.70B.010

(3) This regulatory burden has significantly added to the cost and time needed to obtain local and state land use permits **and has made it difficult for the public to know how and when to provide timely comments on land use proposals...** Emphasis added.

Please give me notice by e-mail of future hearings, work sessions, or scheduled votes, as well as public comment periods, further work on 2026 Docket C26-1. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Jan M. Edelstein

17173 West Big Lake Blvd.

Mt. Vernon, WA 98274

jmeten@comcast.net

208-720-0709

Comment 2

Deepti Khanna

From: Planning & Development Services
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Robby Eckroth
Subject: FW: PDS Comments

From PDS inbox.

From: website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 7:30 AM
To: Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>
Subject: PDS Comments

Name : Erica Griffith
Address : 12649 Merrifield Rd
City : Sedro Woolley
State : WA
Zip : 98284
email : erica98284@hotmail.com
PermitProposal : LRPLN-2025-0001 – ABAWA II LLC Small Scale Business Rezone
Comments : Public Comment – 2026 Comprehensive Plan Docket
LRPLN-2025-0001 – ABAWA II LLC Small Scale Business Rezone

I oppose the proposed rezone of 23528 Old Day Creek Road from Rural Village Residential (RVR) to Small-Scale Business (SSB).

My primary concern is that commercial business activities appear to already be occurring on this property before the requested rezone has been approved. Granting a commercial rezone after business operations have already begun would set a poor precedent by allowing businesses to operate first and seek the appropriate zoning afterward.

I am also concerned about public safety. Trucks associated with the business are frequently parked in locations that reduce visibility for drivers approaching the roundabout at State Route 9, Old Day Creek Road, and Francis Road. In addition, trucks have at times blocked or partially obstructed Old Day Creek Road, where the existing hill already limits sight distance. These conditions create unnecessary hazards for motorists.

The County should also consider the surrounding land uses. This property is adjacent to State Route 9, established homes, agricultural land, and is in close proximity to a local elementary school. The area experiences regular school traffic, including parents, school buses, and young pedestrians. Any increase in commercial vehicle traffic or activities should be carefully evaluated to ensure they do not adversely affect traffic safety or the character of the surrounding community.

Another concern is the storage of materials on the property. I have observed garbage, discarded

materials, and other items being brought back to the site. These activities are not consistent with the surrounding rural character and raise concerns about how the property may be used if commercial zoning is granted.

Finally, I ask the County to consider the long-term consequences of this request. A rezone changes the property's allowable uses permanently, not just for the current owner or business. If this application is approved, future owners could establish different Small-Scale Business uses with greater traffic, longer operating hours, more employees, additional deliveries, outdoor storage, or other activities that have greater impacts than those currently occurring. The County should evaluate whether the full range of uses permitted under the Small-Scale Business designation is compatible with this location and its surrounding residential, agricultural, transportation, and school-related uses.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Skagit County deny the requested rezone or require a thorough analysis demonstrating that the proposal is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, protects public safety, and is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and all nearby land uses.

From Host Address: 192.168.21.99

Date and time received: 7/17/2026 7:25:28 AM

Comment 3.1

Deepti Khanna

From: Joe Musielak <joe@haneyplace.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 8:47 PM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

Dear Land Use Committee Members,

I am writing in response to the proposed land use change for the property on Allen Rd in Bow. Parcels: P109100, P109099, P109098, P344222, P34223.

I am absolutely against this change for the purposes of mining minerals, gravel, sand rock or any other mining purposes.

My reasons are:

1) I do not believe the assertion stated that there will be no environmental impact in your paper work.

2) I do not want the increased noise pollution around my residence. There is enough noise pollution from the Miles gravel pit further down the ridge to the south. Adding to this noise pollution is absolutely not acceptable.

3) I do not want the threat of flooding the lower part of my property at 17520 Allen Rd, Bow Washington 98232 to be exacerbated as evidenced by the year round standing water that exists further to the south near the Miles gravel mine at the end of the ridge.

4) Increased traffic on Allen Rd in front of my house is completely unacceptable. For routine use with heavy trucks on our narrow lane it would require widening the road and I am unwilling to sell or give up any of my property along this road to allow for this.

5) I am unwilling to risk contamination of our water supply which comes from the well on our property.

6) I am absolutely unwilling to accept the devaluation of my home's property that would accompany an active mining facility ANY closer to my property.

7) If necessary I will consider legal action up to and including a class action law suit.

Sincerely,
Joseph L Musielak DVM

17520 Allen Rd.
Bow, WA 98232
360-708-9581

Comment 3.2

Deepti Khanna

From: Joe Musielak <joe@haneyplace.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 8:52 PM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments
Attachments: IMG_5216.jpg

You don't often get email from joe@haneyplace.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in response to the proposed land use change for the property on Allen Rd in Bow. Parcels: P109100, P109099, P109098, P344222, P34223.

I would like to address the comments made by the representative of the Rasar Family and the Miles mining company made with the attempt to discredit the testimony of Dr. Kathy Schoop on August 18, 2026.

The information is clearly stated on the county website that the access to the mining company is via Allen Road. There is no mention of other access on this website. I have attached a screenshot of this part of the document on the website with the pertinent part highlighted in yellow.

This indicates one of three things, none of which inspire confidence in this enterprise.

- 1) The representative for the Miles mining company, and the Rasar Family was telling a bald faced lie.
- 2) The mining company and the Rasar Family submitted incorrect documents, **intentionally** misleading the committee and the public.
- 3) The miles mining company and the Rasar Family are incompetent and neglectful, and did not proofread the information they submitted.

The representative for the Miles Mining Company and the Rasar Family should apologize to Dr. Kathy Schoop, and this entire issue of rezoning should be ruled against and never brought up again.

Sincerely,
Joe Musielak DVM

Comment 4

Deepti Khanna

From: Selah Would <moonltwillow@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:03 AM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

There is NO size data center that is acceptable to build in Skagit county. There is NO LAND that is acceptable to be used to build a date center in Skagit county.

Any plans that would allow such a travesty are absolute garbage and such dangerous biozard that the plans should be lit on fire and incenerated like the danger to the health of society that they are.

We don't want data centers built here EVER. This is a farming community. Write plans down instead that data centers will NEVER be allowed for the next 100 years.

Anyone in office who is for data centers.... Doesn't belong in office.

Selah Would

Comment 5

Deepti Khanna

From: Parr Stover <jaye45@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:38 PM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

Skagit Valley is renowned for its natural beauty, farm lands, and bodies of water. For our salmon, native peoples, and clean air. Each one of these things is put in jeopardy by data centers, because of the well documented effects they produce on the environment and communities they are built in. No amount of short term gain is worth spoiling the things that makes people decide to settle down in this valley to raise their families and retire. It would be the destruction of the soul of this county and a betrayal of every single person who lives here.

Rasar Rezone

Ken Dahlstedt <joebkooldahlstedt@gmail.com>

To: Ken Dahlstedt <joebkooldahlstedt@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 13 at 5:04 PM

July 24, 2026

Honorable Skagit County Planning Commissioners,

Thank You for this opportunity to present comments for Mr. Rasar's Application to rezone his property with a Mineral Resource Overlay Designation.

This application is the result of an inadvertent removal of two parcels from MRO designation approximately 10 acres. Our application for five parcels totaling 13.93 acres is to be consistent with the minerals located in this area.

This property was shown to have substantial potential for mineral resources as shown in the attached study by Geomatics MRO early in 1990.

This property was designated with an MRO in the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan: Designations And Zoning Districts July 28, 2003.

After communicating with Skagit County Planning Staff over the last year and a half and researching all potential justifications for the MRO removal. I found no evidence to support the removal of the MRO overlay.

Mr Rasar is requesting that we become compliant with the Growth Management Act by putting the MRO designation on his property.

To substantiate this application there were numerous borings to justify the appropriate designation for this property. Thank You for the Opportunity to provide this critical information for your deliberations.

Sincerely Ken Dahlstedt

(On behalf of Kevin Rasar)



RECEIVED

AUG 11 2026

SKAGIT COUNTY PDS

11:18 A.M.

LRPLN-2025-0003 Rasar Mineral Resource Overlay Designation Petition
(Quasi-Judicial: 14.08.060 Petitions—Approval criteria for map amendments and rezones.)

Summary

The petition seeks to designate five parcels—P109100, P109099, P109098, P34222, and P34233—within the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO). The parcels are all owned by John Rasar. Collectively, the parcels encompass approximately 13.93 acres and are zoned Rural Resource – Natural Resource Lands (RRc-NRL). The subject properties are located roughly 3,000 feet west of Interstate 5 and approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the Burlington city limits. They lie directly west of an existing Miles Sand and Gravel mineral extraction site and the current Mineral Resource Overlay boundary and are accessed by Allen Road, the route currently used for mineral hauling. The parcels are also directly north of the BNSF rail line.

The petitioner is requesting to designate the subject parcels within the Mineral Resource Overlay for future potential mineral extraction opportunities. Mining operations require approval of a Hearing Examiner Special Use Permit and are subject to the requirements of SCC 14.52 – Special Use Permits for Mining. If the MRO designation request is approved, the applicant would be required to obtain approval of a Hearing Examiner Special Use Permit and would be subject to environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

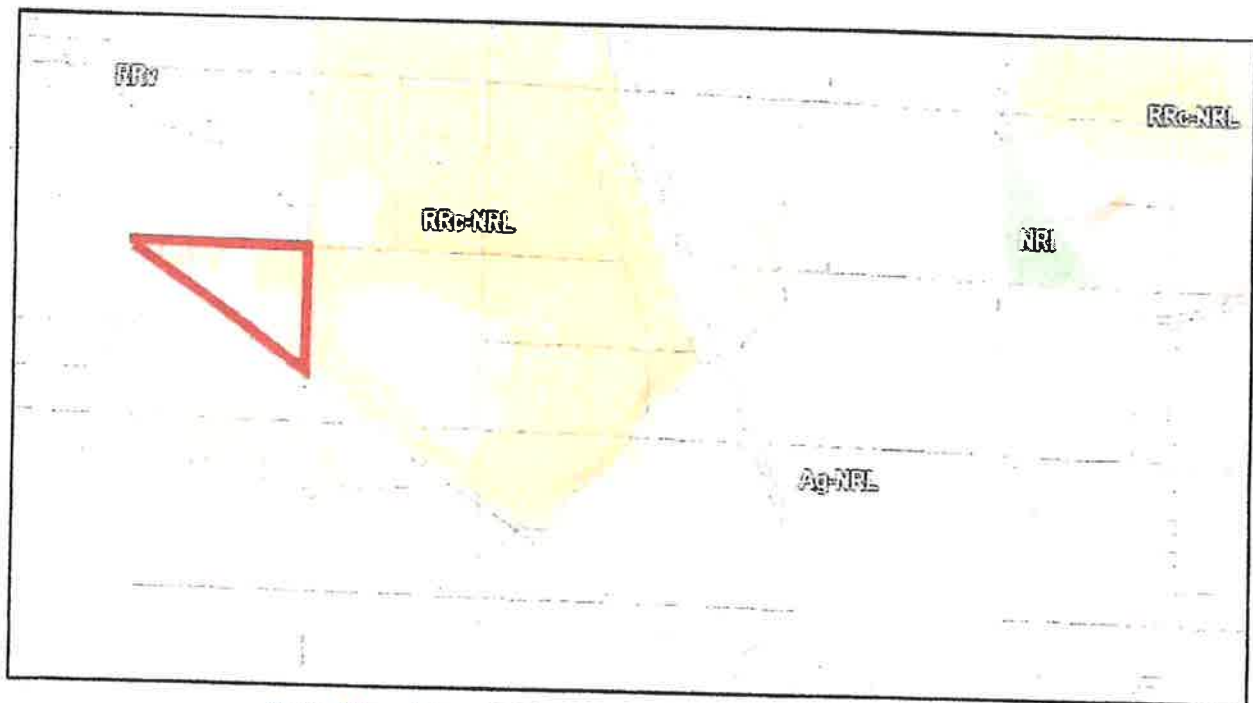


Figure 2 Parcel Map of P109100, P109099, P109098, P34222, and P34233

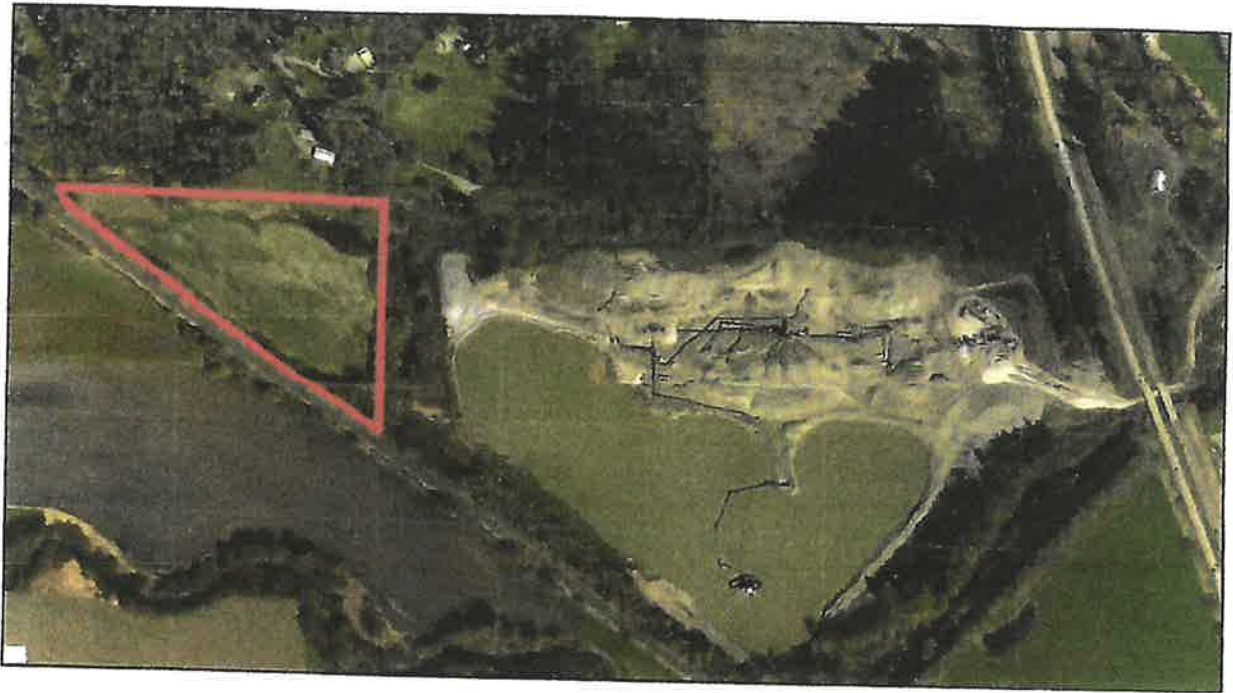


Figure 3 Aerial Image of P109100, P109099, P109098, P34222, and P34233

Recommendation

The Department recommends **including** this petition from the docket.

History

This is a new petition that has not been docketed in the recent past. However, two of the subject parcels were included in the Mineral Resources Overlay in the past and were removed from the overlay with the adoption of the 2005-2007 Periodic Comprehensive Plan update.

Analysis

The MRO is an overlay to Forest and Rural Resource lands, where geologic deposits and land use characteristics have long-term commercial significance for mineral extraction. The County has designated an estimated 61,682 acres as MRO.

During the 2005–2007 periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan, the County conducted an in-depth review of geologic formations and potential mineral resource deposits and revised the Mineral Resource Overlay mapping. Parcels P109100 and P34223 were included within the MRO prior to the updated Comprehensive Plan taking effect on October 16, 2007. However, during the update process, the two parcels were removed from the Mineral Resource Overlay. In researching this docket petition, staff were unable to locate documentation explaining the rationale for their removal.

Site-specific drilling submitted by the applicant indicates the presence of a significant aggregate resource on the property. The DNR's Aggregate Resource Inventory of Skagit County further identifies the site as being within 10 miles of areas with high aggregate demand, placing it within a favorable transportation distance.

SUMMARY OF EXHIBITS

John Rasar

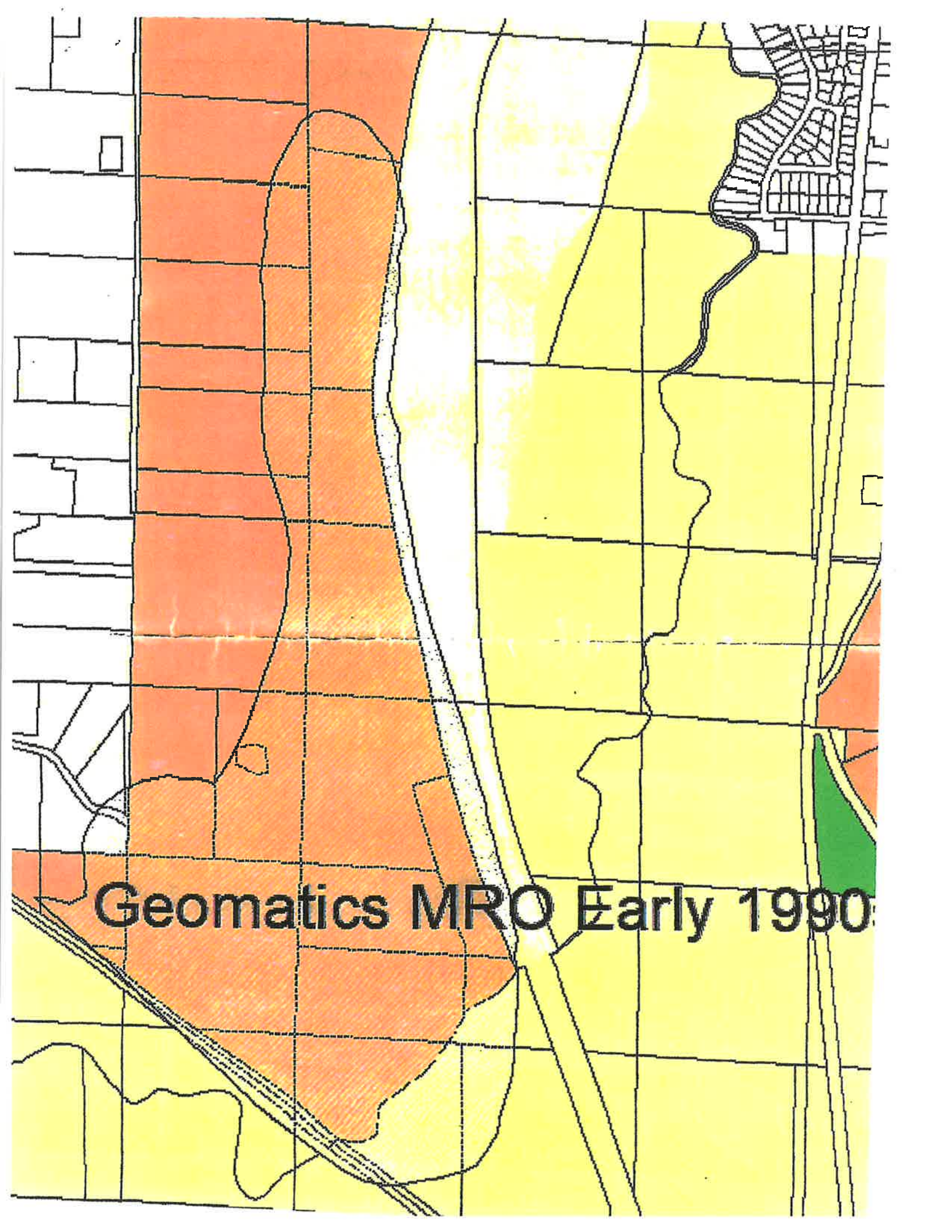
April 14, 2026

EXHIBIT A. - Geomatics MRO Early 1990

**EXHIBIT B. - SKAGIT COUNTY COMP PLAN
July 28, 2003**

**EXHIBIT C. - Miles Sand and Gravel and adjoining
Properties - P109100, P109099,
P109098, P34222, and P34223**

EXHIBIT D. - The Growth Management ACT



Geomatics MRO Early 1990

SKAGIT COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Designations And

ZONING DISTRICTS

* **JULY 28, 2003**

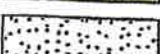
LEGEND

-  Incorporated Areas
-  [UGA] Urban Growth Areas

RURAL

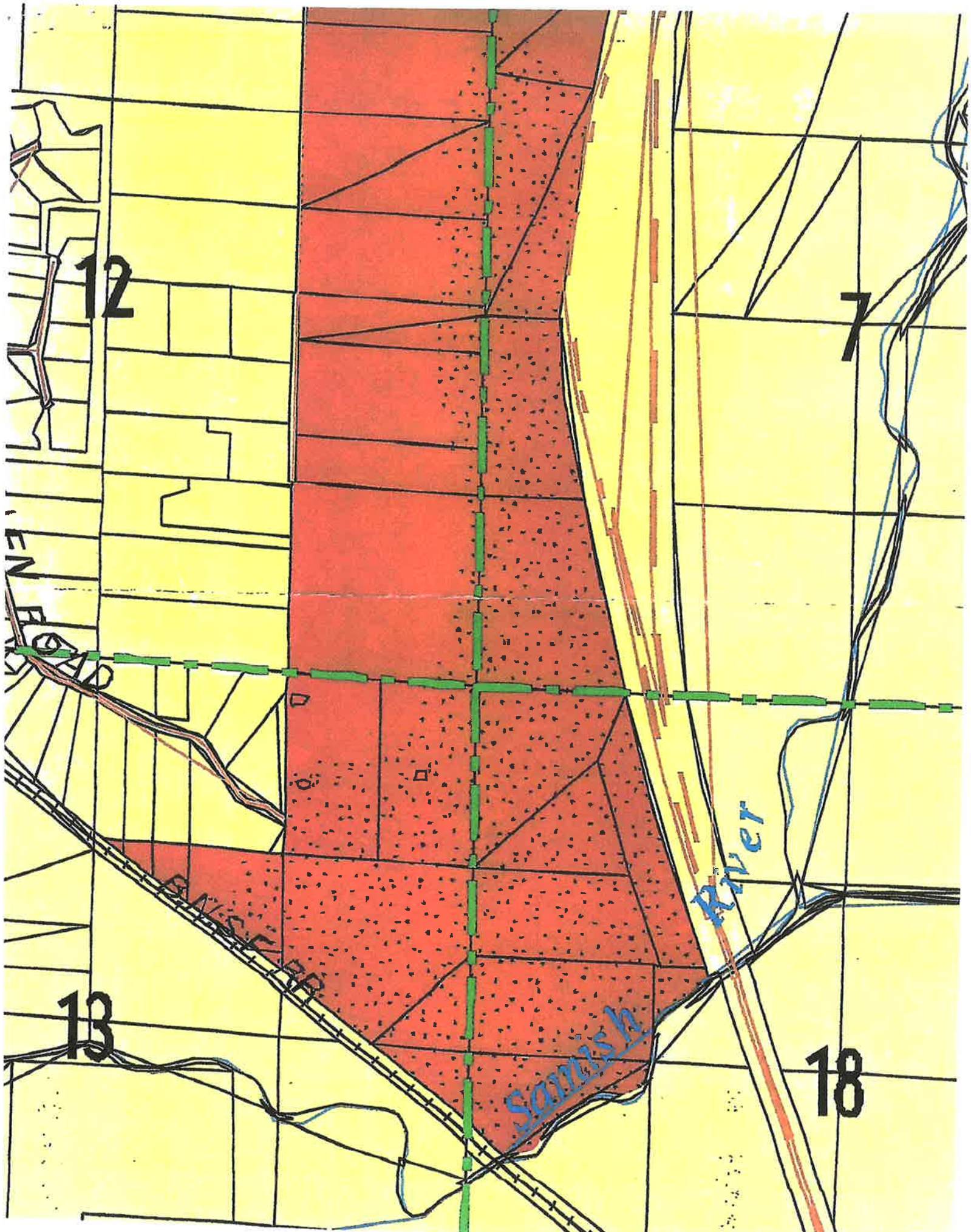
-  [RRv] Rural Reserve
-  [RI] Rural Intermediate
-  [RV] Rural Village Residential

NATURAL RESOURCE LAND [NRL]

-  [RRc-NRL] Rural Resource - NRL
-  [Ag-NRL] Agriculture - NRL
-  [SF-NRL] Secondary Forest - NRL
-  [IF-NRL] Industrial Forest - NRL
-  [MRO] Mineral Resource Overlay

COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL

-  Commercial / Industrial



12

7

13

18

Samish

River

ROAD



iMap

Additional Maps

Currently Viewing:
**Skagit County
Comprehensive Plan**

Common Maps

Comprehensive Plan/Zoning
Crime Related Incidents
Property Map
Aerial Images

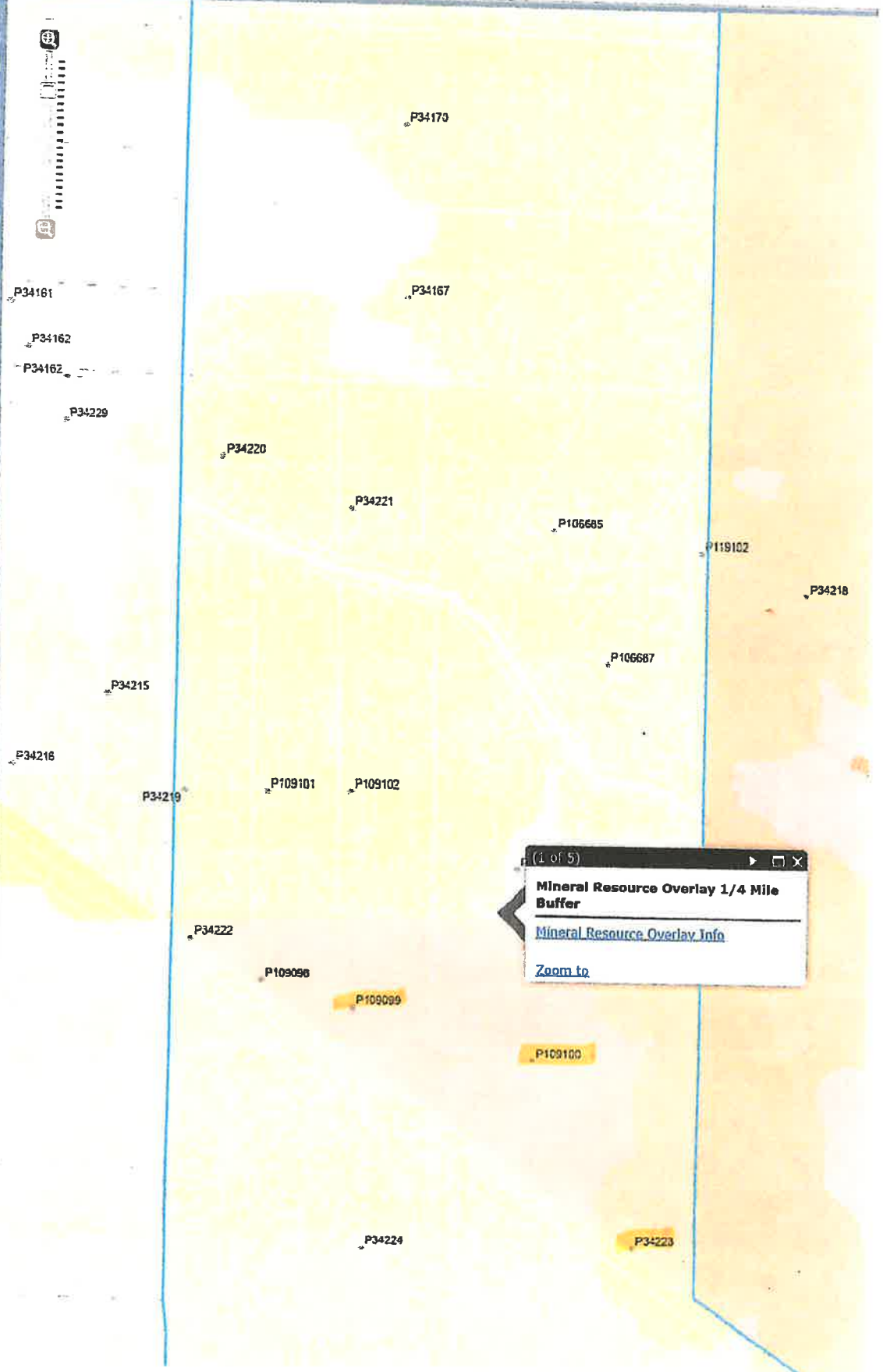
Map Categories

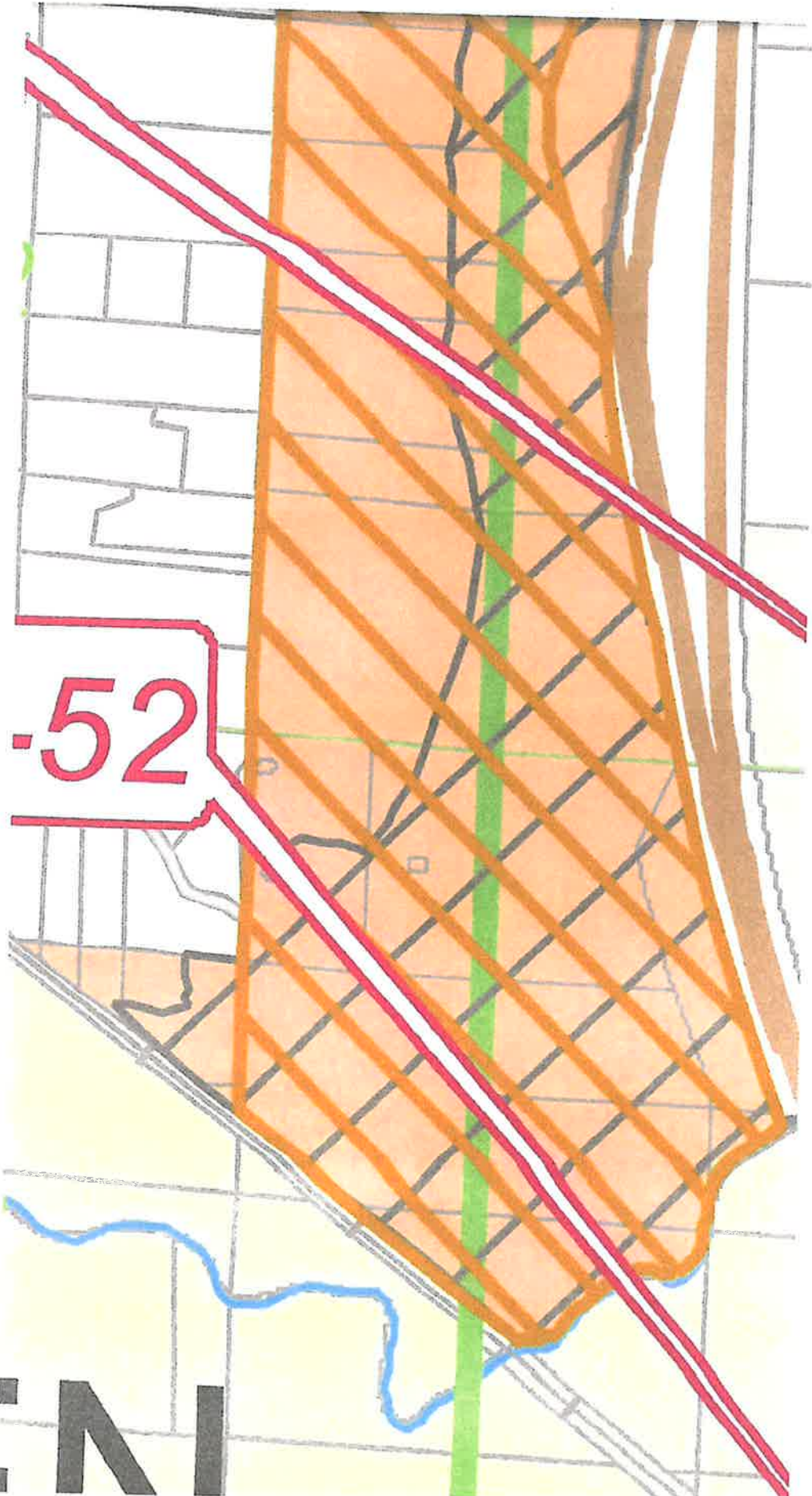
Districts
Elections
Lost Communities
Planning and Development
Property Assessment and Sales
Public Health
Public Safety
Public Works
Utilities

Build-A-Map

Topographic Basemap

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan







The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires counties to identify and conserve natural resource lands (RCW 36.70A. 060). This includes designating mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals (RCW 36.70A. 170).

Comment 7.1

Deepti Khanna

From: Kathleen Shoop <kshoop1@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 1:11 PM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

To: Robby Eckroth, Senior Planner, Skagit County Planning and Development Services

From: Kathleen and James Shoop

RE: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments (ALLEN ROAD)

July 30, 2026

Mr. Eckroth,

Please consider this our written response regarding a request by John Rasar and Miles Sand and Gravel to designate parcels P109100, P109099, P109098, P34222, and P34223 within the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO). We are opposed to this change in the designation of these particular parcels. If the designation is changed, it obviously paves the way forward to conduct mining activities on the aforementioned parcels and to negatively impact our neighborhood and homes in many ways. Several specific concerns:

*In the second paragraph of your 7.16.26 letter, you wrote about these parcels, "They...are accessed by Allen Road, the route currently used for mineral hauling."

If you drive up Allen Road past Llama Lane, you'll see that Allen Road is a one-lane, unpainted, and shoulderless rural road not been used for hauling minerals for well over 40 years. It is narrow enough to make it uncomfortable when two regular-sized passenger vehicles meet. It is not fit for regular mineral hauling.

*In your letter, you note "...your property is located within 300 feet of a proposed amendment to the Skagit County Zoning and land use map..."

As per geo.skagitcountywa.gov, "Residential gross density on or within ¼ mile of a Mineral Resource Overlay shall be no greater than 1 residential dwelling unit per 10 acres."

We fail to comprehend how the 10+ current residential dwellings to the west and north of the property parcels in question were not considered before the county made the decision to move forward with any change in designation.

*The letter notes the use of a "completed environmental checklist".

Did this checklist include an analysis of the potential problem with rising water in the ditch in the immediate area of the parcels (along the north side of railroad tracks, acting as a dike) from November through March every year? Although dry in the summer, this ditch fills in the winter with a deep and 5' wide 'seasonal creek' running from the property in question to the west, flooding lower Llama Lane on occasion. It is currently a delicate balance in the winter as many

residents on the south side of Allen Road have drain fields level with and adjacent to that ditch. Should that water level increase, those septic systems will be in danger.

These three issues—Allen Road itself, proximity of the MRO to many residences, and the potential for environmental damage due to drain field malfunction—are only part of the reason we oppose the redesignation of the named parcels. Anyone of these three would certainly negatively impact the value of our property.

We appreciate being able to make this statement.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Shoop, EdD

James Shoop, MS

Comment 7.2

Deepti Khanna

From: Kathleen Shoop <kshoop1@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 12:08 PM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

You don't often get email from kshoop1@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To: Robby Eckroth, Senior Planner, Skagit County Planning and Development Services

From: Kathleen and James Shoop, 17552 Allen Road, Bow, WA 98232

RE: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments (ALLEN ROAD)

August 20, 2026

Mr. Eckroth,

After attending and speaking at the Planning Commission meeting on August 18, I continue to be concerned, perhaps even more so, about the county possibly moving ahead with a change in designation regarding the Rasar property on Allen Road, apparently happening under the auspices of the Miles Sand and Gravel company.

Why?

I spoke about concerns regarding the use of Allen Road for mineral hauling. This is exactly what your letter of July 16 says in reference to the subject properties: "They lie directly west of an existing Miles Sand and Gravel mineral extraction site and the current Mineral Resource Overlay and **are accessed by Allen Road, the route currently used for mineral hauling.**"

Once all the speakers had concluded, the speaker representing the Rasar family on behalf of the Miles Sand and Gravel company returned to the podium to correct my 'misunderstanding' by declaring the gravel on the subject properties will be transported via the same route currently used for the Belleville mine. This is not what you wrote.

I was a public servant for over 40 years and knew that what I said and especially what I wrote for formal matters such as this had to be the hard truth. Added to the apparent plan already in place by Miles Sand and Gravel will, unfortunately, make the ongoing process here subject to suspicion that someone is not being truthful. I know that that someone is not me.

Still Respectfully,

Kathy Shoop, EdD

Jim Shoop, MS

From: Shannon Shaffer <shannonmishkoshafter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2026 4:19 PM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

ATTN: Robbie Eckroth, AICP

Good afternoon,

Our names are Jonathan and Shannon Shaffer, and we reside at 17562 Allen Rd. The following email is to express our concerns and opposition to the Mineral Resource Overlay Designation Petition (LRPLN-2025-0003). There are three issues we would like to bring attention to:

1. The “mapping error” framing does not match the county’s own documented parcel history.

The applicant characterizes this designation request as correcting a “mapping error.” SCC 14.14.300(4) reserves that term as one of three specific grounds for removing MRO designation; it does not define or authorize “mapping error” as a basis for adding land. New designations are governed by a separate provision, SCC 14.14.300(2), requiring compliance with RCW 36.70A, the Comprehensive Plan amendment process, and SCC Chapter 14.08. Three of the five parcels have never been in the Mineral Resource Overlay. Furthermore, the two parcels (P109100 and P34223) that were once included were formally removed during the county’s 2005-2007 periodic Comprehensive Plan update. If you look at the county’s official Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Map date September 10, 2007, none of the five parcels appear within the MRO on that adopted map. The three parcels (P109099, P109098, and P34222) have no documented MRO history at all. A “mapping error” cannot explain the absence of a designation that was never there to begin with.

2. Allen Road is not currently used for mineral hauling.

Per the notice we received and in the corresponding docket, it states that the MRO “is accessed by Allen Road, the route currently used for mineral hauling.” This is inaccurate. Allen Road is a one lane shoulder less residential road. Mineral hauling via Allen would be very disruptive to our neighborhood. At best, the inclusion of this statement indicates a lack of due diligence, at worst, inculcation for future development. We are opposed to the use of Allen Road for any mining operations.

3. Volume findings rely on an interpretation of Policy 4D-1.1(b) that the policy text does not clearly support.

Comprehensive Plan Policy 4D-1.1(b)(i) sets a minimum threshold volume of 1,000,000 cubic yards to identify a commercially significant deposit of sand and gravel. The applicant’s own submission estimates the site contains between 674,00 to 899,000 cubic yards. The staff’s findings are bypassing this policy by combining this site’s potential volume with the neighboring quarry. Per the findings in the docket, “the **combined** MRO area would therefore exceed 1,000,000 cubic yards of resource.” The policy contains no language authorizing the aggregation of an already designated adjacent parcel to satisfy a shortfall.

We are asking the Commission to deny this application as proposed. We appreciate the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Thank you,
Jonathan and Shannon Shaffer

17562 Allen Rd
Bow, WA 98232

From: Chris Barnes <lgchris.guemes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 10:08 AM
To: PDS comments
Subject: "Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments"

Hello,

I understand the proposed language on limiting the size of individual data centers and restricting them to the bayview ridge area. What is the maximum number of individual data centers that would be permitted in that area and what would their cumulative effect be on the environment and our infrastructure? Should the Code include a limit on the number of data centers allowed?

Thank you,
Chris Barnes

Sent from my iPhone

Deepti Khanna

From: Bill Lynn <blynn@gth-law.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 1:35 PM
To: Robby Eckroth
Cc: Brad Barton (bradb@gravelpits.com)
Subject: Rasar MRO
Attachments: Skagit Planning re Raser MRO Appl.pdf

Good afternoon, Robbie. Can I please get this submitted to the Planning Commission members in relation to the Rasar MRO proposal? Please let me know if anything else is required or if there is a different way we should submit. Thank you.

William T. Lynn
Attorney at Law

1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 2200
Tacoma, Washington 98402
T 253 620 6416
F 253 620 6565
<http://www.gth-law.com>

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William T. Lynn
Direct: (253) 620-6416
E-mail: blynn@gth-law.com

August 11, 2026

Skagit County Planning Commission
1800 Continental Pl
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Raser MRO Application

This letter is written on behalf of the applicant and Miles Sand & Gravel Company. We are writing to address some comments made with this matter came before the commission workshop. We are happy to provide additional information and will be present at the hearing on the 18th.

- 1) It is important to remember that the MRO designation would simply allow the property owner to apply for approval through the County's extensive review process. That process includes SEPA environmental review, notice to agencies, tribes and the public, and a required public hearing. Noise, traffic, buffers and critical areas would be extensively reviewed and would have to be approved by the independent Hearing Examiner before any activity on the ground.
- 2) This site is adjacent to an existing mine that has operated for many years. The proposed area would use the same access and processing equipment, and the volume of mining, mineral processing and traffic should not increase. This proposal would potentially simply extend the life of the mine for a few years.
- 3) The County has its own comprehensive mine standards to address buffer, noise, water quality and other elements. The County must take those into account in its review. In addition, the proposal would also be subject to review, approval and oversight by the DNR, the DOE and OSHA, among others. Each agency has its own extensive regulations that address every aspect of mining.
- 4) Environmental science recognizes that it is generally far preferable to expand an existing facility, rather opening a new one in an area that might otherwise remain undeveloped. There is a clear demand for minerals and the demand should be met in the most efficient way possible.

Gordon Thomas Honeywell LLP

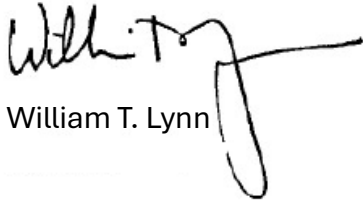
August 11, 2026

Page 2

- 5) The Belleville site is close to major traffic corridors. That means the minerals can be transported with shorter truck trips, less traffic on more remote roads and less wear and tear on public improvements.

Both the undersigned and Mile's officials will be present at the upcoming hearing and prepared to answer questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will. T. Lynn", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William T. Lynn

Deepti Khanna

From: Bill Lynn <blynn@gth-law.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 7:02 AM
To: Robby Eckroth
Cc: Brad Barton (bradb@gravelpits.com)
Subject: MRO Proposal-Rasar
Attachments: 2026 08 19 Skagit Planning re Raser MRO Appl w attachments.pdf

Attached is a supplemental letter on the Rasar proposal to address comments and questions raised at the hearing. Please contact us if additional information would be helpful.

William T. Lynn
Attorney at Law

1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 2200
Tacoma, Washington 98402
T 253 620 6416
F 253 620 6565
<http://www.gth-law.com>

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William T. Lynn
Direct: (253) 620-6416
E-mail: blynn@gth-law.com

August 11, 2026

Skagit County Planning Commission
1800 Continental Pl
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Rasar MRO Application

Dear Planning Commission Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you on August 18th. This letter and the attachment respond to a couple of issues that came up at the public hearing.

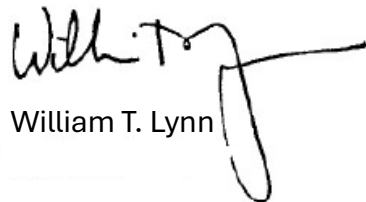
As the attached 3 exhibits illustrate, the Rasar property is adjacent to and represents a potential small expansion of the existing Belleville mine. The proposal would be to use the property only in conjunction with the existing Belleville facilities, so no new processing equipment is planned for the Rasar property. The additional property would rely on the same access as the existing facility with no new access proposed.

The map also depicts that there is significant topographical difference between the Rasar property and any potential neighbors. This topography will provide some natural separation.

As we discussed at the hearing, all of these issues and many more would be discussed through the permitting process, which addresses buffers, noise, critical areas, groundwater, drainage, and other elements. The MRO designation would merely identify this property as one that holds mineral resources of benefit to the public.

We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,



William T. Lynn

Belleville Site

SITE MAP

Legend

- Existing Haul Route
- Active Permitted Area - 97.33 acres
- Rasar/MSG Expansion - 13.93 acres
- Parcels



0 250 500 1,000
1" = 500'

DATE: 08/19/2026

Site:
Miles Sand & Gravel
8198 Old Hwy 99 North Rd
Burlington, WA 98233

Created By:



NORTHWEST
MINING
SOLUTIONS

Lisa Mahr * Project Engineer * 619-328-7917
PO BOX 561, Black Diamond, WA 98010
www.NorthwestMiningSolutions.com

Belleville Site

SITE MAP

Legend

- Existing Haul Route
- Active Permitted Area - 97.33 acres
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Lisa Mahr * Project Engineer * 619-328-7917
PO BOX 561, Black Diamond, WA 98010
www.NorthwestMiningSolutions.com

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Microsoft, Vantor

Belleville Site

SITE MAP

Legend

- Existing Haul Route
- Active Permitted Area - 97.33 acres
- Rasar/MSG Expansion - 13.93 acres



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 NORTHWEST MINING SOLUTIONS

Lisa Mahr * Project Engineer * 619-328-7917
PO BOX 561, Black Diamond, WA 98010
www.NorthwestMiningSolutions.com

Deepti Khanna

From: blackbc <blackbc@frontier.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 3:17 PM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Fw: 2026 Docket- Code Amendment comments for C26-1
Attachments: 2026 docket Code Amendment comments for C26-1.pdf

You don't often get email from blackbc@frontier.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

C26-1 General Code language Clean up:

Comments regarding C26-1 Party of Record definition Code Amendment to SCC 14.04.020 Definitions:
“Party of Record”

The amendment to the definition must clarify that an individual must submit written comments during the official public comment period or provide testimony at an open-record public hearing in order to qualify as a party of record to have standing to appeal.

Clarify who a party of record is in order to have standing to appeal (RCW 36.70B.110(2)(e)) vs. a party able to receive a copy of the decision on the application (per RCW 36.70B.130).

Proposed language as drafted:

“Party of Record” means any person who:

- 1. Participates in a hearing by providing verbal testimony or submitting a written statement regarding a project permit application or legislative action during an open record hearing, and provides the County with a complete mailing address; or*
- 2. Submits a written comment regarding the project or legislative action, and includes a complete mailing address, within the official public comment period; or*
- 3. Is the property owner (when not also the applicant) of a project permit application; or*
- 4. Formally requested to receive information via a written statement with a complete mailing address.*

As drafted, proposed #4 leaves the impression that someone can become a party of record and have standing to appeal at any time with simply supplying a written statement with a complete mailing address – negating #1 and #2. Although I agree that someone should be able to request to be notified of the decision on an application at any time, for someone to procedurally have standing to appeal a project, or legislative action, standing needs to be formally established within the statutory timeframes or what is the point of the comment period timeframe or open record hearing process.

If #4 was intended to address projects that do not require a public comment period (Type 1 Decisions), then specifically call that out.

Recommended change to the proposed:

Strike #4 entirely. Or clarify that a copy of the decision can be requested at any time (RCW 36.70B.130) however, by simply requesting a copy of the decision outside of an official comment period, or open record hearing process, (for Type 2, 3, and 4 review processes) standing to appeal the decision has not been established.

Brandon Black
17661 Colony Road
Bow, WA 98232
blackbc@frontier.com
360-708-1856

Signed and submitted August 17, 2026, within the official comment period, with complete mailing address, in order to become a party of record with standing to appeal and receive a copy of the decision.

Comment 12

BRUCE and SHAUNA JOHNSON
17536 ALLEN RD
BOW, WA 98232

Robby Eckroth, AICP-Senior Planner
Skagit County Planning & Development Services
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, Wa 98273

August 18, 2026

RE: Comments on "Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments"
Mineral Resource Overlay Designation Petition (LRPLN-2025-0003)

Robby Eckroth and Commission Members

I and My Wife, Shauna are life time Skagit residents. I have been a contractor and Land Developer for over 50 years.

I built our home 50 years ago at our current location on Allen road. At the time of our construction, our home was the last on Allen road, and the end of the county road.

Burlington Northern owned the gravel mine at that time and used it for their purpose by rail. Around 1980, there was an expansion at the Bayview Airport, and gravel trucking was via the Allen road. That was the last time I remember trucks from this location.

Those of us that have lived here for a number of years and were present when Miles Sand and Gravel received the permit to mine, were some what comfortable that the buffer was over a thousand feet from our properties. We were concerned at that time about our wells. This new proposal even increases our concern.

I am concerned that the lots in this proposal are not even legal lots. They seem to have mysteriously acquired parcel numbers some time after the short platt was recorded. All of the transfers were from and to family members as part of Short Platt lots. This seems to pave the way to either transfer to others later or lease based on minerals extracted. None of which seems to be within the platting rules.

For these and many other reasons we ask that you not approve this application.

Respectfully,



Bruce and Shauna Johnson

Comment 13

Deepti Khanna

From: Ellen Bynum <skye@cnw.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 12:17 PM
To: PDS comments
Cc: Commissioners; T. Candler - gmail; Angela Day - gmail; Patsy Good - gmail; Xuhua Mu; Tim Raschko - gmail; Joe woodmansee - gmail; Kiera Wright - gmail; tfsapp@gmail.com; northfork.inc@gmail.com; michael@hughesfarms.net; ckdouleo11@hotmail.com; kraig@knutzenfarms.com; lagerwood1@frontier.com; John Morrison - Ag. Adv. Board; k.mower@yahoo.com; steveskrinde@gmail.com; steinman.matt@gmail.com; telesis.trafton@gmail.com; Steve Wright - Ag. Adv. Board; Randy & Aileen Good, FOSC.; Andrea Xaver; lorac@skagitonians.org; Tim Knue - SPF; Tyler Breum, WWAA; Dan Gundersen, WWAA; Mikala Staples Hughes; Don McMoran WSU EDU; Owen Peth; Jenn Smith, SPF; Aaron Taylor, WWAA; Jack Moore; Robby Eckroth
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code and Map Amendments. REVISED.

REVISED. Please remove the first submission.

Thanks,

Ellen Bynum, Friends of Skagit County

August 18, 2026

TO: Skagit County Planning Commission
FROM: Ellen Bynum, Friends of Skagit County
RE: Comments on Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

Dear Planning Commissioners and PDS Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes for the 2026 Docket of the Comprehensive Plan, Policies, Code and Map Amendments update process.

We read the proposed changes first on the SEPA Review Form and wondered if there was any reason that the SEPA Optional Nonproject Review Form was not used.

LRPLN-2025-0003 SEPA DNS & SEPA Checklist

Neither the proposal nor the SEPA documents address reclamation of the site after the resource is depleted. Please add this requirement as it affects current and future adjacent properties as well as in the instance of catastrophic events, the owners and operators who must mitigate for the unaddressed hazards.

Substantive Amendments

SCC 14.04.020 – Party of Record Definition. The amendment to the definition of “Party of Record” clarifies that an individual must submit written comments during the *official public comment period... (emphasis added)*.

There is no definition of “official public comment period”. Prior PDS, PC and BOCC practice has been to allow additional time after the public hearing, usually to the end of the week of the public hearing, so that commentors are able to address what is put into the record from other commentors.

For transparency and clarity we support continuing this schedule of receiving and managing public comments, including extended time for comments post hearings.

Should staff, the Planning Commission or the BOCC decide to add a definition of “official public comment period” we urge all to create a standard for all public hearings, so there is no opportunity to administratively change the length of time allotted for different types of hearings. Standardized practice should promote public participation, not limit it.

SCC 14.18.810 – Data Centers. We support the limitations that have been added to this use. We urge you to add extra provisions for managing risk of fire, flooding or other catastrophic event for these uses. We also request the addition of language that allows the continuation of data centers either by transfer, sale or gift only after re-inspection and/or retiling for the permitted use to continue. Please include requirements for fire suppression that would not jeopardize adjacent land or water resources should such an event occur.

SCC 14.28.040 Setback Exemptions and SCC 14.29.110 Off-Premises Signs.

If you have not done so already, please review Ordinance [#O20040010](#) n Ordinance Accepting a New Skagit County Sign Code, SCC 14.16.820, in Response to Findings of Invalidity by the Western WA Growth Management Hearings Board in Case No. 00-2-0046c, signed June 14, 2004 by the BOCC. Attachment 1 Memo from Kirk Johnson, Senior Planner and Oscar Graham, Planning Consultant to the BOCC, May 12, 2004 provides public comments and department responses that define and discuss billboards, signs and siting details for county, state and federal roads. **Billboards are prohibited except in some sections of three Rural Freeway Service areas.**

Please add “Billboards are prohibited except within the RFS Zone” or use the WWGMHB language “Billboards are confined to the four Rural Freeway Zones” under (11) (c) to reflect the GMA requirements the County accepted to be in compliance in Ordinance [#O20040010](#).

Page 20, (8) Commercial Business Signs.

....In addition to the other requirements of this Subsection, business signs are subject to the following size requirements:

...(b) *Maximum freestanding sign area shall not exceed 1 square foot for each 5 lineal feet of street frontage, not to exceed 40 square feet* except for tourism related signs subject to the provisions of Subsection 7(b) and(c)....*Emphasis added.*

...Page 21, Signs Advertising Industrial Businesses

(c) Maximum size.

...(iii) *Freestanding signs shall have a maximum of 1 square foot for each lineal foot of street frontage, not to exceed 150 square feet. Emphasis added.*

(10) Off-Premises Signs. An off premises sign is a sign structure or billboard advertising an establishment, merchandise, service, or entertainment which is sold, produced, manufactured or furnished at a place other than the property of which **sign or billboard** is located.

(a) General Requirements. Off-premises signs shall conform to the following requirements:

(i) Lighted signs shall be effectively shielded to prevent light from being directed at any portion of the highway right-of-way, or be of such intensity or brilliance to cause or to otherwise interfere or impair a driver's vision.

(ii) *Maximum height of 15 feet, except as otherwise permitted. Emphasis added.*

(iii) Only one off-premises sign shall be permitted per parcel.

(11) Special Off-Premises Sign Requirements.

(c) Billboard Sign Requirements. Billboards are outdoor advertising structures advertising an establishment, merchandise, service or entertainment which is sold, produced or manufactured and/or furnished at a place other than on the property of which billboard is located. **Billboards are prohibited except within the RFS Zone.** Billboards shall meet the following requirements:

(i) Sign surface area: Maximum 300 square feet per face.

(ii) Maximum number of signs: one sign per structure, which may be single or double-faced.

(iii) Maximum Height: 40 feet.

(iv) Minimum Setback: 45 feet from the nearest right-of-way line; and 100 feet from the right-of-way line intersection point measured at any angle.

(v) Minimum Spacing: 500 feet on the same side of the road from another billboard.

(vi) Only 1 sign shall be allowed to face the same direction per location. This allows back-to-back or “V” formation but prohibits 2 signs (side-by-side) facing the same location.

Page 8 - SCC Table 14.12.030-1 Dimensional Standards in the rural Commercial/Industrial Zones should reflect the Minimum setback (45 feet and 100 feet as above) added after the settlement was passed. The Table does not address maximum setbacks.

Rural signs and other issues were part of the settlement agreement between Evergreen Islands, et. al. (including Friends of Skagit County and others) and Skagit County. The adopted ordinance had to comply with GMA for the County to be considered in compliance on this issue, including limiting signs and billboards to not interfere with Skagit's rural landscape.

From the 2009 Miscellaneous Code Amendments dated 6/9/2009:

Page 2. 14.04 Definitions

Setback: a line generally parallel with and measured from the lot line, existing or planned street or road right-of-way, easement or driven surface (whichever is most restrictive) defining the limits of an area in which no above-ground buildings, structures or junk may be located. **Setbacks do not apply to fences 6 feet or less in height, retaining walls 4 feet or less in height, landscaping, free-standing signs, or paved areas. Emphasis added.**

page 11 **14.16.120 Rural Freeway Service (RFS)**

(5) Dimensional Standards.

(a) Setbacks.

(ii) Side and rear: 35 feet. Where parking is located on side or rear of structure, 55 feet.

page 21, **14.16.820 Signs**

(3) General Sign Regulations (c) Building Permits. Building permits shall be required for the erection, alteration, or reconstruction of wall-mounted (roof) signs, electrified signs and freestanding signs in excess of 32 square feet, or greater than 6 feet in height... **emphasis added.**

(8) Commercial Business Signs. (b) Maximum freestanding sign area shall not exceed 1 square foot for each 5 lineal feet of street frontage, not to exceed 40 square feet except for tourism-related signs subject to the provisions of Subsections (7)(b), (c) and (f) of this Section. In the rural Village Commercial and Rural Village Residential areas of Alger, maximum freestanding sign area shall not exceed 30 square feet and shall be no higher than 12 feet.

The WWGMHB Compliance Order concluded, in part, that: "... the County was clearly erroneous in the choices it made regarding rural signage provisions. The county must set much more strict parameters for rural signage in order to comply with the goals and requirements of the Act."

The WWGMHB further directed the County to: "Set much more strict parameters for rural signage to protect the rural character of the County and conform with RCW 36.70A.030(14)(a) and (c)."

(a) In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment.

(b) That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in rural areas and communities.

The ordinance institutes the following measures:

- Larger commercial and industrial signs are confined to businesses and industries located in LAMIRDs.
- Billboards are confined to the four Rural Freeway Zones.
- Nonconforming off-premise signs that were not permitted through the use of special use permit must be phased out over three years.
- The regulations for signs apply to all zoning districts in the County.
- Abandoned signs; flashing, revolving, animated, and moving signs; strobelights; searchlights; revolving signs; and certain types of rooftop signs are prohibited.
- Temporary signs advertising community events are limited in type, size, and duration.
- The County has authority to remove signs that are a threat to health and safety and makes it clear that illegal signs will be abated through the County's regular enforcement procedures.

Reading the plain meaning of these previous revisions we believe that the size (square footage, height and size relative to buildings, number per lot or building, as well as other criteria) separates billboards from free standing signs as two different types of signs.

We support amending SCC 14.28.040 – Setback Exemptions and SCC 14.29.110 Off-Premises Signs provided the original negotiated language and meaning of the WWGMHB decision be retained, for example "Billboards are confined to the four Rural Freeway Zones, even if the language repeats requirements elsewhere In the code, and provided the new language conveys and carries forward the WWGMHB decision, intent and application in future.

Should you have questions or need additional information please contact me on 360-488-3244.

Sincerely,

Ellen Bynum

Ellen Bynum, Executive Director

Friends of Skagit County

PO Box 2632 (mailing)

Mount Vernon, WA 98273-2632

360-419-0988; friends@fidalgo.net

www.friendsofskagitcounty.org

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Deepti Khanna

From: Zac <zacsager30@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 8:56 AM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Skagit County's 2026 Docket of Proposed Policy, Code, and Map Amendments

You don't often get email from zacsager30@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Zachary Sager
4797 G Loop, Bow, WA 98232

Datacenters Belong in Skagit County's Industrial and Manufacturing Zones

As Skagit County cuts services amidst budget pressure, it should not be prohibiting the most lucrative industrial developments. Well-regulated datacenters, sited in industrial and manufacturing zones, are less intrusive than the refineries, manufacturing facilities, timber processing, or logistics distribution warehouses that already operate in our industrial zones and datacenters provide significantly more tax revenue. Limiting datacenters to 2MW and 2,000 square feet and in the Bayview Ridge industrial zone is short-sited and unnecessarily restrictive and will serve as a defacto prohibition, given that few businesses still build legacy server rooms. Most businesses have migrated to cloud datacenters sized at 50MW and up, specialized in hosting critical digital infrastructure that support hospitals, schools, emergency services, manufacturers, farms, financial institutions, and the digital services that residents use every day. At minimum, the County should consider larger facilities in additional industrial zones through a discretionary variance or special use process.

Skagit County relies heavily on property taxes to fund local government services. Because each datacenter represents hundreds of millions of dollars in long-term capital investments, they can dramatically expand the commercial property tax base. Unlike many forms of development, datacenters have well-paid but limited long-term employment (approximately 40-50 jobs per building, most don't require a college degree), which means it won't drive up our housing costs or place excessive demands on schools, roads, and emergency services. They expand the tax base but will keep Skagit rural. Datacenter tax revenue could be used to offset service cuts to the drug court, the senior center, meals on wheels, and other services.

Datacenters bring a broader tax base that helps support the entire community. Washington already has a real-world example - Quincy Washington. Twenty years ago, Quincy was known primarily as an agricultural community. Quincy still has fruit processors, but datacenter investment helped diversify the local economy and create new opportunities. Drive through Quincy now and you'll see new police and fire stations, a new city hall, the nicest high school in the state, and vibrant restaurants filled with electricians, plumbers, security officers, cleaners, and other tradespeople who keep the datacenters running.

No development is impact free, but the zoning code can help manage the impacts.

The County should include appropriate standards for noise (65dBA at the property line), setbacks (500ft from residential), landscaping (maintain existing trees on the property line), traffic (require company-paid upgrades

on feeder roads), water management (annual reporting, penalty fees for exceeding contracted usage), and viewshed (6-8ft tall, landscaped berms on shared property lines) in its future ordinance.

Importantly, Washington Department of Ecology already has one of the most extensive regulatory processes in the country that includes environmental review, air-quality permitting, wastewater permitting, emissions modeling, cultural heritage review, and other requirements. For example, Washington has some of the strictest air pollution modelling and compliance requirements in the country, and projects that cannot meet those standards are not approved.

Public testimony at Skagit County hearings has highlighted concern about water use, but the newest servers run too hot for traditional water cooling and more than half the U.S. datacenter fleet relies on air cooling. Even those datacenters that do use water, use less water per year than a golf course. Want to ensure water resources are protected? Use the zoning code to require water-efficient cooling technologies. But projects that can meet those standards should be given the opportunity to invest and compete here.

The choice is not whether digital infrastructure will be built. It is whether Skagit County will capture the jobs, tax revenue, infrastructure investment, and economic development associated with that infrastructure, or whether the county will keep cutting services and raising taxes.