



Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board

1800 Continental Place • Mount Vernon, Washington 98273
office 360-416-1338 • www.skagitcounty.net/planning

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

4/11/2025

Dear Skagit County Planning Commissioners:

The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) is writing regarding the proposed changes to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan changes we were requested to comment on. The AAB supports all the proposed changes.

Policy 4A-1.1(a) and Policy 4A-1.1(b): Agricultural lands should be based on soil productivity, not location or size. The AAB agrees the 5-acre lower limit should be moved to 1 acre. Smaller parcels are vital and ideal for small and beginning producers to get their start in agriculture or even maintain a small, diversified farm. Treating these small parcels as the ag land they are will also reduce the desire to develop them. Removing the 100-year floodplain requirement will make it easier to include agricultural lands outside of the floodplain. As stated previously, ag land should be determined by the soil, not location or size.

Policy 4A-1.1(c)(iv): The AAB recommends including irrigation districts when referencing special use districts. They are special use districts vital to the productivity of agricultural lands and should be treated as such.

Policy 4A-3.1: Adding the reference to WAC 365-190-040 gives reason as to why a rule is in place reducing confusion in the plan.

Policies 4A-1.1, 4A-3.1, 4B-1.1, and 4B-1.3: Adding the word comprehensive and removing county led, The AAB supports this change for consistency and clarity if it does not cede any county authority to other organizations.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Hughes
Chair, Agricultural Advisory Board

Advisory Committee Members:

Michael Hughes (Chair), Kraig Knutzen (Vice Chair), Nels Lagerlund,
Justin Hayton, John Morrison, Terry Sapp, Cindy Kleinhuizen, Matt Steinman,
Steve Wright, Michael Trafton, Steve Skrinde, Kim Mower, Don McMoran (Ex Officio)