

Chapter 11

Essential Public Facilities

Existing Essential Public Facilities

Essential Public Facilities are defined by the GMA and include facilities such as airports, state education facilities, state or regional transportation facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, and in-patient facilities. These facilities, although often difficult to site, are essential to the functioning of the community as a whole. The GMA requires that every comprehensive plan include a process for siting such facilities.

Essential public facilities are addressed in Chapter 15 of the *Skagit County Comprehensive Plan*. Three existing county-wide essential public facilities are identified, two of which are located in the Bayview Ridge Subarea - the Skagit County Regional Airport and the Skagit County Solid Waste Transfer Station. The Subarea plan must provide for continued utility of these facilities in light of proposed development.

The Skagit Regional Airport, located in the central and western portions of the Subarea, was originally built in 1933 as military facility. The airport is now a general aviation airport owned by the Port of Skagit County and is the largest airport in Skagit County. The current *Skagit Regional Airport Master Plan* extends through the year 2013. The Plan predicts an increase from 55,230 annual take-offs and landings in 1992, to 100,100 operations by 2013. The composition of the aircraft fleet is expected to continue to be dominated by business oriented flight, private transportation, flight training, or other forms of noncommercial activity using single- and multi-engine piston aircraft. Air cargo operations are also forecast to increase from 4,300 operations in 1992 to 7,300 operations in 2013. Commercial passenger service is expected to offer about 13 flights per day to from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport by 2013.

The Skagit County Solid Waste Handling Facility is located in the southwestern portion of the Subarea, within the Bayview Ridge Heavy Industrial zone.

Relationship to Other Plans

Countywide Planning Policies

Countywide Planning Policy 12 (GMA Goal 12) addresses the availability of public facilities and services.

12.2 *All communities within a region shall fairly share the burden of regional public facilities.*

12.3 *A process shall be developed for identifying and siting essential public facilities. The Comprehensive Plan may not preclude the siting of essential public facilities.*

Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan

In the development of this Subarea Plan, the constraints on land use resulting from the Skagit Regional Airport and Skagit County Solid Waste Handling Facility have been considered at length. The *Skagit Regional Airport Land Use Compatibility Study* (May, 2000) was prepared specifically to address compatibility with respect to height, noise, and land use/safety concerns.

The Subarea Plan addresses the long-term viability of the Skagit Regional Airport. Within the central and western portions of the Subarea, 761 acres are designated for aviation-related uses, and an Aviation-Related zoning district (AVR) has been created for these uses.

The majority of Bayview Ridge lies within a special Airport Environs Overlay (AEO) zone that addresses issues such as land use, density, height, and provision of open space.

With respect to the Transfer Station, the site is located in the Bayview Ridge Heavy Industrial area, as far as practical from existing or planned residential development.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 11A Assure continued use of Skagit Regional Airport, recognizing its role as a major force for economic development countywide.

Objective 11A-1 Support the Port of Skagit County in its efforts to provide airport facilities and services for all users in a manner that maximizes safety, efficiency, and opportunity for use.

Policy 11A–1.1 Maintain and ensure the continued preservation and utility of the Skagit Regional Airport during its expected future growth as identified in the *Skagit Regional Airport Master Plan*.

Policy 11A–1.2 Work with the Port of Skagit County to adopt development standards which allow development of the airport consistent with the approved Master Plan while providing for a high quality business and industrial environment.

Policy 11A–1.3 Coordinate capital facility planning within Bayview Ridge with the Port of Skagit County.

Policy 11A–1.4 Work with the Port of Skagit County to enhance the opportunities for business and industrial development within Bayview Ridge.

Policy 11A–1.5 Clearly identify any required land use constraints necessary to protect the long-term viability of the airports in all Bayview Ridge development standards.

Policy 11A-1.6 Actively participate in the Airport Master Plan Update process.

Goal 11B Provide for the siting of new essential public facilities based on the requirements of Chapter 15 of the *Skagit County Comprehensive Plan*.