

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL PLANNING OF THE CENTRAL PUGET SOUND AREA

This Agreement is entered into by and between the undersigned Counties, Cities and Towns, political subdivisions and municipal corporations of the State of Washington and federally recognized Indian tribes. This Agreement is made pursuant to provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1967, Chapter 39.34 R.C.W. and has been authorized by the legislative body of each jurisdiction pursuant to formal action as designated on the signature page.

I. NAME AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL, hereinafter called the "Regional Planning Agency," and the terms and conditions under which the parties shall participate in the activities of the Regional Planning Agency.

II. MISSION

The mission of the Regional Planning Agency is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in the central Puget Sound area. In so doing, it shall prepare, adopt, and maintain goals, policy, and standards for regional transportation and regional growth management in the central Puget Sound area, in accordance with federal and state law and based on local comprehensive plans of jurisdictions within the region. The agency shall ensure implementation in the region of the provisions of state and federal law which pertain to regional transportation planning and regional growth management.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY; DURATION

This Agreement shall become effective upon execution by sixty (60) percent of all of the units of general government in King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, including the counties, representing three-quarters (3/4) of the population. This Agreement shall remain in force and effect perpetually or until terminated by member agencies which represent seventy-five (75) percent of the regional population.

IV. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Interlocal Agreement and all other agreements, contracts and documents executed, adopted or approved pursuant to this Agreement, the following terms shall have meaning prescribed to them within this section unless the context of their use dictates otherwise:

- (1) Member agency shall mean any public agency which is a party or becomes a party to this Interlocal Agreement and is a county, city, town or federally recognized Indian tribe.
- (2) Statutory member shall mean any public agency whose membership is required by a state or federal statute.
- (3) Public agency shall mean any city, town, county, public utility district, port district, fire protection district, school district, air pollution control authority, federally recognized Indian tribe, or metropolitan municipal corporation of this State, any agency of the State government or of the United States and any political subdivision of another state.
- (4) Board shall mean the Executive Board of the Puget Sound Regional Council.
- (5) State shall mean a state of the United States.
- (6) Region shall mean that territory physically lying within the boundaries of the counties of King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap and any other member county.
- (7) Population shall mean that population of any general purpose local government that is a member agency last determined for each such member as certified by the State Office of Financial Management or its succeeding office of the State of Washington at the time of the signing of this document and on the first day of May of each year thereafter, except that the population of member counties shall be that population determined in the same manner for the unincorporated area of such county; and further that the population of Indian tribes shall be the latest figures established and certified by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- (8) Regional population shall be determined by adding together the population of the member agencies.
- (9) Local comprehensive plan: A generalized coordinated land use policy statement of the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to state law.

- (10) Countywide comprehensive policy plan: A policy-based document (which reflects city and county comprehensive plans), establishing countywide goals and objectives to guide the development of local comprehensive plans for cities, towns, and the unincorporated areas within a county. The plan addresses issues of countywide significance.
- (11) Certification: A statement of verification that local or countywide plans and policies are consistent and coordinated with regional plans and policies covering issues of regionwide significance.
- (12) Consistency: A condition in which plans and policies affecting the area within the regional agency's jurisdiction are compatible and mutually reinforcing. Consistency is achieved when these plans, taken together, meet state requirements for consistency in local and regional plans.
- (13) Conflict resolution: A process initiated by the Regional Planning Agency upon review of local comprehensive plans or of countywide comprehensive policy plans, when the agency finds that such a plan appears inconsistent with the certifiable elements of the regional plan. In the process, parties agree to seek a mutually acceptable accommodation of their differences among themselves or, when required, with the assistance of an independent intervener or third party. The purpose of the process is to achieve consistency and, where applicable, to assure certification of the plan. If the parties cannot accommodate their differences, the conflict will be resolved by the board of hearing examiners described in Section 7(5) hereof.
- (14) Goal: Statement of an aim or desired outcome of a plan or planning process.
- (15) Growth management: A system for guiding, directing, limiting, and encouraging growth so that the demands for housing, infrastructure, and other growth support systems can be met. Growth management includes but goes beyond concern for natural systems, embracing also social, economic, and legal issues. At its best, a growth management system can and will separate urban and rural areas in a way that protects open space, farmland, and natural areas in the rural countryside, and provides for land, densities, and infrastructure to support needed residential, commercial, and industrial facilities.
- (16) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): The agency designated by the United States Department of Transportation and the governor that is responsible, in cooperation with the State, for ensuring that

transportation planning is conducted through a "continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) process." The process is stipulated in federal law.

- (17) Minimum standard: The quantitative or qualitative measure applied to an activity, task, or function to determine if the region is achieving expectations for a planning objective. Higher standards may be set for the same objective in local plans.
- (18) Objective: Statement of a concrete result to be obtained from a plan.
- (19) Policy/Guidelines: A statement establishing the framework within which actions to achieve objectives can be taken. A policy often specifies direction but is broad enough to allow alternatives to be evaluated.
- (20) Regional growth management strategy: A planning document that establishes a vision and policy on regional aspects of growth issues, including transportation, land use, open space, housing, economic development, and environmental concerns.
- (21) Regionally significant transportation projects: As defined by state law, such projects exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:
1. The project crosses boundaries of member jurisdictions;
 2. The project is or will be used by a significant number of people who live or work outside the county in which the project is located;
 3. Significant impacts from the project are expected to be felt in more than one county;
 4. Potentially adverse impacts of the project can be better avoided or mitigated through adherence to regional policies;
 5. Transportation needs addressed by the project have been identified by the regional transportation planning process and the remedy is deemed to have regional significance.
- (22) Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO): An agency authorized under state law to develop and adopt a regional transportation plan, and to certify that the transportation elements of local comprehensive plans conform to requirements of state law and are consistent with the regional transportation plan. In urbanized areas, the RTPO is the same as the MPO.
- (23) Sensitive areas: These include the following areas and ecosystems: wetlands, groundwater aquifers, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, floodplains, geologically hazardous areas.