

ACTION ITEM

March 24, 2011

To: Executive Board

From: Councilmember Dave Somers, Chair
Growth Management Policy Board

Subject: **Reclassification of Lake Stevens as a “Larger City” Through a Minor Amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy**

AT ISSUE

At your March meeting, the Executive Board will be asked to adopt a *minor amendment* to the VISION 2040 regional growth strategy that reclassifies the City of Lake Stevens from a “Small City” to a “Larger City.” A minor amendment is adopted to recognize a change in the regional geography classification of a city or unincorporated community. The threshold for becoming a Larger City is a combined population and employment base of 22,500. The minor amendment will not alter the numeric population and employment growth allocations in the regional growth strategy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Growth Management Policy Board approved this amendment at their March meeting, and recommends that the Executive Board adopt the *minor amendment* to the VISION 2040 regional growth strategy that reclassifies the City of Lake Stevens as a Larger City per revised Appendix I-C (see Attachment A).

BACKGROUND

On February 9, 2010, the Washington State Office of Financial Management approved an annexation by the City of Lake Stevens of its Southwest Annexation Area. This action resulted in an official adjusted population of 25,674 for Lake Stevens as of February 28, 2010.¹ Taken together with the city’s 2009 estimated covered employment base of

¹ Washington State Office of Financial Management, “Summary Report of Population Annexed and New Incorporations Each Quarter and the Adjusted Population to be Used in the Allocation of Tax Monies” four-quarter summary for 2009-2010, <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/annex/annexrpt/09to10/sum09.pdf>.

approximately 4,400 jobs, the combined population and employment of Lake Stevens has exceeded the 22,500 threshold required to be reclassified as a Larger City.

As such, the Executive Board is being asked to adopt a *minor amendment* to the VISION 2040 regional growth strategy to recognize the reclassification of the City of Lake Stevens as a Larger City.

A. What is the purpose of a minor amendment to the regional growth strategy?

A minor amendment addresses a change in the regional geography classification of a city or unincorporated community that occurs subsequent to the “date stamp” of the adopted regional growth strategy (currently April 1, 2007). A Small City is reclassified as a Larger City when its combined population and employment base exceeds a threshold of 22,500 (VISION 2040, p.22) as a result of annexation and/or real growth. The new classification comes with a shift in regional guidance regarding the future role that city/community will play in implementing the regional growth strategy.

B. What does a minor amendment do to the adopted regional growth strategy?

A minor amendment (in contrast to a full Technical Amendment) results in no change to the numeric population and employment growth allocations in the regional growth strategy. The minor amendment simply recognizes when a regional geography reclassification occurs.

It is anticipated that PSRC will undertake a formal Technical Amendment during calendar year 2013 to fully update the regional growth strategy to reflect current population/employment and political boundaries as well as regional geography reclassifications. Until that time, reclassifications will continue to be addressed through minor amendment actions.

C. What Is Included in the minor amendment package?

The proposed minor amendment is accompanied by a revised Appendix I-C to the regional growth strategy (see Attachment A).

For more information, please contact Carol Naito at 206-464-7535 or cnaito@psrc.org.