



January 20, 2019

Puget Sound Regional Council  
Executive Board  
Attn: Sheila Rogers  
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Growth Strategy - GMPB Recommendation for VISION 2050

The City of Monroe supports the Growth Management Planning Board's December 5, 2019 recommendation to the Executive Board to adopt a 3% growth rate for the rural areas of Snohomish County and a 4% growth rate for the urban unincorporated areas.

This policy accommodates the region's growth first and foremost into the urban growth area (MPP-RGS-4); Avoids increasing development capacity inconsistent with the Regional Growth Strategy in regional geographies not served by high-capacity transit (MPP-RGS-11); Plans for commercial, retail, and community services that serve rural residents to locate in neighboring cities ...to avoid the conversion of rural land into commercial purposes (MPP-RGS-12); and Manages and reduces rural growth rates overtime...to maintain rural landscapes and lifestyles and protect resource lands and the environment(MPP-RGS-13).

In the event the Executive Board supports the Regional Growth Strategy proposed by Snohomish County for the rural and urban unincorporated areas of Snohomish County, the City of Monroe respectfully requests the growth is directed to areas with enough existing and vested vacant lots to accommodate allocated growth without further subdividing rural lands. The Regional Growth Strategy should not be used to justify creative measures such as UGA "land swaps" to amend or expand the Urban Growth Area into rural areas where vested vacant lots are not already in place.

As counties and cities update their comprehensive plans in 2023-24 to accommodate growth targets and implement the Regional Growth Strategy, the City of Monroe supports a full range of strategies, including zoning and development standards, incentives, infrastructure investments, housing tools and economic development, to achieve a development pattern that aligns with VISION 2050 to reduce rural growth rates overtime and focus growth in cities. The City strongly opposes any efforts to increase densities outside of urban, incorporated areas.

Sincerely,

Mayor Pro-Tem

**THE ADVENTURE  
STARTS HERE!**

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