Siting Facilities for Whole Communities: School Siting

Puget Sound Regional Council Peer Networking Series
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Denise Stiffarm
Pacifica Law Group
Tahoma High School and Regional Learning Center
Schools and Undeveloped Site in the Tahoma School District
Document 3—Site-Specific Solutions
Box A

SITE BORDERS UGA or HAS SEWER CONNECTION

Overview:
In general, while the Task Force’s preference is to find alternative sites in the UGA, the Task Force finds that for the sites in Box A the particular site conditions and circumstances facing the impacted school districts may warrant other solutions. Thus the recommended solutions vary by site. For any recommendations that allow for development on a site, the Task Force recommends that the district work with the county and community to minimize impacts on the rural surroundings and rural residents.

Because of the identified need by the school districts, the Task Force recommends that these sites receive prioritized attention from city, county and school district decision makers.

Sites and their Solutions:

Suquamish Valley 1
1. Allow school district to connect to existing sewer
   Site specific: The high percentage of floodplain land in this school district makes finding an alternate site very challenging. The site does not have significant conservation value. The site has an existing school, which was developed with the intent that another school would be built on the site. The district has undertaken site preparation for the addition of an elementary school on the site. The school district invested in the Local Improvement District that enabled the sewer to reach the site.

Tahoma 1
1. Find alternative site in the UGA
2. Allow school district to connect to existing sewer
   Site specific: The Task Force encourages the district to work with the county and cities in the district to explore opportunities for finding an alternative site in the UGA that would meet the pressing need for additional capacity that development of another school would provide. If no viable alternative site that fits within the district’s financial plans can be expeditiously found, the availability of sewer and an existing school on the site present compelling reasons for development of the site to meet the district’s needs. The site does have conservation value and the Task Force recommends that any new development on the site occur adjacent to the existing school so that impacts to the site’s forest cover are minimized.

Lake Washington 2
1. Find alternative site in the UGA
2. Incorporate site into adjacent UGA
   Site specific: The site borders the Redmond watershed and has conservation value. The Task Force therefore encourages the school district, the county and the City of Redmond to find an alternative site within the UGA that would meet the district’s need for additional capacity. That development of another school would provide. The parties should identify other partners and funding mechanisms that would allow for purchase of the property (perhaps in conjunction with the Lake Washington 1 site) for permanent conservation as well as provide resources to the district for purchase of an alternative site. If no viable alternative site can be expeditiously identified, the Task Force recommends that the school district develop the site in a manner that preserves as much of the conservation value of the site as
2012 School Siting Task Force

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2. Allow school district to connect to existing sewer

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Summit Pit - 2012
Tahoma High School Design
Tahoma High School and Regional Learning Center
Clark Elementary School
Issaquah Middle School
Issaquah High School
(Shared Site with Issaquah Middle School)
New Middle School at Redmond Ridge
New Middle School at Redmond Ridge
Mead Elementary
Modernization and Addition Project
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