



**PIERCE COUNTY  
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE  
AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT**

Adoption for (check appropriate box)  DNS  EIS  Other

**Description of current proposal:** The proposal is the incorporation of new and refinement of existing policies through an amendment to the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies document. The proposal primarily stems from the adoption of VISION 2040, the Puget Sound region’s multi-county planning policy document, and its requirement to update the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies where necessary to ensure consistency between the two planning documents.

A general summary of proposed modifications within each section of the Countywide Planning Policies is provided below.

**Affordable Housing:** There are few proposed modifications. Of note are three policies addressing different aspects of the topic. Policy language is proposed that encourages jurisdictions containing designated regional centers to incorporate affordable housing allocations within their centers. As a means to decrease the cost of housing, there is additional policy language proposed that directs local jurisdictions to review and streamline their development regulations.

**Agricultural Lands:** There are various policies that refine and provide more detail on the criteria and process in designating agricultural lands through reference and inclusion of criteria outlined in WAC. As important, the concept of food security is incorporated as a consideration for designating agricultural lands. Additional policies are proposed to encourage the economic viability of agricultural lands, including the support of maintaining existing and establishing new farmers markets. To aid in the preservation of the agricultural lands, policies are introduced that address eliminating the pressures felt by land owners to convert designated agricultural to non-agricultural uses. As a means to reduce this pressure, local jurisdictions are directed to avoid the construction of major new or expansion of existing roads in the rural areas.

**Economic Development:** The proposal refines some existing policies and incorporates new policies that encourage economic development and job growth concentrated within designated centers. This direction is supported through additional policies that direct jurisdictions to maximize the use of existing designated manufacturing and industrial centers. Accordingly, economic development within the Rural area is discouraged except where there is not potential conflict with the rural character or mineral based land uses.

**Education:** The proposal includes a new policy that prioritizes the urban area above the rural area in the location of new school locations.

**Archaeological and Cultural Preservation:** The proposal adds a new policy that encourages local jurisdictions to use design strategies and approaches to preserve the unique attributes of their respective community.

**Natural Resources, Open Space, Protection of Environmentally-Sensitive Lands, and the Environment:** The proposal refines existing policies with an emphasis on supporting the sustainability of designated resource lands. This is proposed to be accomplished through discouraging the conversion of natural resource lands to other uses. As related to the environment, policies are introduced that direct local jurisdictions to consider open space and sensitive land that create linkages between jurisdictional boundaries. In addition, clustering homes together is encouraged to create more open space area when development occurs. The proposal incorporates additional policy language that provides more details relating to natural constraints and the protection of sensitive features as well as the incorporation of a policy directing jurisdictions to work together in establishing a common method for assessing the habitat needs for sensitive species. Additional policies are also incorporated addressing air quality issues and climate change.

**Transportation Facilities and Strategies:** The proposed policies address various components of transportation planning. The focus is on promoting a safe, sustainable transportation system with any significant improvements occurring within the urban areas, with an emphasis on supporting the designated regional centers. Accordingly, proposed policies discourage the expansion of new major roadways and capacity expansions in

the rural and resource areas. Within the urban area, non-motorized facilities are proposed to be added as a transportation service with Countywide context. Recognizing the transportation connection between jurisdictions, new policies are proposed that require a jurisdiction to consider potential impacts to its neighboring jurisdictions' transportation plan. An additional policy is incorporated to encourage the protection of the transportation system against disaster, development prevention and recovery strategies, and plan for coordinated responses.

**Urban Growth Areas, Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services to Such Development:** The proposed policies require the establishment of local employment targets and housing unit allocations. Additional policies require jurisdictions with adopted regional centers to sub-allocate their jurisdictional targets/allocations within each of their respective center geography through their local planning process. Furthermore, the proposed policies direct a significant share of the projected growth within the designated centers. Accordingly, proposed policies state that the priority for transportation and infrastructure funds shall be given to jurisdictions with designated centers. Additional policy language is proposed that provides the minimum criteria for designation of an area as a Candidate Countywide Center.

**Buildable Lands:** The proposal incorporates new policies that refine the roles and responsibilities of the County and each of the cities and towns in the implementation of the program. Additional policies identify the information that will be reported within the 5-year Buildable Lands Report and associated consistency evaluation report. New policies are also included that identify the public outreach strategy for review and comment by the public and stakeholders.

**Amendments and Transition:** The proposal modifies an existing policy to allow for the expansion of the urban growth area based on the needs of an individual jurisdiction as opposed to the collective countywide need.

The proposed amendment introduces three new sections to the document; 1) Community and Urban Design, 2) Health and Well-being, and 3) Rural.

**Community and Urban Design:** The proposed policies encourage the inclusion of community and urban design elements in local planning efforts with an emphasis on the preservation of unique local characteristics, sustaining a high quality of life, and creating a sense of community within the urban environment.

**Health and Well-being:** The proposed policies promote the development of necessary infrastructure and built environment to encourage healthier lifestyles in terms of physical, social and mental well-being.

**Rural:** The proposed policies reiterate or support policies in other sections of the policy document with an emphasis on maintaining the rural character of the area outside of the designated urban growth area. The policies accomplish this through prohibiting the establishment or extension of urban level development and infrastructure as well as discouraging the approval of new fully contained communities in the rural areas. New commercial areas serving the needs of residents living in the rural area are to be located within existing cities and towns or established rural activity centers to prevent the further conversion of rural land.

**Proponent:** Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department

**Location of current proposal:** Pierce County

**Title of documents being adopted:** VISION 2040 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, 2009 Amendments to the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan.

**Agency that prepared document being adopted:** Puget Sound Regional Council (VISION 2040), Pierce County Planning & Land Services (2009 Pierce County Comprehensive Plan Amendments)

**Date adopted document was prepared:** VISION 2040 - April 2008, 2009 Pierce County Comprehensive Plan Amendments - July 20, 2009

**Description of document (or portion) being adopted:** The VISION 2040 FEIS sets forth an analysis of alternatives and identifies a preferred strategy for growth and development within the four county Puget Sound regions. The topics covered through the analysis encompass all of the subject areas addressed through the proposed amendments to the Pierce County CPPs with the exception of the "Amendments and Transition" section.

The 2009 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2009 Pierce County Comprehensive Plan Amendments provides an analysis and integrated staff report for amendments proposed through the 2009 Pierce County Comprehensive Plan amendment cycle. This document addresses the analysis and impacts associated with the proposed amendment to the "Amendments and Transition" section.

**If the document being adopted has been challenged (WAC 197-11-630), please describe:** N/A

**The document is available to be read at (place/time):** To request a copy of the VISION 2040 FEIS on CD, contact the PSRC Information Center at 206-464-7532 or [info@psrc.org](mailto:info@psrc.org). Print copies are available for review in the PSRC Information Center during their business hours. An electronic version may be obtained via the worldwide web at <http://psrc.org/projects/vision/pubs/feis/index.htm>.

To request a copy of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement contact the Long Range Planning Section of Pierce County Planning & Land Services, Room 228, 2401 South 35th Street, Tacoma, WA 98409, (253) 798-2785.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

\_\_\_ There is no comment period for this DNS.

X This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by September XX, 2010.


We have identified and adopted this document as being appropriate for this proposal after independent review. The document meets our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

**Name of agency adopting document:** Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department

**Contact person, if other than responsible official:** Dan Cardwell, Senior Planner, Advance Planning Section, Phone (253) 798-7039

**Responsible official:** Chuck Kleeberg, Director/Environmental Official

**Address:** 2401 S. 35th St., Suite 175, Tacoma, WA 98409

**Date:** September 15, 2010      **Signature:**   
Adonais Clark, Environmental Designee

AC:DC:ld  
9PCPALSVision2040FEIS ADOPT.doc

**PIERCE COUNTY  
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE  
AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING  
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT**

Revision to the existing policies in the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies  
Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department - Applicant

Notice to the public and to other agencies is hereby provided in accordance with 18.80 and 18D.40.50 Pierce County Code and WAC 197-11-510 that Pierce County has issued a Determination of Nonsignificance and Adoption of Existing Environmental Document on the following proposal:

Incorporate new and refine existing policies through an amendment to the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies document. The proposal primarily stems from the adoption of VISION 2040, the Puget Sound region's multi-county planning policy document, and its requirement to update the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies where necessary to ensure consistency between the two planning documents.

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) adopted VISION 2040, as the growth management, environmental, economic, and transportation vision for the central Puget Sound region. VISION 2040 provides a common framework for the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Regional Economic Strategy, as well as countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plans. As such, the PSRC allocates federal transportation funding to Puget Sound counties, cities, and towns for projects that are consistent with the adopted regional plan.

VISION 2040 identifies a set of regional growth and manufacturing/industrial centers and the PSRC has identified criteria for designating regional centers. The regional centers are central to the Policy Framework that guides the distribution of federal transportation funding. The proposed amendments to the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies are the result of a consistency evaluation between the PSRC regional center criteria and the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies to ensure Pierce County jurisdictions continue to have the opportunity to be recipients of federal transportation funding through the PSRC.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that the proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be required. This decision was made after the review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency.

This Determination of Nonsignificance and Adoption of Existing Environmental Document is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). Pierce County may not act on this proposal prior to September 30, 2010. Comments must be submitted by closing on September 29, 2010.

An appeal of this determination must be filed not later than October 13, 2010, at the Development Center, Planning and Land Services, Pierce County Public Services Building, 2401 S. 35th St., Tacoma, WA 98409 by filing the appropriate appeal form and a \$2,200.00 filing fee. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Contact the Development Center, 798-7200 to read or ask about the procedure for appeals.

September 15, 2010

To all Interested Parties and Agencies

RE: Revision to the existing policies in the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed are a Determination of Nonsignificance and Adoption of Existing Environmental Document for the above referenced project. Please submit any comments you may have by September 29, 2010.

Sincerely,

Dan Cardwell  
Senior Planner

AC:DC:ld  
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Encls.

**PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL (12)  
COUNTY-CITY BLDG RM 1046  
(ALL MBRS + ANNA)**

PIERCE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
TRANSPORTATION  
**TMOB**  
JESSE HAMASHIMA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
950 PACIFIC AVE #720  
ROB ALLEN

PIERCE TRANSIT  
KELLY HAYDEN  
P O BOX 99070  
TACOMA WA 98499-0070

PIERCE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
**ESB** - UNIVERSITY PLACE  
BRIAN ZIEGLER

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTY  
955 TACOMA AVE SO #301  
PETE PHILLEY

PARKLAND/SPANAWAY LAND  
USE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBERS

TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
1102 TACOMA AVE S  
TACOMA WA 98402

TPCHD ENV HEALTH DIVISION  
3629 S "D" ST  
STEVE MAREK

PORT OF TACOMA  
ATTN: SUE MAUERMAN  
PO BOX 1837  
TACOMA WA 98401

KIRK KIRKLAND  
3114 N ALDER  
TACOMA WA 98407

GRAHAM ADVISORY  
COMMISSION MEMBERS

SOUTH HILL LAND USE  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBERS

KEY PENINSULA LAND USE  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBERS

FREDERICKSON LAND USE  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBERS

MID-COUNTY LAND USE  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBERS

GIG HARBOR LAND USE  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBERS

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOP  
ATTN: ANNE FRITZEL  
9TH & COLUMBIA BLDG  
M/S GH-51  
OLYMPIA WA 98504-4151

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP  
PO BOX 40900  
OLYMPIA WA 98504-0900

GIG HARBOR CHAMBER OF  
COMM  
PO BOX 102  
GIG HARBOR WA 98335-0102

FUTUREWISE  
APRIL PUTNEY  
814 2ND AVE #500  
SEATTLE WA 98104

PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY  
3005 112TH ST E  
TACOMA WA 98446

SOUTH HILL COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL  
12111 - 94TH AVE E  
PUYALLUP WA 98371

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P O BOX 2084  
GIG HARBOR WA 98335

FREDERICKSON-CLOVER CREEK  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
ATTN: HELEN SCOTT  
20611 42ND AVE E  
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CHRIS PICARD  
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OFFICE OF URBAN MOBILITY  
401 SECOND AVE S #300  
SEATTLE WA 98104

TPC ECONOMIC DEV BOARD  
ATTN: PRESIDENT  
P O BOX 1555  
TACOMA WA 98401

TACOMA WEEKLY  
4412 6TH AVE, STE 4  
TACOMA WA 98406

CITY OF TACOMA  
CITY MANAGER  
747 MARKET ST  
TACOMA WA 98402

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT  
CITY OF TACOMA  
747 MARKET ST  
TACOMA WA 98402

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
62 CES/CECP  
555 BARNES BLVD  
MC CHORD AFB, WA 98438

PUGET SOUND CLEAN AIR  
AGENCY  
1904 THIRD AVE STE 105  
SEATTLE WA 98101-3317

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL  
COUNCIL – NORMAN ABBOTT  
1011 WESTERN AVE STE 500  
SEATTLE WA 98104-1035

TACOMA BLDG/LAND USE  
SEPA INFORMATION CENTER  
747 MARKET ST STE 308  
TACOMA WA 98402

PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS  
6824 PIONEER WAY W  
PUYALLUP WA 98371

STEILACOOM INDIAN TRIBE  
PO BOX 88419  
STEILACOOM WA 98388

MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE  
ATTN: CHANTAL STEVENS  
ENVIRONMENTAL DIV CHIEF  
39015 172ND AVE SE  
AUBURN WA 98002

NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE  
4820 SHE-NAH-NUM DRIVE SE  
OLYMPIA WA 98504

SQUAXIN ISLAND INDIAN TRIBE  
SE 70 SQUAXIN LANE  
SHELTON WA 98584

RUSSELL CARTER  
PUYALLUP INDIAN TRIBE  
3009 E PORTLAND AVE  
TACOMA WA 98404

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
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OLYMPIA WA 98504-7703

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COMMERCE  
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TACOMA, WA 98401

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600 CAPITOL WAY N  
OLYMPIA WA 98501-1091

MORNING NEWS TRIBUNE  
PO BOX 11000  
TACOMA WA 98411

ENUMCLAW COURIER HERALD  
P O BOX 157  
ENUMCLAW WA 98002

SEATTLE TIMES  
P O BOX 70  
SEATTLE WA 98111

KEY PENINSULA NEWS  
P O BOX 3  
VAUGHN WA 98394

PENINSULA GATEWAY  
PO BOX 407  
GIG HARBOR WA 98335

THE DISPATCH  
PO BOX 248  
EATONVILLE WA 98328

KCPQ-CHANNEL 13  
1813 WESTLAKE AVE N  
SEATTLE, WA 98109-2706

PIERCE COUNTY HERALD  
P O BOX 517  
PUYALLUP WA 98371-0170

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
702 BROADWAY STE 105  
TACOMA WA 98402

CITY OF AUBURN  
25 W. MAIN STREET  
AUBURN WA 98001

CITY OF BONNEY LAKE  
PO BOX 7380  
BONNEY LAKE WA 98390

CITY OF FEDERAL WAY  
PO BOX 9718  
FEDERAL WAY, WA 98063-9718

CITY OF FIRCREST  
115 RAMSDELL ST  
FIRCREST WA 98466

CITY OF SUMNER  
1104 MAPLE ST  
SUMNER WA 98390

CITY OF BUCKLEY  
PO BOX 1960  
BUCKLEY WA 98321

CITY OF PUYALLUP  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
333 S MERIDIAN  
PUYALLUP WA 98371

TOWN OF STEILACOOM  
1030 ROE ST  
STEILACOOM WA 98388

TOWN OF RUSTON  
5117 N WINNIFRED  
RUSTON WA 98407

CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE  
3715 BRIDGEPORT WAY W  
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PO BOX 89  
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FIFE WA 98424

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PACIFIC WA 98047

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ROY WA 98580

CITY OF MILTON  
1000 LAUREL ST  
MILTON WA 98354

CITY OF CARBONADO  
PO BOX 2, DRAWER 91  
CARBONADO WA 98323

CITY OF DUPONT  
1700 CIVIC DRIVE  
DUPONT WA 98327

TOWN OF EATONVILLE  
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EATONVILLE WA 98329

CITY OF EDGEWOOD  
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EDGEWOOD WA 98372

CITY OF GIG HARBOR  
3510 GRANDVIEW ST  
GIG HARBOR WA 98335

CITY OF LAKEWOOD  
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LAKEWOOD WA 98499

CITY OF ORTING  
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ORTING WA 98360

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**GROWTH MANAGEMENT  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE**