

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE KITSAP COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION,  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,  
REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
KITSAP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RURAL AND RESOURCE LANDS CHAPTER, KITSAP  
COUNTY CODE TITLE 17 “ZONING” (CHILD CARE AND AGRICULTURE), AND  
RECLASSIFICATION REQUESTS**

General Background. The Kitsap County Planning Commission makes general findings as follows:

1. The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Kitsap County to periodically review and revise its comprehensive plan and development regulations. In accordance with RCW 36.70A.130, Kitsap County completed and adopted the update December 2, 2024.
2. The GMA, RCW 36.70A.130, mandates that Kitsap County’s Comprehensive Plan (Plan) and corresponding development regulations, including the Zoning Code and Map, be subject to continuing review and evaluation.
3. GMA Goal 8 – Natural Resource Industries (RCW 36.70A.020(8)) and GMA Goal 9 – Open space and recreation (RCW 36.70A.020(9)) directly address rural and resource-based industries.
4. Kitsap County’s last Year of the Rural effort was completed in 2012 and included a separate Rural and Resource Lands Chapter in the 2012 Comprehensive Plan.
5. Reclassification requests were accepted in 2022 as part of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. Seventeen rural-to-rural requests were deferred to 2025, fourteen were removed from the docket June 23, 2025, and three were assessed using Kitsap County Code 21.08.070 procedures.
6. Kitsap County Code 21.08.100 establishes procedures for Planning Commission review of the County’s comprehensive plans, development regulations, and amendments thereto.

Procedural history. The Kitsap County Planning Commission makes general procedural findings as follows:

7. **General Public Participation and Outreach.** Consistent with the Growth Management Act, the County held numerous opportunities for public participation throughout the process. The County kept a record of these public engagement opportunities along with their dates. Outreach can be generally summarized as follows:
  - a. **Workshops and Open House.** County staff hosted an Agriculture Working Group Meeting on April 4 with the Agriculture Working Group Steering Committee and a cross section of additional members from across the agriculture community. Three additional Agriculture Workshops were held in collaboration with Kitsap Community & Agriculture Alliance on May 10 in

Kingston; May 14 in Port Orchard; and May 24 in Bremerton to discuss goals, policies, and potential agriculture code updates presented by the agriculture community and Kitsap County. A hybrid project presentation and in-person open house was held on September 11 in the Commissioner Chambers at 619 Division Street with a large virtual (35) and in-person (170) attendance. Community members had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments that were answered live or noted.

- b. **Working Groups.** An Agriculture Working Group Steering Committee was created with representatives from the following organizations and networks: WSU Kitsap Extension, Kitsap Conservation District, Kitsap Community & Agriculture Alliance, Mason-Kitsap Farm Bureau, and Kitsap Farmland Preservation Coalition. The Steering Committee met monthly from January – April and met in September to coordinate feedback.
- c. **Community Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement.** In 2025, County staff convened various meetings or outreach opportunities with stakeholder groups to present and discuss the Year of the Rural project. The groups included but were not limited to Kitsap County Child Care Task Force, Kingston Rotary, Kitsap Alliance of Property Owners, Tribal Coordination Meetings, Great Peninsula Conservancy, a gravel pit owner, Washington DNR, Kitsap Environmental Coalition, Kitsap County Public Health, and reclassification request applicants.
- d. **Events.** County staff attended various non-County events to engage people on the Year of the Rural project and public engagement process including Silverdale Music in the Park and Discover Kingston.
- e. **Community Advisory Council (CAC) meetings.** County staff provided updates and presentations to the Manchester Community Advisory Council (MCAC), Central Kitsap Community Council (CKCC), Suquamish Community Advisory Council (SCAC) and Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC).
- f. **Tribal Coordination Meetings.** County staff provided a project presentation early in the process, holding several staff-to-staff meetings mid-year, and additional meetings and presentations in September with Tribal staff from Tribal governments (Suquamish, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Squaxin Island, and Point No Point Treaty Council).
- g. **Internal Review Team.** To ensure internal consistency, the County convened an Internal Review Team comprised of various departments and service providers within the County, including Parks, Public Works, and Emergency Management, and Kitsap County Department of Community Development Divisions: Community Planning, Current Planning, Building and Fire Safety, and Environmental Programs.
- h. **Public Noticing.** Meetings, events, and public comment periods were noticed through the electronic GovDelivery system, posted on the project webpage, and in some cases posted using social media. Proper noticing procedures were followed for all public hearings and release of the draft and final environmental impact statement, such as posting in the Kitsap Sun Newspaper, or sending to the Ecology SEPA register.
- i. **Project webpage.** Kitsap County created a dedicated webpage for the Year of the Rural project, [Year of the Rural](#). The webpage provides an opportunity for the public to stay current with emerging issues and events related to the Plan

- 1 update, as well as provide comments, sign up for notifications, and review all  
2 draft documents and maps related to the update.
- 3 j. **Planning Commission Briefings and Work Sessions.** The Planning  
4 Commission conducted regular information sharing and work study sessions  
5 throughout the Plan update process. All sessions were open to the public.  
6 These briefings and work sessions were held during major milestones of the  
7 project and generally occurred in relationship to the (1) initial project kick off,  
8 scoping, and direction, (2) outreach and timeline, and (3) review of draft  
9 documents and recommendations. [Kitsap County Planning Commission](#)
- 10 k. **Board of Commissioners Briefings and Work Sessions.** The Board of County  
11 Commissioners conducted regular information sharing and work study sessions  
12 throughout the Plan update process. All sessions were open to the public.  
13 These briefings and work sessions were held during major milestones of the  
14 project, and general occurred in relationship to the (1) initial project kick off,  
15 scoping, and direction, (2) outreach and timeline, and (3) review of final draft  
16 documents and adoption.
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- 18 8. **SEPA Review.** On September 2, the County issued a *Programmatic Determination of*  
19 *Non-Significance and Incorporation by Reference*. A Notice of Availability was posted in  
20 the Kitsap Sun newspaper, sent to the SEPA Register, and properly noticed to agencies,  
21 Tribes and interested parties.
- 22
- 23 9. **Land Use Requests.** Kitsap County accepted requests for land use reclassifications in  
24 2022 during the Comprehensive Plan Update. The application was open to anyone who  
25 wished to apply, and 86 such requests were received. Seventeen rural-to-rural requests  
26 were deferred to the 2025 Year of the Rural project and fourteen of those were removed  
27 from the docket on June 23, 2025. Three remained for consideration.
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- 29 10. **Preliminary Alternatives for 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.** In Spring of 2023, the  
30 County developed three preliminary land use alternatives (Alternative 1: No Action,  
31 Alternative 2: Focused Growth and Alternative 3: Dispersed Growth). These alternatives  
32 reflected different major policy initiatives, development regulations, and map changes.
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- 34 11. **DEIS Issued.** The reclassification requests were included in Alternative 2 or Alternative  
35 3 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that was issued on December 15,  
36 2023 and which studied and compared the three preliminary alternatives. A Notice of  
37 Availability was posted in the Kitsap Sun newspaper, sent to the SEPA Register, and  
38 properly noticed to agencies, Tribes and interested parties. A public comment period  
39 was held on the DEIS between December 15, 2023 and February 26, 2024.
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- 41 12. **FEIS Issued.** On August 30, 2024, the County issued a Final Environmental Impact  
42 Statement (FEIS). A Notice of Availability was posted in the Kitsap Sun newspaper, sent  
43 to the SEPA Register, and properly noticed to agencies, Tribes and interested parties.
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- 45 13. **Department of Commerce Review.** On October 3, 2025, the County issued a 60-day  
46 Notice of Intent to Adopt to the Department of Commerce. A Commerce letter of  
47 acknowledgement of receipt was received on October 6, 2025.
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1       **14. Planning Commission Public Comment period.** Following proper noticing, a public  
2       comment period was held for the draft the draft Rural and Resource Lands Chapter  
3       Update, Kitsap County Code Title 17 “Zoning” (Child Care and Agriculture), and  
4       Reclassification Requests between September 2, 2025 through September 23, 2025.  
5       Comments received by the September 23, 2025 hearing date were forwarded to the  
6       Planning Commission in advance of deliberations.

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8       **15. Planning Commission Public Hearing.** On September 23, 2025, following timely and  
9       effective notice, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider the draft  
10      Rural and Resource Lands Chapter Update, Kitsap County Code Title 17 “Zoning” (Child  
11      Care and Agriculture), and Reclassification Requests

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13      **16. Planning Commission Deliberations.** On October 14, 2025 and **October XX**, 2025, the  
14      Planning Commission deliberated on the draft Rural and Resource Lands Chapter  
15      Update, Kitsap County Code Title 17 “Zoning” (Child Care and Agriculture), and  
16      Reclassification Requests.

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18      Substantive Findings and Conclusions Related to Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities  
19      Plan. The Kitsap County Planning Commission makes the following substantive Findings and  
20      Conclusions in respect to the Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities Plan:

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22      17. The proposed Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map are  
23      consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), including  
24      the fifteen statewide planning goals contained therein and the State  
25      Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

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27      18. The Comprehensive Plan update is consistent with PSRC’s Vision 2050 and the  
28      Kitsap Countywide Planning Policies.

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30      19. The Comprehensive Plan update reflects local circumstances and bears a  
31      substantial relationship to the public’s general health, safety, and welfare.

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33      Substantive Findings and Conclusions Related to the Development Regulations. The Kitsap  
34      County Planning Commission makes the following substantive Findings and Conclusions in  
35      respect to the Proposed Development Regulations:

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37      20. The proposed revisions to Title 17 KCC “Zoning” (Child Care and Agriculture) are  
38      consistent with the proposed Comprehensive Plan.

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40      21. The proposed regulations foster access to child care throughout Kitsap county, rural  
41      business, and rural economic viability.

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44      **NOW THEREFORE,** the Kitsap County Planning Commission recommends to the Department of  
45      Community Development as follows:  
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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approval of Rural and Resource Lands Chapter Update draft dated September 2, 2025, as amended by the Planning Commission shown in Attachment A.
2. Approval of the Kitsap County Code Title 17 “Zoning” (Child Care and Agriculture) draft dated September 2, 2025, as amended by the Planning Commission shown Attachment A.
3. Approval of Reclassification Requests, as amended by the Planning Commission shown in Attachment A.

**Attachments:**

**1. Attachment A: Planning Commission Deliberations Table and Recommendations Matrix**

Approved by the Planning Commission of Kitsap County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, held this XX<sup>st</sup> day of October 2025.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Beam, Chair