APPENDIX C: MULTICOUNTY PLANNING POLICIES

adopted April 2008

Note: The entire set of Multicounty Planning Policies serves as the "regional guidelines and principles" used for certification of policies and plans – including the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans.

GENERAL POLICIES

MPP-G-1 Coordinate planning efforts among jurisdictions, agencies, and federally recognized Indian tribes where there are common borders or related regional issues, to facilitate a common vision.

MPP-G-2 Update countywide planning policies, where necessary, prior to December 31, 2010, to address the multicounty planning policies in VISION 2040.

MPP-G-3 Monitor implementation of VISION 2040 to evaluate progress in achieving the regional growth strategy, as well as the environment, development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, and public services provisions.

Fiscal

MPP-G-4 Explore new and existing sources of funding for services and infrastructure, recognizing that such funding is vital if local governments are to achieve the regional vision.

MPP-G-5 Identify and develop changes to regulatory, pricing, taxing, and expenditure practices, and other fiscal tools within the region to implement the vision.

ENVIRONMENT

Overarching Goal: The region will care for the natural environment by protecting and restoring natural systems, conserving habitat, improving water quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, and addressing potential climate change impacts. The region acknowledges that the health of all residents is connected to the health of the environment. Planning at all levels should consider the impacts of land use, development patterns, and transportation on the ecosystem.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GOAL AND POLICIES

Goal: The region will safeguard the natural environment by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
MPP-En-1  Develop regionwide environmental strategies, coordinating among local jurisdictions and countywide planning groups.

MPP-En-2  Use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment at regional, countywide and local levels.

MPP-En-3  Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality, and climate change.

MPP-En-4  Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of social or economic status, live in a healthy environment, with minimal exposure to pollution.

MPP-En-5  Locate development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including design, materials, construction, and on-going maintenance.

MPP-En-6  Use the best information available at all levels of planning, especially scientific information, when establishing and implementing environmental standards established by any level of government.

MPP-En-7  Mitigate noise caused by traffic, industries, and other sources.

EARTH AND HABITAT GOAL AND POLICIES

Goal:  The region will preserve the beauty and natural ecological processes of the Puget Sound basin through the conservation and enhancement of natural resources and the environment.

MPP-En-8  Identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries.

MPP-En-9  Designate, protect, and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas through mechanisms, such as the review and comment of countywide planning policies and local plans and provisions.

MPP-En-10  Preserve and enhance habitat to prevent species from inclusion on the Endangered Species List and to accelerate their removal from the list.

MPP-En-11  Identify and protect wildlife corridors both inside and outside the urban growth area.

MPP-En-12  Preserve and restore native vegetation to protect habitat, especially where it contributes to the overall ecological function and where invasive species are a significant threat to native ecosystems.
WATER QUALITY GOAL AND POLICIES

Goal: The region will meet or do better than standards established for water quality. The quality of the water flowing out of the region – including Puget Sound – should be as good as or better than the quality of water entering the region.

MPP-En-13 Maintain natural hydrological functions within the region's ecosystems and watersheds and, where feasible, restore them to a more natural state.

MPP-En-14 Restore – where appropriate and possible – the region’s freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.

MPP-En-15 Reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers to the extent feasible and identify alternatives that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

MPP-En-16 Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the region’s hydrological systems.

AIR QUALITY GOAL AND POLICIES

Goal: The overall quality of the region's air will be better than it is today.

MPP-En-17 Maintain or do better than existing standards for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulates.

MPP-En-18 Reduce levels for air toxics, fine particulates, and greenhouse gases.

MPP-En-19 Continue efforts to reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.

CLIMATE CHANGE GOAL AND POLICIES

Goal: The region will reduce its overall production of harmful elements that contribute to climate change.

MPP-En-20 Address the central Puget Sound region's contribution to climate change by, at a minimum, committing to comply with state initiatives and directives regarding climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gases. Jurisdictions and agencies should work to include an analysis of climate change impacts when conducting an environmental review process under the State Environmental Policy Act.

MPP-En-21 Reduce the rate of energy use per capita, both in building use and in transportation activities.

MPP-En-22 Pursue the development of energy management technology as part of meeting the region’s energy needs.
**MPP-En-23** Reduce greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources and by reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.

**MPP-En-24** Take positive actions to reduce carbons, such as increasing the number of trees in urban portions of the region.

**MPP-En-25** Anticipate and address the impacts of climate change on regional water sources.

**DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

**Overarching Goal:** The region will focus growth within already urbanized areas to create walkable, compact, and transit-oriented communities that maintain unique local character. Centers will continue to be a focus of development. Rural and natural resource lands will continue to be permanent and vital parts of the region.

**URBAN LANDS GOALS AND POLICIES**

**Goal:** The region will promote the efficient use of land, prevent urbanization of rural and resource lands, and provide for the efficient delivery of services within the designated urban growth area.

**MPP-DP-1** Provide a regional framework for the designation and adjustment of the urban growth area to ensure long-term stability and sustainability of the urban growth area consistent with the regional vision.

**MPP-DP-2** Encourage efficient use of urban land by maximizing the development potential of existing urban lands, such as advancing development that achieves zoned density.

**Goal:** The region, countywide planning bodies, and local jurisdictions will work together to set population and employment growth targets consistent with the regional vision.

**MPP-DP-3** Use consistent countywide targeting processes for allocating population and employment growth consistent with the regional vision, including establishing: (a) local employment targets, (b) local housing targets based on population projections, and (c) local housing and employment targets for each designated regional growth center.

**MPP-DP-4** Accommodate the region's growth first and foremost in the urban growth area. Ensure that development in rural areas is consistent with the regional vision.