**1.**

**Urban Growth**

**Encourage urban development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.**

* 1. Urban growth shall be allowed only within cities and towns, their designated Urban Growth Areas (“UGAs”) and within any non-municipal urban growth areas already characterized by urban growth, identified in the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan with a Capital Facilities Plan meeting urban standards. Population, employment and housing allocations for each UGA shall be consistent with the allocations shown in Appendix A.
	2. Cities and towns and their urban growth areas, and non-municipal urban growth areas designated pursuant to CPP 1.1, shall include areas and densities sufficient to accommodate as a target 80% of the county's 20-year population projection.
	3. Urban growth areas shall provide for urban densities of mixed uses and shall direct development of neighborhoods which provide adequate and accessible urban governmental services concurrent with development. The Growth Management Act (“GMA”) defines urban governmental services as those governmental services historically and typically delivered by cities, including storm and sanitary sewer systems, domestic water systems, street cleaning services, fire and police protection services, public transit services, and other public utilities associated with urban areas and normally not associated with nonurban areas.
	4. Urban growth areas shall include greenbelts and open space, and encourage the preservation of wildlife habitat areas.
	5. Cities and towns shall encourage development, including greenbelt and open space areas, on existing vacant land and in-fill properties before expanding beyond their present corporate city limits towards urban growth boundaries.
	6. Annexations beyond urban growth areas are prohibited.
	7. The baseline for 20-year countywide population forecasts shall be the official Growth Management Act Population Projections from the State of Washington’s Office of Financial Management. The Growth Management Act Technical Advisory Committee (“Planners Committee”) shall recommend the process for allocating forecasted population, employment, and housing which shall be cooperatively reviewed by the Growth

Management Act Steering Committee (“GMASC”), consistent with the 2002 Framework Agreement. Final growth allocations will be ratified by each government’s legislative body. The growth allocation process shall use the procedures in Appendix B, which calls for the following steps:

* + 1. Initial Growth Allocations;
		2. Reconciliation;
		3. Long Term Monitoring; and
		4. Allocation Adjustment.
	1. Skagit County, the cities and towns shall use consistent development and housing capacity methods as approved by the GMASC to determine the capacity of Urban Growth Areas to accommodate population and employment growth and housing produced in the different AMI categories provided by the Department of Commerce. Jurisdictions will supply a capacity inventory done as part of their periodic updates, to the Skagit Council of Governments.
	2. Skagit County, the cities and towns will establish a common method to monitor urban development and housing development to evaluate the rate of growth and maintain an inventory of the amount of buildable land remaining and the amount of housing produced in the different AMI categories provided by the Department of Commerce . The Planners Committee shall develop a monitoring process, prepare annual monitoring reports and present the reports to the Growth Management Act Steering Committee annually.
	3. All growth outside the urban growth boundary shall be rural in nature as defined in the Rural Element, not requiring urban governmental services, except in those limited circumstances shown to be necessary to the satisfaction of both Skagit County and the affected city/town to protect basic public health, safety and the environment, and when such services are financially supportable at rural densities and do not permit development.