



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

GARY R. CHRISTENSEN, AICP, DIRECTOR

BILL DOWE, CBO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PATTI CHAMBERS
Administrative Coordinator

TIM DEVRIES, CBO
Building Official

Public Notice & Invitation to Comment:

Concerning the Environmental Review of Proposed Changes to the Guemes Island Ferry Schedule

January 23, 2008

Dear Guemes Islanders:

Skagit County is approaching the end of its two-year trial period of expanded Guemes Island ferry service as implemented by the Board of County Commissioners in May 2006. The Board is expected to adopt a permanent schedule by June of this year. To assist with that process, the County is beginning an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of various permanent ferry service alternatives.

These range from a “No Action Alternative” under which the ferry schedule would revert back to the schedule in place before implementation of the two-year expanded service trial period, to a “Current Expanded Service Alternative” based on the temporary schedule that is now in effect. The assessment will also consider the impacts of a schedule that varies by season, with more runs and later service times being offered during the summer and fewer runs and an earlier conclusion to service in the winter.

Beginning this week, the County is requesting public comment on the proposed scope of the environmental assessment of the alternatives. The County has released two documents that provide additional information about the process and additional contact information for County staff:

1. Public Notice & Invitation to Comment: Concerning the Environmental Review of Proposed Changes to the Guemes Island Ferry Schedule; and
2. Environmental Assessment – Background & Overview

The first document will be published in the legal section of the *Skagit Valley Herald* on Thursday, January 24. Both documents are available for review at the following locations:

1. Skagit County website, www.skagitcounty.net and www.skagitcounty.net/publicworksferry
2. Skagit County Planning and Development Services Department, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA, 8:00 – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
3. Guemes Island Library, 7549 Guemes Island Road, Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Skagit County will also hold a Community Workshop from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 10, 2008, in the Guemes Island Community Hall**, 7549 Guemes Island Road, Guemes Island, WA 98221. The workshop will provide an opportunity to ask questions concerning the proposed scope and timing of the environmental review, and to submit comments regarding the environmental issues to be analyzed.

We encourage you to review the two documents listed above, to attend the community workshop, and to submit comments on the environmental assessment following the procedures discussed in the Public Notice and Invitation to Comment.

Thank you for your assistance.

1800 Continental Place ♦ Mount Vernon, WA 98273 ♦ Phone: (360) 336-9410 ♦ Fax: (360) 336-9416

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