

MAY 13 2013

**From:** Peter Gill <pgill@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**To:** Carl Weimer <CWeimer@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Sam Crawford <SCrawfor@co.whatco...>  
**CC:** Dana Brown-Davis <DBrown@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Mark Personius <MPersoni@co....>  
**Date:** 5/13/2013 2:29 PM  
**Subject:** Follow up - Natural Resource Committee 5/7/2013

ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS  
WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

I promised to follow up on questions that we could not answer during the Natural Resource Committee meeting on May 7, regarding Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District. The two questions I wrote down are below, but we will be back at Natural Resource Committee on 5/21 if I missed something.

1. Is there a way to approve the code without resolving the small lot exemption question immediately, or starting the whole legislative process over again?

One potential option is to include a sunset date in the code that would remove the small lot exemption in 1, 3, or 5 years. This would create a number challenges that you can imagine. A better idea may be to add a provision for stormwater hook up agreements between Sudden Valley and the small lot owners in lieu of individual systems. This would require community stormwater systems to be managed by Sudden Valley.

2. Does this code require subdivisions to install the stormwater systems prior to final plat approval?

Yes, for platting that creates lots smaller than 22,000 sqft (approximately ½ acre). This is the current practice for subdivision final approval. We will have language on 5/21 that makes this more clear. There is an exemption from this requirement for platting that creates lots greater than 22,000 sqft (Planning Commission proposed draft 20.51.420(1)(F)).

Kind regards,

Peter Gill

Whatcom County - Planning and Development Services

5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, Washington 98226

T: (360) 676-6907 E: pgill@co.whatcom.wa.us