

From: [Lance Calloway](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Ashley Ubil](#)
Cc: [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#); [Kathy Kershner](#); [Ben Elenbaas](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#)
Subject: Proposed Cherry Point Amendments
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:31:00 PM
Attachments: [L.Calloway-AGC Public Comment on Proposed Cherry Point Amendments.pdf](#)

To all concerned,
I respectfully submit my public comment regarding the upcoming Whatcom County Planning Commission's public hearing concerning the Cherry Point Industrial Zone.

I thank you in advance for taking this into consideration.
All the best!

Lance Calloway Northern District Manager
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ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of WASHINGTON

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August 12, 2020

Whatcom County Planning Commission
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Washington's public comment for the Planning Commission, August 13 public hearing on the Cherry Point amendments

Whatcom County Planning Commission:

Overall, the Planning Commission has done a good job making some important recommendations to the proposed Cherry Point amendments from the County Council.

I was slightly disappointed with the last two Planning Commission virtual work sessions but appreciate the recommendations the Commission has made. I would also like to commend the Commission for urging industry and RE Sources to work cooperatively to draft the joint proposal that has been submitted for your consideration. The Planning Commission should support those recommendations and forward them with your final review to the County Council.

AGC members also have broader concerns beyond the Cherry Point amendments that makes it important that we comment. We do not support the County Council's expanded use of conditional use permits at Cherry Point or anywhere else in the County. As you are all aware conditional permits give the County broad discretion to deny a permit application based on vague criteria that can be subjectively applied.

AGC members also have great concerns about the implementation of such significant land use and regulatory changes as the Cherry Point amendments as our economy tries to recover from the COVID 19 crisis. The Planning Commission and ultimately the County Council need to be very thorough and thoughtful in their deliberation on the proposed changes for Cherry Point.

Cherry Point is the economic foundation of Whatcom County. We have just recently seen Intalco close, with 700 family wage jobs lost and the impacts will soon be felt throughout Whatcom County. Cherry Point industries have an estimated 750 permanent construction jobs and up to another 3500 temporary construction workers during refinery turnarounds that will likely be impacted by these decisions due to creating an uncertain environment for capital investment projects.

Given the COVID 19 impact on our economy, we must consider such significant regulatory changes for Cherry Point very carefully. The Planning Commission has set a good example on how to work with industry. I hope the County Council learns from your example.

Sincerely,

Lance Calloway
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