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Commissioners to choose new jobs target to update growth plan

Vancouver, WA – The next step in updating the local Comprehensive Growth Management Plan is for the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a new jobs target for 2015-2035.

A public hearing is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, for the Board to consider the issue in the sixth-floor hearing room of the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St.

County planners will use the target approved by the Board to evaluate the supply of land designated for non-residential uses and potential need for adjustments.

Community Planning Director Oliver Orjiako has recommended the county plan for 91,200 jobs in addition to the 137,000 presently available.

“That would be a very ambitious approach to reducing the pressure for county residents to seek employment in Oregon and consistent with economic development strategies already endorsed by the Board,” said Orijako.

State law requires growth-plan counties to choose a population forecast from a range issued by the Washington State Office of Financial Management. In January, the county board selected a medium-growth forecast calling for about 562,000 people by 2035, up from the current population of about 430,000.

Counties have flexibility in establishing employment forecasts. However, new work sites and expansion of existing business are key factors in establishing cost-effective plans for capital improvements, including roads.

More information is online at www.clark.wa.gov. To request email bulletins, contact commplanning@clark.wa.gov.

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