

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-40****ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR FACILITATING ECONOMIC GROWTH  
THROUGH EFFICIENT REGULATORY APPROVALS****PURPOSE:**

To implement the recommendations of the Snohomish County Citizens Cabinet on Economic Development regarding Regulatory Reform which aims to ensure Snohomish County administers its regulatory services, programs, and activities in a way that encourages business investment and supports expansion of our regional economy.

**DISCUSSION:**

Snohomish County government recognizes the detrimental impacts that unpredictable timeframes and requirements for development permits have on business startup and expansion in our regional economy. Restrictive regulatory systems hamper economic expansion, reduce tax revenues, and discourage business investment in our region

The County is dedicated to eliminating unnecessary or redundant approvals in our regulatory systems. A cultural shift in the way the county regulates development is imperative in order to assure business expansion, encourage business investment and to support our community by the creation of new jobs. There are three areas that, if addressed, would help reduce project delays, project costs, and the uncertainties that currently face those doing business in Snohomish County:

- \* Faster permit processing,
- \* Elimination of unnecessary or redundant approvals,
- \* Predictable requirements.

**ACTIONS:**

Snohomish County will adhere to the following policies to ensure maximum responsiveness to business investment and opportunity. These actions will be completed and maintained as required to ensure service delivery thereafter.

1. Timeframes for interdepartmental permit reviews will be specified and work organized to maintain these goals.
2. Develop and adopt written, predictable standards and immediately implement mechanisms to expedite decision making and condition setting to meet those standards.
3. Elimination of unnecessary or redundant approvals including, but not limited to, transactions, permits, licenses, and certificates.
4. Incorporate the use of technology to improve access to information and services countywide to minimize the need for individual trips to the County campus.

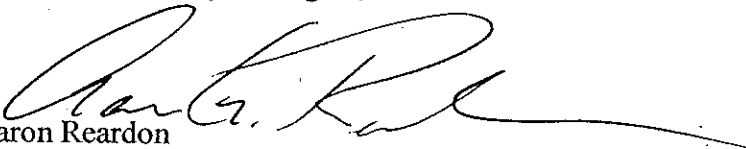
5. For each pending land use action, provide a risk assessment on policies, ordinances and regulations.
6. Work aggressively to prevent improper and undesirable County actions that cannot withstand the legal challenges of the Growth Management Act.
7. Expand agricultural land uses that do not permanently remove the resource from productive farm use.
8. Increase agricultural support.
9. The Critical Areas Ordinance should be updated to reflect best available science and carefully balance expected growth with environmental impacts.
10. Update the Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Management Plan, and continue support for salmon recovery.
11. Review the staffing levels of all County departments necessary to implement these recommendations and assure that necessary resources are available.
12. Develop a Training and Education Program that serves the needs of the citizens, development and consultant communities, and County staff.

On or before October 1, 2004 the Director of the Planning and Development Services Department will issue a report setting forth a detailed work program to implement the actions specified here.

**CANCELLATION:**

This Executive Order will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2004.

  
Aaron Reardon  
Snohomish County Executive