

January 9, 2004

Reardon hires Craig Ladiser, top City of Seattle planner

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE SAYS DIRECTOR KEY TO REFOCUSED DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today announced the appointment of a new Director of Planning and Development Services: Craig Ladiser, who headed a similar department for the City of Seattle over the past decade.

Ladiser assumes the directorship from Bob Derrick, who took the post on an interim basis in December.

“Craig brings the sort of leadership abilities and management skills that will help us create an efficient, customer-focused culture at Planning and Development Services,” Reardon said. “Our County Council last year paid a consultant \$350,000 for a study of the department. I believe what’s really needed is the sort of strong, innovative management style that has characterized Craig’s career.

“I am delighted to have found a manager of this caliber for Planning and Development Services.”

For Ladiser, who was introduced to Planning and Development Service employees this afternoon, the decision to come to Snohomish County brings him full circle: He was Director of Community Development for the county between 1986 and 1994, overseeing an \$8.8 million budget and 132 employees.

“I offer a management style that is respectful and understanding, but also clear about goals and objectives,” Ladiser said. “Because of the diversity of my career, I have a strong appreciation and unique understanding of the different functional units of both county and city government organizations and their responsibilities.

“You’ll find me to be a decision-maker and one who does not run from controversy. I seek an understanding of it, solicit input from any place I can get it, and then follow through with a creative solution.”

After leaving Snohomish County, Ladiser was the Deputy Director of the City of Seattle’s Department of Construction and Land Use. He directed the strategic activities of the Department of Planning and Development, which employed more than 360 people and had a budget of \$40 million.

The department is responsible for comprehensive planning including developing and implementing state Growth Management Act regulations and regulatory reform. It also regulates all private development within the City of Seattle.

As Director of Planning and Development Services, Ladiser will oversee:

- The **Long Range Planning Division**, which prepares population and employment projections, short and long term plans, develops strategies for implementation of plans, monitors and analyzes the effects of growth and change and provides [map and GIS data](#).
- The **Commercial-Land Use Division**, which reviews and processes land use applications for subdivisions, zoning, shorelines, and most major land development

proposals which require [environmental / critical areas review](#) and [SEPA review](#) as well as right-of-way use and utility permits and commercial development permits in unincorporated Snohomish County.

- The **Building Division**, which implements building, land use and other codes that are applicable to residential and commercial building applications and permit processes. Specific services include front counter services, plan and site review, building and site inspections, drainage, grading, forest practices, and permit and site review.
- The **Office of the County Fire Marshal**, which include annual life, safety inspections for commercial structures, arson investigation and fire educational programs.
- The **Administrative Services Division**, which provides central records and addressing, accounting, payroll, personnel administration, inventory, and technology support for the department. ESA coordination is from the Director's Office.
- The **Office of Housing and Community Development**, which manages a wide range of federal, state and local grant programs relating to community and economic development and housing.