STATE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

GMA

Legislative Findings:

The legislature finds that uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with a lack of common goals expressing the public's interest in the conservation and the wise use of our lands, pose a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state.

It is in the public interest that citizens, communities, local governments, and the private sector cooperate and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning. Further, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest that economic development programs be shared with communities experiencing insufficient economic growth.



URBAN GROWTH

Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.



REDUCE SPRAWL

Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.



TRANSPORTATION

Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.



HOUSING

Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.



PROPERTY RIGHTS

Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.



PERMITS

Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability.



NATURAL RESOURCE INDUSTRIES

Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.



ENVIRONMENT

Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.



CITIZEN COORDINATION & PARTICIPATION

Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.



PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance



SHORELINES OF THE STATE

See Separate Handout