

Ten Questions to Ask About Your City's or County's Development Regulations

Development regulations are the controls placed on development or land use activities by a county or city, including zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, shoreline master programs, official controls, planned unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances together with any amendments to these regulations.

These ten questions can identify how well an existing or proposed development regulation will help to maintain your community's quality of life. If the answer to any question is no, recommend that the development regulations be improved to address the issues. For more information on these questions about development regulations please see 1000 Friends of Washington's *Comprehensive Planning Workshop CD*.

1. Are the development regulations producing the kind of development the community wants? If not, what areas should be improved? Yes
 No
2. Do the development regulations adequately protect wetlands, fish and wildlife habitats, aquifer recharge areas, geological hazards, flood plains, agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance, and forest lands of long-term commercial significance from over-development? Yes
 No
3. Do neighbors and the public receive effective notice of significant development proposals and a meaningful way to comment? Yes
 No
4. Are the development regulations consistent with and do they help carry out the city or county comprehensive plan? Yes
 No
5. Do the regulations include purpose statements that explain the "why" behind the regulations? Yes
 No
6. Are the criteria for permits clear? Yes
 No
7. Are the permitting processes clear? Yes
 No
8. Are permit decisions made in a timely fashion? Yes
 No
9. For counties only, are the densities in rural areas, outside of already built up areas referred to as limited areas of more intense rural development (LAMIRDs), no greater than one dwelling unit per five acres? Yes
 No
10. Were adequate opportunities for the public to learn about the development regulations, comment, and learn about opportunities to comment provided during the adoption or updating of the development regulations? Yes
 No