CHAPTER 11 PARTICIPATION, EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

11.1 Chapter Context

The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan is a commitment to a coordinated vision for Sequim's future. The success of the Plan is measured by its active use by elected officials, City staff, partner agencies, residents, businesses, and property owners. The City Council shall use the Plan as a guide for carrying out the community's vision, adopting and updating regulations, and making public investment decisions that support adopted goals and respond to changing conditions.

The Plan also helps guide budget and capital investment decisions by identifying the public facilities, services, and resources needed to serve current and future residents of the City. The Plan should be used to inform the City's capital facilities planning, capital improvement programming, utility planning, transportation planning, parks planning, and other functional plans and implementation measures.

11.2 Goals and Policies

Public Participation

The Growth Management Act requires procedures for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive plans and development regulations. Sequim's Plan should reflect broad community input and the priorities and values of residents, businesses, property owners, and partner agencies.
Broad-based public participation is essential to maintaining an effective and useful Comprehensive Plan.

Public participation in major Comprehensive Plan updates is only one part of that work. The community should also have opportunities to participate as the Plan is implemented, including review of development regulation updates, functional plan updates, capital planning, and major public projects. Different levels and methods of involvement may be appropriate at different stages of plan preparation and implementation.

GOAL PI-1
Value public participation and promote broad-based involvement by members of the Sequim community in the update, amendment, and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy PI-1.1
Provide early and continuous opportunities for public participation in GMA planning initiatives by using the communication and outreach tools available to the City, including the City website, online open houses, surveys, mailed or published notices, workshops, and open houses.

Policy PI-1.2
Coordinate public participation, as appropriate, with the Planning Commission, City Council, Clallam County, special purpose districts, utility providers, school districts, tribal

governments, neighboring jurisdictions, and state or regional agencies to ensure coordination.

Implementation and Evaluation
Achieving the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan depends on taking action. Although the City may not have sufficient resources to implement all strategies at once, meaningful progress can be made by identifying priorities, coordinating implementation tools, and aligning work programs and funding decisions with adopted policy direction.

GOAL PI-2
Maintain and implement a Comprehensive Plan that embodies the future vision for Sequim and carries out the City's local, regional, and statewide responsibilities.

Policy PI-2.1
Ensure that development regulations, functional plans, departmental work programs, the City budget, capital improvement priorities, and other implementing measures are consistent with and reinforce the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy PI-2.2
Use the Comprehensive Plan as the City's primary long-range policy guide for land use decisions, public investments, development regulations, and growth management actions.

Policy PI-2.3
Conduct a comprehensive review of the Plan during each state-required periodic update cycle. The review should analyze city conditions and needs, changes in state law, new demographic and economic data, permit activity, infrastructure needs, and the effectiveness of existing goals and policies, and update the Plan as needed.

Policy PI-2.4
Prepare implementation progress reports or similar monitoring summaries when required by state law or when needed to inform future policy decisions, capital planning, or Plan amendments.

Policy PI-2.5
Use the City's capital facilities planning, six-year capital improvement programming, utility planning, transportation planning, and annual budgeting process to help carry out the Plan and prioritize investments needed to serve planned growth.

Policy PI-2.6
Ensure that implementation of development regulations respects constitutional protections for private property and is carried out in a manner consistent with applicable law.

Amending the Comprehensive Plan.
Amendments to the Plan should retain the broad perspective of the community vision, remain consistent with the goals and policies of the Plan, and comply with the intent and requirements of the Growth Management Act.

Comprehensive Plan amendments may include, but are not limited to:

1. Amendments to narrative text, goals, and policies;
2. Amendments to the Future Land Use Map or other Comprehensive Plan maps;
3. Amendments to capital facilities planning and related implementation measures; and
4. Related amendments to development regulations needed to maintain internal consistency.

Proposed amendments may be initiated by the City, the Planning Commission, the City Council, other public agencies, property owners, or individual citizens, subject to applicable City procedures. Except where otherwise allowed by law, amendments should generally be considered on an annual basis and reviewed in a coordinated manner so that the cumulative effect of proposed changes can be evaluated.

Amending Narrative Text, Goals, and Policies
Amendments to Plan text, goals, and policies will generally be based on the need to clarify intent, respond to changed conditions, incorporate new information, implement new legal requirements, or provide updated policy direction.

Amending Comprehensive Plan Maps
Amendments to the Future Land Use Map or other Comprehensive Plan maps may be proposed when conditions have changed, when the existing designation no longer reflects adopted policy direction, when a mapping error is identified, or when new information supports a change. Site-specific redesignation requests should be evaluated for consistency with the overall Plan, infrastructure availability, surrounding land uses, and the public interest.

Where amendments implicate City planning area boundaries, intergovernmental coordination, or other jurisdictional actions outside the sole authority of the City, such amendments shall be processed consistent with applicable countywide planning policies, applicable interlocal agreements, and state law.

Capital Facilities Planning and Functional Plan Updates
Amendments may be needed as projects are completed, priorities change, new projects are identified, funding sources are secured, or updated level-of-service analysis indicates revised needs.

Functional plans and master plans provide more detailed implementation guidance for major systems and services. When a functional plan is fully updated or selectively amended, the City should evaluate whether a corresponding Comprehensive Plan amendment or implementing regulation change is needed to maintain consistency.

Emergency Amendments
Emergency amendments to the Plan may be considered outside the annual review cycle when authorized by state law and City code, and when necessary to respond to a condition involving public health, safety, or welfare, or another legally recognized emergency circumstance.

GOAL PI-3
Process Comprehensive Plan amendments in conformance with the requirements of the Growth Management Act and the Sequim Municipal Code.

Policy PI-3.1
Process amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and related development regulations pursuant to applicable provisions of the Sequim Municipal Code, including maintenance of an annual amendment docket and coordinated review of non-exempt amendments.

Policy PI-3.2
Consider proposed annual amendments as a package, to the extent practical, so that the cumulative effect of proposed changes to the Plan, map designations, and development regulations can be evaluated.

Policy PI-3.3
Allow amendment proposals to be initiated by the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Planning Commission, City Council, other jurisdictions and agencies, individual citizens, and affected property owners, subject to applicable procedures and submittal requirements.

Policy PI-3.4
Provide public notice and public hearing opportunities for Plan amendments consistent with state law and City procedures, with the Planning Commission serving as the primary advisory body and the City Council taking final legislative action unless otherwise provided by law.

Policy PI-3.5
Allow amendments to capital facilities planning and related implementation measures to occur outside the annual amendment cycle when authorized by law, including when adopted concurrently with the City's budget or capital planning process.

Policy PI-3.6
When a functional plan is fully updated or selectively amended, the responsible department should circulate the draft for review by appropriate City staff, commissions, partner agencies, and the public, and determine whether a corresponding Comprehensive Plan amendment should be docketed.

Policy PI-3.7
Recognize that emergency amendments may require modifications to the standard annual amendment process, but should be limited to circumstances authorized by law and supported by the appropriate findings.