



# Public Services

128 North Second Street • Fourth Floor Courthouse • Yakima, Washington 98901  
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LISA H. FREUND – Director

DATE: November 17, 2021

TO: SEPA Interested Agencies

FROM: Tommy Carroll – SEPA Responsible Official

SUBJ: LRN2019-00004/SEP2021-00040 – Hearing Examiner Text Amendments  
**Notice of Open Record Public Hearing & Threshold Determination –  
Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

**File Nos.:** LRN2019-00004/SEP2021-00040

**Applicant:** Yakima County Public Services – Planning Division  
128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Courthouse  
Yakima, WA 98901

**Location:** Countywide.

**Proposal:** Amendments are proposed to the text of the Yakima County Code (YCC) related to Hearing Examiner provisions. The amendments are proposed to YCC 2.23 (Hearing Examiner), YCC 16B (Project Permit Administration), YCC 19 (Unified Land Development Code), YCC 20 (Yakima County Fee Schedule), and YCC 21 (Code Enforcement) to eliminate conflicting and outdated provisions, to clarify, correct, and simplify language, to increase transparency, to establish and improve procedures, and to provide for virtual public hearings.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**An open record public hearing is scheduled before the Board of Yakima County Commissioners on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, to receive comments from the public prior to taking any action on the proposal. The public hearing will be conducted in-person and virtually using the Zoom conferencing platform. The location of the in-person public hearing is the BOCC Basement Conference Room, Room 33B, 128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yakima, WA.**

Persons interested in attending the hearing virtually can join the meeting via the Zoom link and/or telephone number below:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94084501212?pwd=Q1VNdGVFcmJaTW9ORzREUUt1WWt2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 940 8450 1212

Passcode: 874864

Dial by your location

+1 206 337 9723 US (Seattle)

+1 213 338 8477 US (Los Angeles)

Meeting ID: 940 8450 1212

Passcode: 874864

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Yakima County, as the SEPA lead agency for this proposal, is issuing a DNS for comment under WAC 197-11-340(2). Your views on this proposal are welcome and comments related to this threshold determination must be submitted within 14 days (by **4:00 p.m. on December 1, 2021**). After the comment period has ended, Yakima County will retain, modify or withdraw the DNS, without an additional comment period.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The public is invited to testify at the hearing on the proposal. Also, written comments may be submitted at the hearing or prior to the hearing. Written comments may be emailed to [longrangeplanning@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:longrangeplanning@co.yakima.wa.us) or mailed to Yakima County Planning Division, 128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Courthouse, Yakima, WA 98901. Comments on the SEPA threshold determination (DNS) must be submitted as described under "Environmental Review" (above). Be sure to include your contact information including mailing address and reference the above file numbers in your correspondence. Anyone who submits written comments will automatically become a party of record in this matter.

The proposed amendments, staff report, Planning Commission's Findings and Recommendation, threshold determination (DNS), and other SEPA documents can be obtained upon request or found online at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/2572/Text-Amendments>.

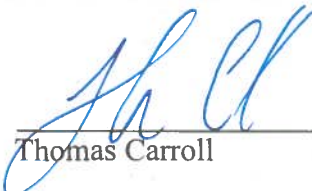
Contact Phil Hoge, Project Planner, at 509-574-2300 or [phil.hoge@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:phil.hoge@co.yakima.wa.us) for more information.

Encl: 1. Threshold Determination – DNS

## DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

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1. **Description of Proposal:** Yakima County Public Services – Planning Division is proposing amendments to the text of the Yakima County Code (YCC) related to Hearing Examiner provisions. The amendments are proposed to YCC 2.23 (Hearing Examiner), YCC 16B (Project Permit Administration), YCC 19 (Unified Land Development Code), YCC 20 (Yakima County Fee Schedule), and YCC 21 (Code Enforcement) to eliminate conflicting and outdated provisions, to clarify, correct, and simplify language, to increase transparency, to establish and improve procedures, and to provide for virtual public hearings. The proposed amendments are available as described under #6 below.
  
2. **File Numbers:** LRN2019-00004/SEP2021-00040
  
3. **Applicant:** Yakima County Public Services – Planning Division  
128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Courthouse  
Yakima, WA 98901
  
4. **Location of Proposal:** Countywide
  
5. **Lead Agency:** Yakima County Planning Division
  
6. **Determination:** The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after a careful review of the completed environmental checklist, and other information on file with the lead agency. This information (including all environmental documentation) is available to the public on request, can be examined in our offices during regular business hours, or can be viewed online at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/2572/Text-Amendments>. Environmental documents include the SEPA checklist, this threshold determination, and the Planning Commission’s Findings of Fact and Recommendation on the proposal.
  
7. **Comment and Appeal Information:** This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The Lead Agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance. You may submit comments on this threshold determination to the address below before **4:00 p.m. on December 1, 2021**. Agencies and those providing comments will receive a copy of the final threshold determination and appeal information. For information on the comment process or other issues relating to this matter, please contact Phil Hoge, Project Planner – Long Range, at (509) 574-2300.
  
8. **SEPA Responsible Official:** Thomas Carroll

9. **Designee:**   
Thomas Carroll
10. **Address:** 128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Courthouse  
Yakima, WA 98901
11. **Date:** November 17, 2021

\\Nt2\Planning\Long Range\Projects\Plan Amendments\2019 Plan Amendments\LRN19-004\_SEP21-040 Hearing Examiner Text Amendments\SEP21-040 Hearing Examiner Text Amendments\LRN19-04\_SEP21-40\_HE\_NoH\_NoDNS\_draft\_nm\_ph.doc

*Yakima County ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, nation origin, or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding Yakima County's Title VI Program, you may contact the Title VI Coordinator at 509-574-2300.*

*If this letter pertains to a meeting and you need special accommodations, please call us at 509-574-2300 by 10:00 a.m. three days prior to the meeting. For TDD users, please use the State's toll free relay service 1-800-833-6388 and ask the operator to dial 509-574-2300.*