

Urban Reserves

LONG RANGE PLANNING FOR URBANIZED AREAS

WHAT ARE URBAN RESERVES?

Areas outside urban growth boundaries designated for future urban development. This includes areas for future housing, jobs, parks, and civic services.



WHAT THE LEGISLATURE WANTED

When creating urban reserves, the Legislature decided that they should be evaluated based on their capacity for efficient infrastructure, economic growth, public services, walkability, ecological health, and diverse housing.

WHAT THE AGENCY REQUIRES

Administrative rule changes this analysis to prioritize farmland preservation over sound urban planning. This forces cities to prioritize the worst lands for housing, discouraging cities from utilizing urban reserves at all.

WHY WE NEED CHANGE

We want cities to use Urban Reserves because it replaces "crisis planning" for housing with "long term planning" for housing. However, current LCDC rules have turned a visionary tool into a legal trap, forcing cities to prioritize the hardest, most expensive lands to develop, instead of the most logical ones.

SB 1522-1



RESTORING THE HEART OF LONG-RANGE URBAN PLANNING

When the process mandates using the worst land for housing first, the process has already failed. Current urban reserve rules are the absence of planning.

SB 1522-1 RESTORES THE INTENT OF URBAN RESERVES

Efficient Infrastructure: Can the land be developed at urban densities in a way that makes efficient use of current and future public infrastructure investments?

Economic Capacity: Does the area include sufficient development capacity to support a healthy and vibrant urban economy?

Public Facilities & Services: Can the land be served efficiently and cost-effectively by public schools and other urban-level facilities and services?

Transportation & Walkability: Can the area be designed to be walkable and served by a well-connected system of streets?

Ecological Enhancement: Can the development be designed to preserve and enhance natural ecological systems?

Housing Variety: Does the land provide enough space and suitability for a broad range of housing types?