



NEWS *from* Clatsop County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PUBLIC'S QUESTIONS, COMMENTS INVITED ON COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING STUDY

Development incentives, non-traditional housing types, flexible zoning – preliminary findings from the Clatsop County Comprehensive Housing Study offer multiple potential strategies for addressing the region's housing crisis.

The public is invited to learn more about the findings and offer their own questions and comments at two open house gatherings.

Two sessions are scheduled:

Thursday, Nov. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Judge Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway

Representatives from the study's consulting firm, Johnson Economics, will be on hand to answer questions about the project.

The comprehensive housing study is a joint project of Clatsop County and the cities of Astoria, Cannon Beach, Gearhart, Seaside and Warrenton. Its goal is to help policy-makers and officials understand the type, size, location and price of housing needed to meet current and future needs, as well as market forces, regulations and local barriers that impact housing development.

A 20-member technical advisory committee, working with the consultant, analyzed the existing housing supply, examined housing and demographic trends, and reviewed current policies, regulations and goals.

The resulting analysis found that, overall, the county has adequate land to meet its housing needs for the next 20 years, but that availability varies widely from community to community. To support and promote development of housing, suggested strategies include:

- Review allowed uses in high-density zones to preserve them for high-density housing
- Update rules on accessory dwelling units to increase their potential as long-term rentals
- Reduce off-street parking requirements
- Streamline approval processes and waiving fees for desired housing types
- Consider funding sources including tax credits, revolving housing fund or regional housing bond
- Pursue public/private partnerships

The complete strategies list, as well as a lands analysis, land inventories and other information, is available on the county website, www.co.clatsop.or.us.

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Released by:

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