

III-9 UTILITIES

General Policies

- UT-100** **Conflict between transportation, communications and utilities and other land uses should be minimized (*1970 Mason County Comprehensive Plan*).**
- UT-101** **Services and utilities should be supplied as well and as economically as possible (*1970 Mason County Comprehensive Plan*).**
- UT-102** **The physical elements of services should disturb the landscape as little as possible (*1970 Mason County Comprehensive Plan*).**
- UT-103** **Under grounding of all utilities should be encouraged where feasible, particularly in newly developed areas (*1970 Mason County Comprehensive Plan*).**
- UT-104** **Every effort to reduce to reduce noise and other pollution from transportation, communications and utilities uses should be encouraged (*1970 Mason County Comprehensive Plan*).**
- UT-105** **Mason County should process permits and approvals for utility facilities in a fair and timely manner, and in accordance with development regulations that ensure predictability.**
- UT-106** **Planning by Mason County for utility facilities development should be coordinated with the urban centers of Belfair and the City of Shelton.**
- UT-107** **Planning by Mason County for utility facilities development should be coordinated with neighboring Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Pierce and Thurston Counties.**
- UT-108** **Mason County should coordinate land use planning with the utility providers' planning.**
- UT-109** **Mason County should coordinate the periodic update of the *Utility* element of the Mason County Comprehensive Plan with adjacent jurisdictions.**
- UT-110** **Mason County should encourage the joint use of utility corridors where feasible.**

- UT-111** **Mason County should provide timely and effective notice to utilities of the construction, maintenance or repair of streets, roads, highways or other facilities, and coordinate such work with the serving utilities to ensure that utility needs are appropriately considered.**
- UT-112** **Mason County should promote, when feasible, the co-location of new public and private utility distribution facilities in shared trenches and coordination of construction timing to minimize construction-related disruptions to the public and reduce the cost to the public of utility delivery.**
- UT-113** **Mason County should provide for efficient, cost effective and reliable utility service by ensuring land will be made available for the location of utility lines, including location within transportation corridors.**
- UT-114** **Mason County should encourage system design practices intended to minimize the number and duration of interruptions to customer service.**
- UT-115** **Mason County should facilitate and encourage the conservation of resources to delay the need for additional facilities for energy and water resources and achieve improved air quality.**
- UT-116** **Mason County should promote the conversion to cost-effective and environmentally sensitive alternative technologies and energy sources.**
- UT-117** **Mason County should conserve the use of energy and water in the County's own facilities.**
- UT-118** **Mason County should ensure that all elements of the Mason County Comprehensive Plan (and the implementing development regulations) are consistent with, and do not otherwise impair the fulfillment of, the public service obligations imposed upon the utility providers by federal and state law.**
- UT-119** **Regulation of telecommunication facilities shall also implement the following goals: (1) encourage the location of towers in Rural Areas and Long Term Commercial Forest Lands as described in the Mason County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations and minimize the total number of towers throughout the county, (2) encourage strongly the joint use of new and existing tower sites, (3) encourage users of towers and antennas to locate them, to the extent possible, in areas where the adverse impact on the county is minimal, (4) encourage users of towers**

and antennas to configure them in a way that minimizes the adverse visual impact of the towers and antennas, and (5) enhance the ability of the providers of telecommunications services to provide such services to the community quickly, effectively, and efficiently.

Harstine Island Sub-Area Plan

- B-1-a • 5:** Utilities should be located with regard to minimizing their visual impact.
- B-1-a • 6:** Buffers of natural vegetation should be encouraged to help buildings, roads, and utilities blend into the natural environment.