Introduction
The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Planning Commission regarding the proposed update to Kitsap County Code Title 17 (Zoning) to include new agriculture code.

Location
The Agriculture Code applies to all areas within unincorporated Kitsap County including Urban Growth Areas (UGA), Limited Areas of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRD), and rural areas. The Agriculture Code does not apply to incorporated cities (Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard, Poulsbo) or Tribal property.

SEPA Evaluation
Based on a review of the Kitsap County Preliminary Draft Agriculture Code and supporting information, it is anticipated that a determination of non-significance will be issued for the draft document recommended by the Planning Commission in accordance with WAC 197-11-340.

Public Participation
The planning process for the Agriculture Code Update began in January 2014 with the recognition that public participation is a key element of the Agriculture Code update process. The public process to this date has included outreach efforts as noted below:

- In January of 2014, DCD staff organized an ad hoc Agriculture Code work team comprised of subject matter experts within Kitsap County. Between January and December 2014, the work team met on various topics related to the Code update and developed preliminary draft language for public review prior to Planning Commission meetings.

- In February 2015 staff established an Agriculture Code webpage within the Kitsap County website. The webpage serves as a hub for documents under review, feedback received, and announcements of public meetings or notifications. A comment portal allows for submittal of both preliminary public comments and formal comments for public hearings via the webpage.

- A countywide open house event will occur immediately prior to the Planning Commission Hearing in the near future.

- On-going electronic notification of important Agriculture Code update information started in February 2015 via Kitsap County's “GovDelivery” electronic notification system. Individuals or organizations shall be added to the list upon request.
Agriculture Code Historic Context

Currently Kitsap County agriculture code exists as sporadic regulations within multiple Kitsap County Code Titles. In August 2011 the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Kitsap County Strategic Agricultural Plan and Inventory. The Agricultural Plan identifies both local and regional strategies to increase agricultural viability within Kitsap County. An update to the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan Rural and Resource Lands chapter in 2012 provided multiple goals and policies related to agriculture. The goals, policies, and strategies in the previously mentioned plans guided the development of an “Agricultural Code” section in Kitsap County Code (see attachment: 3A.2.1C Agriculture Policies for Rural Lands).

Summary of 2015 Agriculture Code Update Components

The 2015 Agriculture Code update will result in a new Agriculture Code section in Kitsap County Code Title 17. Key elements of the Agriculture Code include a directive to “permit all agricultural uses as defined 17.110.050 and agricultural activities as defined in Revised Code of Washington 7.48.310 in the Rural Wooded, Rural Protection and Rural Residential zoning districts” and “develop and adopt a Right-to-Farm ordinance”.

Below is a summary of key Agriculture Code update issues as identified by the Agriculture Code work team.

- Protection from nuisance complaints
- Agriculture structure requirements
- Accessory agriculture use requirements
- Agritourism
- Preservation of agricultural lands

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission hold a public hearing to acquire public feedback, deliberate, and make recommendations to the Department of Community Development with regards to the proposed Agriculture Code Update.

Attachments:

- 3A.2.1C Agriculture Policies for Rural Lands
- Preliminary Draft Agriculture Code