

# CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

## DECEMBER 2, 2011

Recently the City Council approved the City's participation in the HUD Sustainable Communities regional grant program sponsored by Cascade Land Conservancy. Last week we received the attached letter indicating that the grant application was not approved. However, as noted, this grant application did receive designation for Preferred Sustainability Status, which will provide some technical assistance opportunities for future regional planning. We will continue to keep you posted as these opportunities become more apparent during the coming months.

Following last Wednesday's open house on the Lincoln Park Master Plan I received several comments from local citizens about the planning process. There appears to be confusion about the future status of the trees and how the master plan will be developed. For example, at my City Manager's Coffee this morning one of the attendees reported that he had received a number of comments about the City's plans to clear-cut the trees in Lincoln Park. As a result of these comments, it appears that we need to do a better job in communicating about the Lincoln Park Master Plan. We will prepare a fact sheet and additional information that will hopefully help to clarify this process.

This week EDC hosted a panel discussion on the recent Renewable Energy Conference in Bremerton. Based upon this discussion, it appears that the Olympic Peninsula is poised to take advantage of the renewable energy opportunities in the near future. Unfortunately, according to the speakers, it does not appear that the State is ready to support these opportunities. For example, there is still a very unclear regulatory path ahead for development of renewable energy resources in this area.

The presentation by Lisa Hill from Buxton on Tuesday evening was very well received with about 45 local business representatives in attendance. We are currently following up with these businesses including scheduling one-on-one meetings with them to provide them access to the comprehensive retail data that will soon be available.

*- Kent Myers*

## Kent Myers

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**From:** Michelle Connor [mconnor@forterra.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2011 10:35 AM  
**To:** Kent Myers  
**Subject:** HUD Grant Update and Upcoming Opportunities

Dear Kent,

Thank you for partnering on the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Application. Together with tribes, jurisdictions and organizations from all corners of the Olympic Peninsula, we demonstrated our commitment to ensure the long-term quality of life, economic security and environmental health of our communities.

On Monday, we learned from the funding agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), that our application was not funded in this cycle. Our application was among the top 20% in a fierce competition that included nearly 500 applications from across the country. While funding was only available for the top 12% of applications, an additional 31 communities were awarded the "Preferred Sustainability Status" in recognition of the strength of their consortium and their commitment to sustainability. **We are pleased to announce that our application was amongst the few that received the Preferred Sustainability Status, offering a range of benefits including access to technical assistance resources and positioning partners to receive additional bonus points in other HUD and federal grant competitions.** We are in the process of trying to identify all the opportunities that this status will afford our partners and will be in touch in the coming weeks.

To learn more about awardees, click [here](#). To learn more about the Preferred Sustainability Status, click [here](#).

In the meantime, we have just begun work on two grants that we think may be of interest to you. We recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to explore how to integrate economic development, historic preservation and urban design in communities on the Olympic Peninsula. This effort includes a hands-on workshop for all communities on the peninsula and technical assistance opportunities for two communities in 2012.

In addition, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program, we will be working with an additional four to seven cities next year across the Olympic Peninsula and Central Puget Sound. We will offer quick, targeted technical assistance using a variety of tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application to help make communities more economically and environmentally sustainable as they achieve the growth they envision.

Look for more information in early 2012 about these opportunities and for more information about benefits of the Preferred Sustainability Status in the coming weeks. Thank you again for your partnership and we look forward to exploring these new opportunities with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Michelle

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