

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

- ❖ Regional Coordination
- ❖ Member Outreach
- ❖ Jobs Team Grays Harbor
- ❖ Data and Information Services
- ❖ GIS Technology Advancement Project
- ❖ Regional Maps/GIS Program
- ❖ GPS Data Collection and Processing
- ❖ Community Development
- ❖ Comprehensive Planning
- ❖ Capital Facilities Planning
- ❖ Public Grant and Loan Funding, Research  
and Technical Assistance
- ❖ Transit Development Plan
- ❖ Regional Utilities Coordination
- ❖ Grays Harbor Estuary Management Plan Update

## **REGIONAL PLANNING REGIONAL COORDINATION**

### Objective

To staff the regular and special meetings of the Council of Governments, the Executive Board, and other agency committees, and pursue cooperative regional programs and opportunities.

### Work Items

1. Prepare agendas and reports and staff GHCOG meetings.
2. Identify and coordinate issues of regional concern, research and assist member entities with such issues and provide forums to address the issues.
3. Represent the GHCOG on various boards and advisory committees at the local, state and federal levels.
4. Maintain liaison with state and federal elected officials and agencies and promote programs and opportunities that benefit the Grays Harbor region.
5. Monitor state and federal legislation, policies and programs and respond as appropriate. Enhance opportunities for new or changed programs, funding, legislation, and procedures and requirements.
6. Coordinate with regional councils around the state and actively participate in the Regional Councils of Washington.
7. Prepare for and participate in state and national associations meetings when appropriate.
8. Conduct periodic regional information forums to address issues, concerns and activities that are of regional impact or significance.

### Output

The activities described above are not considered to be end products. The purpose is to facilitate the operation of the GHCOG, coordinate programs and opportunities with and on behalf of members.

### Coordination

Liaison and coordination is fostered among agency members and with state and federal agencies, regional councils, and multi-county districts around the state on a wide variety of issues through the Regional Councils of Washington, Columbia-Pacific Resource Conservation and Economic Development District, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Regional Planners Forum, Chehalis Basin Partnership, and other associations as well as by other intergovernmental means.

Issues of regional significance are debated at meetings and forums by representatives of local governments, with the goal of enhancing knowledge and coordination.

### Citizen Involvement

Not applicable to administrative and coordination work. The media is informed of GHCOG meetings. Agenda items and meeting minutes are posted on the GHCOG web page. GHCOG meetings are administered within the guidelines of the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.

### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

The GHCOG provides a forum for regional problem solving and decision making. Benefits accrue to member government and through them to the general public in the form of savings through increased efficiency, non-duplication of services, cost sharing and economies of scale.

Issues important to the region are identified, developed and addressed to appropriate state and federal agencies, and organizations and individuals to attempt to resolve them to the benefit of the region.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING MEMBER OUTREACH**

### Objective

To re-evaluate member needs, level of participation, dues structure, voting rights, representation, agency/staff capabilities and identify potential new members.

### Work Items

1. Work with budget committee and Sub-Councils to establish an action plan.
2. Meet with member jurisdictions at the staff level and elected official level.
3. Identify issues of concern and unmet need.
4. Work with Sub-Councils to identify and approach potential members.
5. Coordinate with other regional and governmental councils to identify best practice scenarios.
6. Produce a bi-annual newsletter, *Regional Connections*, to inform membership of GHCOG projects, GHCOG activities, and relevant local and state sponsored events.
7. Issue quarterly public funding newsletter (*GHCOG Public Funding Notification Alert*) to inform member agencies and better prepare them of upcoming funding cycles.

### Output

The activities described above are not considered to be end products. The purpose is to facilitate the operation of the GHCOG, coordinate programs and opportunities with and on behalf of members.

### Coordination

Liaison and coordination will occur primarily between leadership and staff of agency members and between member representatives. Potential members and other regional/governmental councils will be involved on an as needed basis.

### Citizen Involvement

City Council meetings and meetings of the GHCOG are open to the public; the news media are regularly informed. Agenda items and meeting minutes are posted on the GHCOG web page. GHCOG meetings are administered within the guidelines of the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.

### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

The GHCOG provides a forum for regional problem solving and decision making. Benefits accrue to member government and through them to the general public in the form of savings through increased efficiency, non-duplication of services, cost sharing and economies of scale. Equitable and fair representation is a key issue in Council governance and feeds directly into the development of the annual budget. Dialogue with members to identify needs and the exploration of how best to satisfy those needs is the basis of a successful work program.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **JOBS TEAM GRAYS HARBOR**

#### Objective

To act as staff for Jobs Team Grays Harbor providing administrative, technical and professional support for cooperative projects resulting in job retention and development.

#### Work Items

1. Staff Jobs Team meetings.
2. Prepare agendas and support materials as needed.
3. Maintain Jobs Team information and correspondence.
4. Coordinate members and assist in the development of projects/programs.
5. Represent Jobs Team business (as needed) to other boards and committees at local, state and federal levels.
6. Maintain liaison with state and federal elected officials and agencies and promote projects/programs of the Jobs Team.
7. Assist in identifying and securing project related funding opportunities.
8. Respond to information requests related to the activities of the Jobs Team.

#### Output

The activities described above are not considered to be end products. The purpose is to facilitate the operation of the Jobs Team, coordinate activities and opportunities with and on behalf of participating members.

#### Coordination

Coordination will occur primarily with Jobs Team members. Other agencies will be involved on an as needed basis.

#### Citizen Involvement

Each member of the Jobs Team holds regular meetings that are open to the public and the news media and are administered within the guidelines of the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30. Activities of the Jobs Team are reported through these existing channels.

#### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

The Jobs Team forum identifies and promotes projects in Grays Harbor that result in direct job retention and/or creation. The Team advocates support for regional projects on the state and federal levels, supports requests for funding, identifies existing road blocks and provides solutions, and develops policy that paves the way for jobs in our community. Economies of scale: when one member of the community benefits, we all benefit. Assistance that results in bringing state and federal dollars into Grays Harbor is a benefit to the county as a whole. The support of existing projects/programs and the development of new opportunities maintain healthy communities and a healthy economy.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

#### Objective

This program will assist data users to identify and disseminate the most up-to-date information available through the U.S. Census, American Community Survey (ACS), Office of Financial Management (OFM), Labor and Statistics, Washington State Department of Transportation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other state and federal products and programs that will meet their data needs.

#### Work Items

1. As a state data center affiliate, disseminate data by continually updating the GHCOG web site to include new products and information about program updates.
2. Produce demographic data flyers and brochures in order to provide easily accessible information that is of regional significance.
3. Attend workshops and meetings to stay abreast of new developments in census, OFM, ACS, and other state and federal products, programs and their use.
4. Provide maps, tables and other data requested by members, their local agencies and the public.
5. Provide technical assistance to agencies and individuals to enable them to access census and other data products and create customized data sets that meet their needs.
6. Answer hundreds of requests for information from the public and member entities. Real estate agents, appraisers, lenders, and consultants.
7. Maintain a Planning Library of Local, State, and Federal plans and studies. About 30% of the volumes in the GHCOG library are not cataloged anywhere else.
8. Provide support for 2010 Census Complete Count project which encourages citizens to complete the 2010 census form.

#### Output

Information and technical assistance will be provided to Council of Governments members (jurisdiction staff and residents), relocation prospects, tourists, businesses, developers, realtors, mortgage and title companies, appraisal firms, banks consulting firms, other governments, police-hospital-fire districts, school districts, advocacy groups, marketing firms, libraries and newspapers. Responses to requests for information may include tables, charts and maps. Requests may be directed to appropriate agency or web site.

#### Coordination

Coordination will occur between GHCOG members, other local data users, the Washington State Office of Financial Management, the Federal Bureau of the Census, and other state and federal agencies that provide local and state data.

### Citizen Involvement

Citizen involvement will occur through members of the Council of Governments, other local data using agencies and individuals with informational requests.

### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

Local governments, public and private agencies, businesses and individuals will all profit from the program. Uses of the data, for example, include public and private business planning, the development of grant applications and economic development programs and projects and the identification of specific geographical areas in need of social or other improvement programs.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **GIS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT PROJECT**

#### Objective

To update and integrate GIS services by upgrading to ArcGIS software and transferring mapping services into one program, making GIS services easier to manage and provide a more enhanced end product.

#### Project

Update and transfer member zoning maps from AutoCAD to ArcGIS and produce a simple developable land analysis.

#### Work Items

1. Transfer zoning information from AutoCAD to ArcGIS shape files and recreate current zoning maps for the cities of Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor County GIS parcel will be used for the land base.
2. Identify how many parcels in each zoning area are built to capacity, in order to more accurately assess development potential. Assessor building value data and recent air photos are required for this.
3. Integrate critical area information to identify areas of environmental concern that might have development impediments. This step would be contingent on the availability of critical area data.

#### Output

Up-to-date zoning maps that have data analysis capabilities. The updated mapping abilities will support other current GHCOG work program items, such as Park Planning, the Surface Transportation Program and Data Information Services and GPS data collection and processing.

#### Coordination

Consultation will occur with users and local officials to insure that the status of streets and roads, city boundaries and geographic features is current and improved for a variety of applications. Work with County GIS staff to coordinate shared data sets. Utilize State and Federal GIS resources and create data sharing agreements as needed.

#### Citizen Involvement

As needed on a jurisdictional level.

#### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

This project will fulfill requests to provide more detailed analysis of maps, particularly of zoning maps, by developers, development agencies and local governments, in order to promote planning and economic development efforts.

It will also allow for:

- Easier data sharing by working with a widely used GIS product.
- Standardized zoning maps; once the zoning maps are transferred to ArcGIS, there would be analysis capabilities. We would be able to provide the same data analysis for each city to developers as has been requested.
- GHCOG would be able to provide better data and mapping capability to its members, the public, developers and economic development agencies.
- Further opportunity to network with agencies using ArcGIS platform.
- Increased level of responsiveness to member needs.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **REGIONAL MAPS/GIS PROGRAM**

#### Objective

To build and maintain a regional library of digital and archive paper maps and an evolving collection of geographic information. To provide members and the public with maps and geographic information suitable for display as well as for use in publications. Participate in implementation of a regional geographic information system.

#### Work Items

1. Support agency mapping projects.
2. Meet member needs for mapping assistance.
3. Work with member entities and County GIS group in developing and maintaining political, planning, and municipal layers.
4. Coordinate with members involved with digital map/geographic information system development to enhance local government capabilities and services and prevent duplication of effort.
5. Produce official display maps for members.
6. Create various thematic maps displaying the latest Census information and put them on the GHCOG web site.
7. Maintain and develop a digital map collection from local, state, and federal sources.
8. Maintain digital base maps and zoning maps for members that do not have in-house resources.
9. Meet public needs for mapping assistance as time allows.

#### Output

A comprehensive electronic and hard copy file of quality up-to-date and archive base maps and a selection of specific purpose maps suitable for use internally, by member entities and the general public.

#### Coordination

Consultation will occur with users and local officials to insure that the status of streets and roads, city boundaries and geographic features is current and improved for a variety of applications.

#### Citizen Involvement

Not applicable to this project.

#### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

This program will insure that the region's map and geographic information users have up-to-date resources at their disposal. GHCOG personnel will assist users with specific needs or problems and help create solutions.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **GPS DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING**

#### Objective

To assist GHCOG membership staff in collecting community infrastructure assets such as: water valves, man holes, sewer mains, stop signs, fire hydrants, or any other item (feature) that exists outdoors using the Trimble GeoXT GPS unit. Collected data can then be displayed and analyzed with other data sets in GIS map projects.

#### Work Items

1. Develop a data dictionary specific to the community infrastructure asset data collection project.
2. Train local agency staff to use the Trimble GeoXT to collect community infrastructure asset data in the field.
3. Extract the community infrastructure asset data collected in the field from the Trimble GeoXT and convert it into shape files to be read in Arc Map.
4. Create a GIS project for display of collected community infrastructure asset data and print associated paper maps for review by local agency staff.
5. Work with local agency staff to administer updates and changes to field collected community infrastructure asset data.

#### Output

Up-to-date locally collected data for a variety of community infrastructure assets. The type(s) of community infrastructure asset data collected is at the discretion of local staff.

#### Coordination

Extensive coordination with agency staff on use Trimble GeoXT unit and ongoing adjustments to data as the community infrastructure asset information is updated or changed.

#### Citizen Involvement

Not applicable to this project.

#### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

Collecting data with local staff increases the knowledge base of community infrastructure assets and reduces risk of important community infrastructure asset information being lost due to departure of key staff. The community infrastructure asset data collected and processed can be utilized to create and enhance multiple mapping projects.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### Objective

Support member agencies in the development of programs and projects that meet their identified community development needs. Provide research and technical assistance in planning and project management processes.

### Work Items

1. Assist member agencies in asset identification (e.g., infrastructure of various types), in support of project development.
2. Assist in identifying and analyzing community development needs.
3. Assist in setting up and conducting the process of member agency prioritization of community development needs and projects.
4. Assist in researching funding opportunities for community development projects.
5. Assist in planning community development projects.
6. Compile and catalog a community development resources library at COG offices for use by member agencies.
7. Participate in planning processes and educational opportunities sponsored by other agencies that relate to community development in Grays Harbor.

### Output

Written and verbal reports, studies, plan components and issue papers identifying and analyzing a community development project, need or opportunity. Funding applications. Maintain COG Community Development Resources Library.

### Coordination

Coordination is dependent upon type of project. GHCOG staff will coordinate with leadership and staff of agency requesting services. Some projects may require a community driven process, in which case series of community meetings will be conducted.

### Citizen Involvement

City Council and Planning Commission meetings and meetings of the GHCOG Board are open to the public; the news media are regularly informed.

### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

Community development is a major need identified by local jurisdictions in Grays Harbor County, including the Quinault Tribe. From Main Street revitalization, to utility system infrastructure upgrades, to park and recreation development, to sidewalks and trails, our local communities have significant community development needs. Our members need help articulating, prioritizing, and managing those needs, as well as financing them in order to bring improvements to our communities.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SERVICES**

#### Objective

Support member agencies in the development of land use and environmental plans, projects and studies that meet their community needs. Provide research and technical assistance in drafting comprehensive land use, parks and recreation, transportation, capital facilities and environmental plans and regulations.

#### Work Items

1. Assist agencies in drafting components of land use, transportation, parks and recreation, capital facilities and environmental plans and policies as requested.
2. Assist in demographic and GIS support for such documents.
3. Provide regional economic and community development data supporting local agency plan and policy development.
4. Support agency staff in the community involvement process during plan and policy document review.
5. Assist agency staff in regulatory document research and drafting.
6. Convene local agencies for training and planning sessions on land use planning issues affecting multiple local agencies that would benefit from a unified approach.
7. Participate in training and other educational opportunities offered by the state and other agencies that relate to land use and environmental planning and regulations in Washington State.
8. Provide grant and loan research upon request, as needed, to support development of the particular plan or other product.

#### Output

At agency request, research, write and produce a variety of local land use and environmental plans, policies, regulations and studies in coordination with agency staff and/or outside consultants. Participate with staff in public review meetings and hearings with Planning Commissions and Governing bodies, as part of public involvement process. Provide coordination on behalf of Grays Harbor agencies, with state and federal agencies tasked with land use and environmental regulation and policymaking. In some instances COG may be called upon to help identify state or federal funds to help support the project.

#### Coordination

Significant levels of coordination with requesting agency staff and public officials will occur. Community meetings will be held based upon the type of product being developed. Coordination with state and federal agency staff will occur on an ongoing basis for purposes of keeping current with subject matter, and on specific occasions as needed depending upon the project.

#### Citizen Involvement

Depending upon the document to be drafted, COG staff may be asked to assist with community involvement in the form of public meetings and hearings associated with review and adoption of the plan, study or regulation. In the land use arena, the type of public involvement is typically a matter of local code or other legislative provision.

### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

Land use and environmental plans, policies and regulations form the backbone of community life and affect many aspects of the community's health. Grays Harbor County is not required to plan under the state Growth Management Act, but some aspects of that Act still apply to Grays Harbor local governments, for example, Critical Areas regulations must still be adopted by all cities and counties.

Increasingly, grant and loan programs expect local plans and policies to be in place and up to date before a local agency will even be considered for funding. The small jurisdictions of Grays Harbor County are very short-staffed. Council of Governments can help agency staff develop more complicated plans and regulations and can coordinate with state and federal agencies with jurisdiction, on behalf of our membership.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING**

#### Objective

Assist local agency staff to create a comprehensive Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) to assess the state of current public infrastructure and plan for future replacement and expansion.

#### Work Items

1. Participating agencies will formally adopt by resolution:
  - a) a request that GHCOG help them develop a CFP and update process; and
  - b) a commitment of their agency's staff time to provide necessary data and engage in the CFP development and adoption process.
2. GHCOG staff will create a CFP planning process to be utilized for each participating agency.
3. Once resolutions have been adopted, GHCOG staff will select one prepared agency at a time to develop that agency's CFP.

#### **GHCOG staff will work closely with agency staff to;**

4. create an existing inventory of all capital facilities.
5. forecast future capital facilities needs, at least for the next six years.
6. assess proposed location and capacities of new facilities.
7. estimate capital facility project costs.
8. produce a six year financing plan showing known and potential fund sources for future facilities.
9. develop a simple electronic format CFP.
10. Local agency staff will take the lead to facilitate the adoption process for their CFP.
11. A CFP process will be developed that integrates an annual (or biannual) CFP update into the local agency's existing budget adoption process.

#### Output

GHCOG and local agency staff working together will develop for agency adoption, a six-year (or longer) Capital Facilities Plan that outlines current and future infrastructure needs for each type of infrastructure managed by the agency, forecast project costs and list known and potential fund sources. The project includes development of a public process of updating the CFP in tandem with the agency's budget adoption.

#### Coordination

Extensive and ongoing coordination will occur between GHCOG staff and agency staff. It is estimated that the entire project will require at least two years, depending on the number of agencies participating, and the time constraints of each agency.

#### Citizen Involvement

Citizen involvement will occur through the local agency plan review and adoption process.

### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

The CFP officially organizes and prioritizes all capital needs and costs for at least the next 6 years. This helps keep scarce capital budget expenditures focused on true system-wide, established priorities. CFPs are increasingly required to support loan and grant funding requests. The CFP summarizes in a single document, for easy public and official review, the agency's existing capital infrastructure and future plans for maintenance and upgrades.

**REGIONAL PLANNING**  
**PUBLIC GRANT AND LOAN FUNDING**  
**RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Objective

To support member agencies in the development of programs/projects and funding opportunities that meets their identified needs. Provide technical assistance in funding and planning processes. Ensure federal/state requirements are met. Provide a forum for a unified voice on regional issues and policies.

Work Items

1. Provide assistance in the research of grant and loan sources and opportunities.
2. Notify membership of pertinent grant and loan programs through email, GHCOG web site, *Regional Connections* newsletter, and *GHCOG Public Funding Notification Alert*.
3. Provide support in the grant and loan application process by supplying data and/or writing assistance, and provide process checks to ensure the project meets funding program requirements.
4. Perform regional monitoring of changes in federal and state grant and loan programs and advise accordingly.

Output

Provide grant and loan resource information and respond to requests for related information. Complete grant and loan searches and assist with applications for community development, infrastructure, transportation and social planning projects.

Coordination

Coordination is dependent upon type of project. GHCOG staff will coordinate with leadership and staff of agency requesting services. Some projects may require a community driven process in which case a series of community meetings will be established. Communication with state and federal agencies will be ongoing in order to remain current with grant and loan opportunities and seek technical assistance.

Citizen Involvement

City Council meetings and meetings of the GHCOG are open to the public; the news media are regularly informed.

Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

Economies of scale: when one member of the community benefits, we all benefit. Assistance that results in bringing state and federal dollars into Grays Harbor is a benefit to the county as a whole. The support of existing projects/programs and the development of new opportunities maintain healthy communities and a healthy economy.

Substantial changes in grant and loan programs have been occurring at the state and federal levels, especially regarding rural communities. Regional monitoring of these changes will protect the investments of our local communities and ensure continued access to funding sources in the future.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

#### Objective

Perform the annual update of the Grays Harbor Transit Authority Transit Development Plan.

#### Work Items

1. Work with Grays Harbor Transit Authority (GHTA) to update financial and inventory records.
2. Coordinate between the Washington State Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, and GHTA to ensure that new planning requirements are fulfilled.
3. Update and publish Transit Development Plan.
4. Participate in public hearing process.

#### Output

Respond to questions and informational requests. Facilitate staff in the development of plan elements. Completed and published Transit Development Plan.

#### Coordination

The GHCOG will coordinate with state and federal agencies related to the development of the Plan and relay pertinent information to GHTA. GHCOG staff will work with GHTA staff as applicable. Outside transit agencies are contact for information on an as needed basis.

#### Citizen Involvement

All meetings of the GHTA and the GHCOG are advertised and open to the general public. The news media is informed of all public meetings. Citizens are represented on the GHTA board.

#### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

The GHTA is a countywide public transportation agency that benefits all members of Grays Harbor County. As such, the maintenance of the Transit Development Plan not only fulfills state and federal regulations for transit agencies, but also ensures that GHTA meets the requirements to apply for future funding. Categorical funding sources supply operating capital as well as funds to purchase new busses and dial-a-ride vans.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **REGIONAL UTILITIES COORDINATION**

#### Objective

To develop, promote and maintain a coordinated approach to inter-jurisdictional and private sector utilities planning. Provide technical assistance in the development of joint projects.

#### Work Items

1. Facilitate group meetings.
2. Form and oversee committees as needed to explore technical and legal issues.
3. Identify and coordinate areas in which joint planning can provide maximum benefit.
4. Research studies and successful strategies.
5. Develop policies and procedures to facilitate the development of joint planning projects.
6. Provide assistance in drafting joint agreements.
7. Provide community outreach as needed.
8. Document process and outcomes.
9. Develop and maintain regional utilities location maps.

#### Output

A regional model for a collaborative approach to utilities planning. Documentation of the planning process. Development of policies and procedures governing shared resources and maintenance. Map library of public and shared utility locations.

#### Coordination

Coordination will initially occur between public utility providers. As a collaborative working model is developed, private sector providers will be invited to participate. Participation of private sector providers is on an at-will basis. State and Federal agencies will be involved as needed.

#### Citizen Involvement

Public utility companies are publicly owned and as such all meetings are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. This provides a forum for the transference of information and an opportunity for public comment. All meetings of the GHCOG are advertised and open to the public.

#### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

This project will provide regional benefits through information sharing and cost savings. Preplanning for shared utility corridors saves time, resources and money and ensures that current and future community needs are met. Piggybacking allows for the use of existing lines/trenches/conduits by several providers. Constructing one utility corridor to service multiple providers rather than multiple, individual corridors, benefits all end users of the service.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **GRAYS HARBOR ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

#### Objective

Prepare for a major update of the Grays Harbor Estuary Management Plan (GHEMP) by researching funding options to implement the plan update.

The GHCOG will research funding opportunities and potential applications for the next major update to the GHEMP. As this effort will cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars it is anticipated that multiple funding sources will need to be coordinated. This will require significant time and effort from GHCOG staff as well as significant coordination with participating local and state agencies.

#### Work Items

1. Maintain historical records and chronology.
2. Review legislation that has been passed since that last GHEMP update that will affect a current update such as coastal zone management, Shoreline Management Act, and critical areas ordinances.
3. Develop a list of participating agencies (local, regional, state and federal) and contact them to assess their level of interest and anticipated participation.
4. Develop itemized task list of activities and strategies necessary to perform a major update of the GHEMP.
5. Research and assess funding requirements for major plan update. This work will be a detailed development of work item number two to include a description of expertise necessary for update, environmental work required, data mapping and analysis, time estimates and funding estimates. Specific assistance will be requested from state agencies tasked with helping local government fund major planning efforts with potential for significant related environmental and infrastructure impacts.

#### Output

A strategy to seek funding for a major update to the GHEMP. The GHCOG will perform a review and initial requirements assessment in preparation for the next major GHEMP update. This review will include development of program, funding, environmental, expertise and agency requirements. Time and funding estimates will also be developed and circulated among local agency participants via periodic GHCOG Board updates.

#### Coordination

The GHEMP is a multi-jurisdictional effort involving: Grays Harbor County; the cities of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Hoquiam, Ocean Shores and Westport; the Port of Grays Harbor; the Washington State Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources; the US Army Corps of Engineers; US EPA; US Fish and Wildlife; and the National Marine Fisheries Service. As former lead agency for the GHEMP, the GHCOG is the agency responsible for coordinating major updates and related agency participation.

### Citizen Involvement

Citizen involvement will occur during the actual update process itself through workshops and public meetings.

### Community and Regional Contributions and Benefits

Grays Harbor is one of the two major estuaries on the Washington coast and is the only coastal estuary in the state with an authorized deep-water navigation channel and major port. The Grays Harbor estuary provides an important transportation link to local, national, and international markets, and serves as a focal point for the regional economy. The estuary is also a breeding ground for a great variety of living resources and a vital link in the migratory patterns of many fish and wildlife species.

Each year an increasing number of demands are placed on the estuary by an expanding economic base and a growing population. Unchecked, the ability of the estuary to accommodate these demands diminishes over time, offsetting the balance that keeps our estuary a healthy, vital part of our local economy. The Grays Harbor Estuary Management Plan provides the framework through which federal, state, and local regulations are unified and implemented.