

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



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Friday, December 17, 2010

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Reardon signs 2011 budget protecting core services

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon signed Friday the ordinances making up the 2011 budget during a public ceremony attended by members of the County Council and individually elected officials.

The \$204 million General Fund budget passed unanimously by the Council in November closely resembles the budget proposed in September by Reardon. It is the first budget Reardon has signed in four years and provides needed services without raising taxes.

“Our county’s 2011 budget is the result of unprecedented teamwork on the part of each department, office and elected official as well as their staff,” Reardon said. “This work took place not only in the last several months as the 2011 budget was specifically drafted, but during the past two-and-a-half years as we have responded to the economic crises affecting all Americans.”

Reardon acknowledged that difficult decisions had to be made, but the difference between Snohomish County and other governments around the region – including the state – is that “we have not shied away from making those decisions.”

“Together, we are focused on core services, we are taking the necessary steps to secure our finances, and we are working together on behalf of the people we serve,” he said.

Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Roe and others said during the signing ceremony that collaboration was a key to a successful budget process.

“Everybody realized this was serious and not a time for competition but a time for cooperation,” Roe said. “We got there, not without sacrifices, but without any acrimony.”

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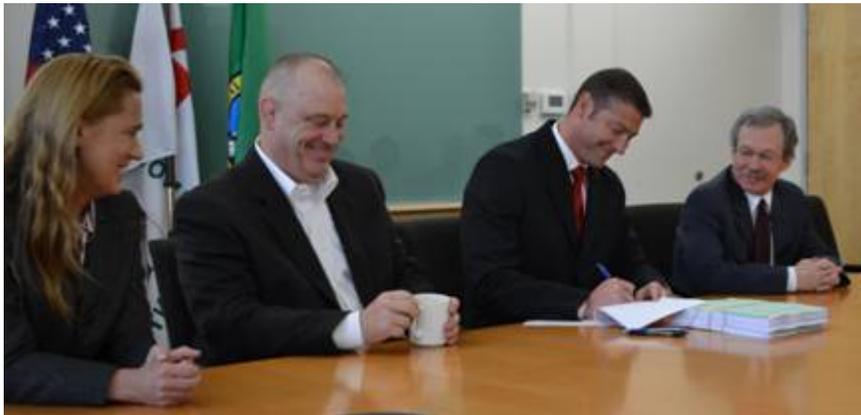
How are we doing?

The 2011 budget protects public safety and provides services to the most vulnerable, including the Nurse Family Partnership program, operated by the Snohomish Health District and proven to promote the health and safety of infants and new mothers.

Reardon cautioned leaders Friday to be mindful of continuing challenges, especially as the state considers cuts to its budget.

“We must continue to be vigilant and ready to respond should the economy retract once again,” he said. “But I trust that the foundation of teamwork and accountability we have established will allow us to continue to partner constructively in this mission.”

Also present Friday were Snohomish County Council Chairman Dave Gossett, Council members Brian Sullivan and Stephanie Wright, County Assessor Cindy Portmann, County Clerk Sonya Kraski, Sheriff John Lovick and representatives from other elected offices and departments.



Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon signs the 2011 budget Friday with Councilwoman Stephanie Wright, Councilman Brian Sullivan and Council Chairman Dave Gossett.

Reardon says Nimitz decision based on thoughtfulness, foresight

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon congratulated Naval Station Everett on Thursday for the Pentagon’s decision to station the USS Nimitz there while the USS Abraham Lincoln is away for refueling.

Reardon spoke directly with the naval station’s commanding office, Capt. Michael Coury, as well as U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, who also pushed for the aircraft carrier.

“The U.S. Navy clearly recognizes the importance of the women and men

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Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

who serve and work at the Naval Station Everett, which is a top-rate facility befitting our national security,” Reardon said. “The strategic decision to station the USS Nimitz there while the USS Abraham Lincoln is away preserves our national security on the East and West coasts while saving millions in federal dollars.”

Stationing the Nimitz in Everett also will protect the many businesses that rely on support from the sailors and their families. Sailors regularly say they prefer Naval Station Everett to other bases because of the strong backing the community shows the military.

“I applaud today’s decision, which measures strategic readiness, cost and value, and strongly encourage the Pentagon to continue in this foresight and thoughtfulness by awarding the U.S. Air Force tanker project to The Boeing Company,” Reardon said.

County secures property for public shooting range

Snohomish County Parks and Recreation will begin developing plans for a public shooting range outside Sultan following Tuesday’s reconveyance of property from the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The State DNR Board of Commissioners voted 6-0 to transfer a 156-acre area off Sultan Basin Road to Snohomish County for "public park use." Snohomish County Parks and Recreation intends to construct a public outdoor shooting range on the property.

“I have always supported this project and am pleased to see it finally moving forward,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “This project has been discussed for more than 20 years and will provide a safe location for shooting enthusiasts and hobbyists to meet.”

Snohomish County residents have long clamored for a place to safely meet and practice. Since then, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation and DNR have hosted public meetings to discuss the future project and to garner support from the DNR Board of Commissioners for the property reconveyance.

The location of the future shooting range is several miles outside the Sultan city limits and is isolated from inhabited areas. Snohomish County will construct a shooting range that limits noise and provides a safe alternative to current outdoor shooting practices. Parks’ staff will begin the master-planning process in early 2011.

“Our master-planning process will involve all citizens with an interest in

this facility,” Reardon said. “We believe this will result in one of the premier outdoor shooting facilities in the nation with public/private investment.”

Officials and members of the business community in Sultan and the Sky Valley say the shooting range will create new economic opportunities.

“The Sky Valley Chamber is very excited about this positive step,” said Debbie Copple, the chamber’s director and a member of the County Parks Advisory Board. “We look forward to the process of working with our neighbors to develop an environmentally friendly and sustainable shooting range that will enhance outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities.”

The reconveyance is the second of two recent Parks’ projects involving DNR. In November, Parks purchased 8 acres near Wallace Falls State Park to serve as a primary access point to the adjacent Washington State Reiter Foothills Recreation Area.

Nonprofits and community organizations will work with the county and DNR to develop a new parking area there while increasing access to Reiter Foothill trails from the site.

Snohomish County Parks is working with DNR, the Washington State Parks Commission, the Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the cities of Gold Bar and Sultan to promote outdoor recreation as part of East Snohomish County’s economic development plan.

Residents encouraged to join emergency alert system

Residents interested in receiving up-to-date emergency notifications from Snohomish County are encouraged to sign up for its emergency management alert system.

Snohomish County’s Department of Emergency Management (DEM), in coordination with the county’s 911 Call Centers is opening public enrollment in the county’s MyStateUSA Alert Sense System. DEM and the National Weather Service periodically use the alert system to warn residents of weather alerts and other pertinent safety information as needed.

Residents can choose to receive alerts by e-mail, text message and telephone calls. To subscribe, go to <http://snohomishcountywa.mystateusa.com> and click on the “Public

Alert Sign Up” link in the top left corner.

This alert system enhances public agencies’ ability to warn of hazardous weather and other emergency situations affecting the Snohomish County area. Additionally, the system allows individuals without landline phone service to link their address to their cell phone to receive notifications affecting their registered location.

Citizens with internet access or cell phones can subscribe for times they are away from home or without access to other notification systems. Emergency information will simultaneously be posted on the website when an alert is issued.

DEM provides emergency management services to unincorporated parts of the county, the cities of Arlington, Darrington, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Index, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Snohomish, Stanwood, Sultan, and the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribal Communities. SNOCOM 911 and SNOPAC 911 are the two public safety 9-1-1 communications centers serving all communities within Snohomish County.

The alert system is a partnership between Snohomish County and MyStateUSA, an Idaho-based provider of public warning technologies. The system allows local public safety agencies to seamlessly activate public warning systems and share information securely among responder agencies.

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