SCC 9.08 Single Outdoor Events Code Rewrite

Board of County Commissioners Work Session



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October 19, 2026

SCC 9.08 Update Website:
https://www.skagitcountywa.gov/services/planning-and-building/community-planning/outdoor-events-code-rewrite/#/home

SCC 9.08 Background

- Current code adopted in 1970 and has not been updated since.
- Has unclear submittal requirements and review procedures.
- Conditions in 9.08.060 & .070 are outdated and do not match current review process.

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SCC 9.08 – Update Summary

- Rename the chapter to Single Outdoor Events
- Defines events and establish thresholds
- Shift application processing from BoCC to PDS
- Specify application submittal requirements and procedures
- Enhance public safety and health provisions
- Improve enforceability and provide references to other applicable code
- Add grounds for denial

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SCC 9.08.010 & .020 – Purpose & Definitions

- **9.08.010 Purpose.** Current code does not include a purpose. Adding a purpose clarifies the reason and need for regulations for single outdoor events which are based on the need to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare.

- **9.08.020 Definitions**. Adding a definition for "Single outdoor events" clarifies that the events being regulated are public outdoor events, held on private property, that are not part of any regularly permitted operations under SCC Title 14, such as Limited Event Venues and Agritourism uses.

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SCC 9.08.030 – Applicability, Size, & Frequency

- **Applicability.** Code applies to activities expecting attendance of more than 50 people. Existing code's threshold for a permit is set at 100 people.

- **Types and Size.** Establishes three different types of single outdoor events based on the number of attendees:
  - Small. Applies to events expecting 199 or fewer people per day.
  - Medium. Events that expect 200 or more people per day.
  - Large. Events that expect 1,000 or more people per day.

- **Frequency.** Restricts single outdoor events from being issued to the same applicant or location for more than 3 consecutive days and for no more than 2 occasions per calendar year. The existing code only allows 1-day events per SCC 9.08.010.

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SCC 9.08.040 – Procedure

- Retains the 90-day submittal requirement and the 60-day decision window for small and medium events.
- For large events, the application must be submitted 120 days before the event, and the County will have 90 days to issue a decision.
- Proposal also adds public notice requirements and a 15-day comment period for Large Outdoor Events.

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SCC 9.08.050 – Application Submittal Requirements

An application is considered complete when the following is submitted:

- A fully completed application form
- Property street address and parcel number
- Event narrative
- Site plan
- Evidence of water, sewer, and solid waste disposal
- Applicable review fees
- Acknowledgement that the applicant will abide by the provisions of this chapter

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SCC 9.08.060 – Event Requirements and Conditions

Proposed amendments include a comprehensive list of event requirements and conditions for:

- Sanitary facilities, solid waste and drinking water
- Food service
- Fire protection
- Traffic and crowd control scaled to event size
- Parking requirements
- Lighting limitations
- Noise requirements tied to SCC 9.50
- Natural Resource Land preservation

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SCC 9.08.060 – Event Requirements and Conditions (cont)

Events located in the Agricultural – Natural Resource Lands zone are subject to the following limitations:

- Events must be carried out by the owner or operator of the working farm or ranch upon which it is located.
- Events must be secondary and related to an existing agricultural use.
- Events cannot degrade the surrounding area's rural agricultural character.
- Events cannot result in the permanent conversion of farmland.
- Events cannot unduly interfere with surrounding farming operations/practices.

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SCC 9.08.070 – Grounds for Denial

An event permit may be denied or revoked if Skagit County determines that:

- The proposed event is not consistent with the standards of SCC 9.08.
- The application submittal requirements have not been met.
- The proposed event would endanger public health or safety.
- The time, route, hours, location, or size of the proposed event will unnecessarily disrupt the movement of other traffic within the area.

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SCC 9.08.070 – Grounds for Denial (cont.)

- The event would create or constitute a public nuisance.
- The event would engage in or encourage participants to engage in illegal acts.
- The location of the special event would cause undue hardship for adjacent businesses or residents.

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SCC 9.08.080 – Enforcement

Noncompliance with SCC 9.08 will be subject to enforcement as applicable in Skagit County Code.

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Planning Commission Review

- The Planning Commission provided their recommendations which are listed in Exhibit B of the Memorandum dated October 6, 2026.

- Recommendations received from the Planning Commission, the Agricultural Advisory Board, and other stakeholders who reached out to the County voluntarily helped staff development a second draft of the SCC 9.08 amendments.

SCC 9.08 Update Website:
https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/Outdoor-Events-code-rewrite.htm

How to Comment

- **Public comment** period opened Thursday, **October 15, 2026** and will close on Wednesday, **November 4, 2026 at 4:30PM**.
- Three options to comment – mailing, emailing, or attending the **public hearing** on **November 2, 2026 at 1:30PM.**
  - Mail to 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
  - Email to pdscomments@skagitcountywa.gov

Please provide your full name and address for any submitted comments

***November 24, 2026, at 10:30AM - Possible Action**

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