

Grays Harbor PDA to vote on disbanding, before board evaporates

Local News

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Posted on : June 4, 2013 at 7:00 am

ELMA, Wash. - More than a dozen years after it's creation, the Grays Harbor Public Development Authority may soon ask the county commissioners for it's own termination. Formerly the governing board to Satsop Business Park, the board of directors this week will vote on the decision.

Attorney Art Blauvelt told the county commissioners in March that "even though it does not have any assets, it can still be used by the county commissioners for various purposes throughout the county. Another option discussed is to let the PDA enter a dormant state, so long as it has zero assets and conducts no business it would not require a state audit as a public entity.

The PDA was originally created by the county to transform an abandoned nuclear power plant site in Elma, into a mixed-use business park. The Park, along with all of it's assets and employees, were handed over to the Port of Grays Harbor in January. Board members in January were Steve Poler, Shelli Hopsecger, Art Tanner, Jack Thompson, Mike Wilson, John Van Dijk and Tom Casey however, in July, most of the board would need to be re-appointed to maintain a quorum as terms expire.

The Grays Harbor PDA was created by the county in 1999 to take over the site where the Washington Public Power Supply System had abandoned its nuclear power project in 1983. It is a seven-member board made up of four private-sector members as well as a county commissioner, a PUD commissioner and a Port commissioner. Satsop Business Park is a 1,850-acre mixed-use business and technology park located in scenic Grays Harbor County in Southwest Washington just 30 minutes from Olympia and the I-5 corridor. It is home to more than 30 businesses, offers 440 acres of developed, pad-ready land and buildings supported by super-sized infrastructure and surrounded by 1,350 acres of sustainable managed forestland.