

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Shoreline Master Program
DEPARTMENT: Planning and Development Services
PRESENTED BY: Steve Cohn, Senior Planner

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The State of Washington Department of Ecology has awarded the City a \$60,000 grant to complete a Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. The scope of work of the contract contemplates that work on the SMP is scheduled to begin in early 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If the City decides not to accept the grant, it would need to fund the work on the SMP update out of the City's general fund.

If the funding is accepted, there should be no budget implications for Shoreline for the 2007-2009 biennium except for staff time. There will be additional work to complete the process into 2010 that is currently unfunded. It is possible that the State may release grant funding for that work, but the decision to do so will not be known until early 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council accept the Department of Ecology grant in the amount of \$60,000 to complete a Shoreline Master Program.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney _____

INTRODUCTION

The State of Washington has mandated that each locality complete a Shoreline Master Program (SMP) to analyze existing shoreline conditions and plan for future impacts.

BACKGROUND

In 2003 the Department of Ecology adopted new Shoreline Master Program Guidelines based on the State Shoreline Management Act. Cities and counties across the state (about 250 in all) were mandated to update their shoreline master programs to be consistent with the new guidelines within the decade. Plan goals should include ways to encourage water-dependent uses, protect shoreline natural resources, and promote public access. The State has offered grant monies to assist cities and counties in their updates.

Local master programs regulate new development and use of "shorelines of statewide significance" within their jurisdictions. According to Department of Ecology definitions and an inventory performed in 2004, the only areas affected in Shoreline are the properties on the Puget Sound coastline. This information will be reviewed and updated (if necessary) by a consultant paid for by the grant.

Shoreline's existing master program reflects the elements that were in the King County SMP in 1995 when Shoreline incorporated. In 1998, with the adoption of its own Comprehensive Plan, the City adopted a Shoreline Master Program Element that contains general goals, policies and maps of shoreline environments. While largely consistent with the King County SMP, this new SMP element was not reviewed by the Dept. of Ecology and does not qualify as a full recognized SMP. The City continues to apply the detailed 1995 King County SMP to regulate shoreline development, but now needs to craft one of its own to reflect any changed conditions and to meet the updated guidelines from the State.

Shoreline applied for a grant earlier this year, and one was recently awarded in the amount of \$60,000. This will assist staff in meeting the State requirements for the SMP update, which is currently scheduled for completion by June 2010. Most of the State grant dollars will be used to hire a consultant to perform technical work such as conducting an inventory and analysis, mapping conditions, determining environmental designations, characterizing ecosystem-wide processes, analyzing cumulative impacts, and identifying opportunities for protection and restoration. A portion of the money will be used for staff salaries. The funding does not cover the full cost of developing the SMP update. It is possible that the State may have additional grant dollars to distribute in the next biennium. However, if that money is not available to Shoreline, the City will have to subsidize some portions of developing the SMP.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

- Shoreline is mandated to update its SMP whether or not it receives State funding.
- The SMP update includes technical and scientific analysis that cannot be accomplished by current City staff.
- If the City is not compensated for the extra dollars needed to hire consultants, the monies will have to come from the City's general fund.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council accept the Department of Ecology grant in the amount of \$60,000 to complete a Shoreline Master Program.

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