

AGENDA

PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING



Thursday, April 5, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Shoreline City Hall
Council Chamber
17500 Midvale Ave N.

- | | <u>Estimated Time</u> |
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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | 7:00 p.m. |
| A. Swearing In Ceremony for Newly Appointed Planning Commissioners, performed by City of Shoreline Mayor Keith McGlashan | |
| 2. ROLL CALL | 7:10 p.m. |
| 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA | 7:11 p.m. |
| 4. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS | 7:12 p.m. |
| 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES | 7:16 p.m. |
| A. March 1 Regular Meeting | |

Public Comment and Testimony at Planning Commission

During General Public Comment, the Planning Commission will take public comment on any subject which is not specifically scheduled later on the agenda. During Public Hearings and Study Sessions, public testimony/comment occurs after initial questions by the Commission which follows the presentation of each staff report. In all cases, speakers are asked to come to the podium to have their comments recorded, state their first and last name, and city of residence. The Chair has discretion to limit or extend time limitations and the number of people permitted to speak. Generally, individuals may speak for three minutes or less, depending on the number of people wishing to speak. When representing the official position of an agency or City-recognized organization, a speaker will be given 5 minutes.

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| 6. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT | 7:20 p.m. |
| 7. STUDY ITEMS | 7:25 p.m. |
| A. Comprehensive Plan Major Update – Natural Environment | |
| • Staff Presentation | |
| • Public Comment | |
| B. Development Code Amendments related to FEMA Floodplain Management | |
| • Staff Presentation | |
| • Public Comment | |
| 8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT | 9:25 p.m. |
| 9. NEW BUSINESS | 9:30 p.m. |
| A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair | |
| 10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & COMMISSONERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS | 9:40 p.m. |
| 11. AGENDA FOR April 12 Speaker Series & April 19 Regular Meeting | 9:44 p.m. |
| 12. ADJOURNMENT | 9:45 p.m. |

The Planning Commission meeting is wheelchair accessible. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the City Clerk's Office at 801-2230 in advance for more information. For TTY telephone service call 546-0457. For up-to-date information on future agendas call 801-2236.

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CITY OF SHORELINE

SHORELINE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

March 1, 2012
7:00 P.M.

Shoreline City Hall
Council Chamber

Commissioners Present

Chair Wagner
Vice Chair Perkowski
Commissioner Broili
Commissioner Esselman
Commissioner Craft
Commissioner Moss

Staff Present

Rachel Markle, Director, Community and Development Services
Paul Cohen, Senior Planner, Community & Development Services
Miranda Redinger, Associate Planner, Community & Development Services
Steve Szafran, Associate Planner
Jeff Forry, Permit Services Manager
Jessica Simulcik Smith, Planning Commission Clerk

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Behrens

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wagner called the regular meeting of the Shoreline Planning Commission to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call by the Commission Clerk the following Commissioners were present: Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Perkowski and Commissioners Broili, Esselman, Craft and Moss. Commissioner Behrens was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Markle welcomed new Commissioner, Easton Craft. She announced that the City received a building permit application for the North City Family Apartments, a 160-unit complex at the old YMCA site.

Ms. Markle also announced that Sara Nikolic is scheduled to speak to the City Council on April 9th about equitable transit communities, and Commissioners are invited to attend. She recalled that Ms. Nikolic presented at the February 23rd speaker series event, which is available on line. She reminded the Commission that the City Council will be providing direction to Sound Transit regarding the location of light rail stations that will be studied as part of the environmental process. The City Council will also be discussing framework policies for light rail stations to guide future decisions. Information regarding this issue is also available on line.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular meeting minutes of February 2, 2012 were accepted as presented.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No one in the audience indicated a desire to address the Commission during this portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM (SMP)

Chair Wagner reviewed the rules and procedures for the public hearing and then opened the public hearing. She noted that citizens who live close to the shoreline have worked extensively with the staff and Commission to discuss their issues and concerns related to the SMP Update. She emphasized that the Commission takes the SMP update very seriously, and they appreciate citizens taking the time to stay involved and engaged in the process.

Ms. Simulcik Smith advised that since the public hearing packet was sent out, the City has received the following:

- Exhibit 12 – A comment letter from Jim and Rae Allen received March 1, 2012
- Exhibit 13 – A comment letter from Duane and Jane Engle received March 1, 2012
- Exhibit 14 – A comment letter from Mark Beard received March 1, 2012
- Exhibit 15 – A comment letter from Stanley and Lois Newell received March 1, 2012
- Exhibit 16 – A comment letter from James W. McCurdy received March 1, 2012

Chair Wagner advised that the Commission took time prior to the meeting to review the new comment letters.

Staff Presentation and Questions by the Commission

Ms. Redinger referred to the latest draft of the SMP Update, which is identified as Exhibit 17. In addition to the changes identified in the document that was sent out in anticipation of the January public hearing that was cancelled for snow, staff recently worked with the Richmond Beach Preservation Association to identify more changes. The Muckleshoot Tribe also proposed some changes to the aquaculture regulations. The Department of Ecology's representative, Barbara Nightingale, provided feedback, as well. The Commission reviewed the document section by section as follows:

- Commissioner Moss referred to **SMP 20.200.040**, and recalled that she previously recommended that the goals and objectives in the Recreation and Circulation Elements should be swapped. Ms. Redinger responded that the goals and objectives were switched as per the email staff received from Commissioner Moss.
- Chair Wagner recalled that she earlier recommended that the date be removed from **SMP 20.200.060.H**. Commissioner Forry explained that DOE requires that the SMP lock in place and time the Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) that is applicable to the SMP, so that subsequent changes to the CAO would not impact the SMP. The DOE's desire is to keep the SMP static so they know what criteria will be applied. He cautioned that when they amend the CAO, they need to make sure they are not affecting the content of the SMP. Otherwise an amendment would be necessary.
- Commissioner Moss referred to the definition for "Community Pier or Dock" found in **SMP 20.210.010** and pointed out that the word "shoreline" appears to be out of place.
- Ms. Redinger referred to the proposed definition for "Aquaculture" found in **SMP 20.210.010**. She explained that because the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) is often very specific about definitions, the proposed changes should be carefully reviewed to make sure they are consistent. Commissioner Moss asked if this definition could be altered after the Planning Commission has taken action and forwarded a recommendation to the City Council. Ms. Redinger answered the proposed amendments would not likely meet the standard of a substantial change.
- Vice Chair Perkowski pointed out that **SMP 20.210.010** does not include a definition for "Joint-Use Dock." Ms. Redinger said this is a common term, but a definition could be added.
- Chair Wagner said she previously asked staff if the definition for "Normal Protected Bulkhead" in **SMP 20.210.010** is intended to apply to single-family residential structures only. Ms. Redinger clarified that bulkheads generally apply to single-family residential neighborhoods, but they may not be completely exclusive. She said the Richmond Beach Preservation Association indicated they prefer the definition proposed for "bulkhead." Rather than being redundant, staff is recommending this definition be deleted.
- Commissioner Esselman suggested that because so many different types of species are listed in the definition for "Native Vegetation" in **SMP 20.210.010**, Madrona should be included as well because it is one of the most plentiful trees growing along the shoreline.
- Vice Chair Perkowski asked if the proposed definitions for "Land Disturbing Activities" and "Landfilling" in **SMP 20.210.010** are consistent with the Use Table. Ms. Redinger answered affirmatively.
- Commissioner Moss asked if all the proposed new language for **SMP 20.220.030** is consistent with the WAC. Ms. Redinger explained that, originally, only some of the WAC exemptions were included in this section. For greater clarity, the consultant recommended that the entire exemption list contained in the WAC be inserted. The proposed new language comes directly from the WAC.
- Commissioner Moss pointed out that the formatting used in **SMP 20.220.030** (particularly on Page 17) is confusing. Staff agreed to review the formatting to ensure consistency with the WAC.
- Chair Wagner asked how the language in **SMP 20.220.040.G** would impact future redevelopment at Point Wells. Ms. Redinger said the City Attorney issued the following statement: *"The variance criterion, which does not show as a change, could be worded better as a criterion to assure consistent enforcement. "Consider issues related to" could refer to no significant loss of natural resources of views from public lands. I don't foresee anything, in particular, that would affect the*

Point Wells development area should it be annexed to the City, and I don't know if it would be the criteria that would defeat a variance application if one were needed."

- Commissioner Moss pointed out that the reference to "four dwelling units" in **SMP 20.230.040.A.1.b** is inconsistent with the language in **SMP 20.230.040.B.1**.
- Commissioner Moss referenced **SMP 20.230.040.A.1.c** and asked what guidelines the Director would use to determine if the public access provisions are inappropriate. Mr. Forry said the WAC does not identify specific criteria, and most of the SMP's he reviewed are general in this regard. He explained that while the policy states that public access provisions should be incorporated into all private and public developments, there are cases where this requirement could result in a taking of private property or there may not be a practical way of providing public access because of topography, etc. He said Item A.1.c is intended to provide flexibility, recognizing that it would be difficult to create clearly defined criteria.
- Commissioner Moss suggested that **SMP 20.230.040.B.3.f** appears to be a separate criterion that is unrelated to the other criteria listed in the section.
- Vice Chair Perkowski suggested that a reference to the map showing the actual shoreline environments should be provided in **SMP 20.230.080**.
- Vice Chair Perkowski suggested that additional language should be added to **Section 20.230.080** to better describe the "Aquatic Environment," which encompasses all submerged lands waterward of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM).
- Vice Chair Perkowski referred to **Table 20.230.081** and pointed out that **landfilling** would only be applicable to the "Aquatic Environment."
- Ms. Redinger reference **Table 20.230.080** and recalled that the original language attempted to clarify that pre-existing bulkheads and armoring are protected and can be replaced. She said she recently learned that the WAC interchangeably uses the words "replacement" and "new." Staff felt it would be appropriate to provide more clarifying language to differentiate between historically armored areas where in-kind replacement will occur over time and the other 3% of the shoreline that still maintains natural conditions. She recommended the following heading changes: Shoreline Stabilization Bulkheads and Revetments; Repair, Replacement and Maintenance of Existing Hard-Shore Armoring, and Hard-Shoreline Armoring where none previously existed.
- Commissioner Moss referenced **SMP 20.230.100.A.2**, which states that over-the-water nonresidential development shall be prohibited. She asked if this provision would prohibit nonresidential development on the existing pier at Point Wells. Mr. Forry explained that the structure would be considered nonconforming, but the property owner would be allowed to work within the confines of the existing structure. Proposed uses that are consistent with the current SMP would be allowed. The pier would not be considered a new, over-the-water structure. Commissioner Moss summarized that a food vendor cart or other type of use would be allowed as long as the property owner does not enlarge or substantially change the footprint. Mr. Forry agreed, as long as it is consistent with the uses allowed in that particular environment. Commissioner Craft clarified that whatever is done with the existing pier at Point Wells would require a conditional use permit and be reviewed by the Director. Mr. Forry said analysis would be provided by both the Director and the Department of Ecology (DOE).
- Commissioner Moss referred to **SMP 20.230.120.B.3**, which restricts parking from being located closer to the shoreline than a permitted structure. She questioned if the language should be specific about how far parking must be setback from the shoreline. She particularly referred to the

residential structures along 27th Avenue Northwest, some of which would be considered nonconforming because they are closer to the shoreline than the SMP would allow. Ms. Redinger said this code provision would only be applicable in the Residential Shoreline Environment, and the setback requirement for structures is 20 feet. Because of the potential for oil and gas spills, Commissioner Moss suggested perhaps the parking setback should be greater.

- Vice Chair Perkowski expressed concern that, as currently proposed, **SMP 20.230.150.B.3** would not require a geotechnical analysis for soft-shore stabilization proposals. He said he understands and supports the concept of offering incentives to protect the shoreline, but he questioned the impact of eliminating the requirement of a geotechnical analysis for soft-shore stabilization projects. Ms. Redinger pointed out that **SMP 20.230.150.B.2** requires a conditional use permit for any soft-shore shoreline modification within all shoreline environments.
- Commissioner Moss pointed out that **SMP 20.230.170.11.e** addresses shared docks or piers for two lots and four or more lots, but it does not address shared docks or piers for three lots. Vice Chair Perkowski suggested that the term “joint-use dock” should replace “shared docks” for consistency throughout the entire SMP.
- Commissioner Perkowski referenced **SMP 20.230.170.11.a** which limits the width of a dock to six feet unless authorized in permitting documents. He suggested that because the development standard is vague, it would be difficult for staff to determine when a shoreline variance would be triggered. **Barbara Nightingale, DOE**, advised that the DOE uses the Corps of Engineers standard for dock width, which is currently set at 6 feet. The Corps has proposed a reduced width standard of 4 feet, but it has not been adopted yet. She said that, from DOE’s standpoint, a 6-foot width limitation would be appropriate and fair. Any width greater than 6 feet would require a variance. Vice Chair Perkowski suggested that the words “unless authorized in the permitting documents approved by WDFW and USACE” be eliminated from **SMP 20.230.170.11.a**. He pointed out that if there is a reason the standard cannot be met, a property owner could apply for a shoreline variance. Ms. Nightingale explained that one positive aspect of the current language is that it avoids conflicts between the Corps’ requirements and the City’s SMP provisions. However, conditions are changing quickly because of the assortment of animals and the variations in their habitats, and the Corps of Engineers is moving away from regional general permits.
- Commissioner Moss recalled that the Commission talked about using stronger language (i.e. shall or should) throughout the SMP. She asked staff for clarification about why the word “may” was used in **SMP 20.230.180.B.1**. Ms. Redinger said it is intended to provide some flexibility for the City. She reminded the Commission that a conditional use permit, which requires more specific criteria, would be required to armor anything that is natural (3% of the shoreline).
- Commissioner Moss referenced **SMP 20.230.180.B.8**, which requires a geotechnical report prepared by a qualified professional. She recalled that at a previous meeting she asked how long the report would remain valid, and staff replied that it would remain valid for as long as the professional remained licensed. She asked if the geotechnical report would become null and void if and when the DOE or another organization approved new standards. Mr. Forry answered that this would be considered a change in conditions, which could potentially impact a geotechnical report. He said that, typically, a licensed professional provides a stamp on the geotechnical report, listing an expiration date. Generally, the City considers the reports valid for the duration of the stamped date. A signing geotechnical engineer can re-evaluate and recertify a geotechnical report as long as his/her license is valid.

- Commissioner Moss recalled that **SMP 20.230.210.B.3.b** used to contain a reference to the stormwater manual. She questioned why this reference was removed. Ms. Redinger said she could not recall why this change was made. Commissioner Esselman reminded the Commission that rather than including too much information, the goal was to reference manuals and documents that are updated periodically. Mr. Forry added that, in addition to the SMP regulations, the City's stormwater manual would be used to evaluate all landfill activity within the shoreline area.

Public Testimony

Richard Kink, Shoreline, said he was present to speak on behalf of the Richmond Beach Preservation Association. Regarding Commissioner Moss' earlier question, he referenced WAC 173.21.221, which uses the term "four or more residences" when talking about providing public access in residential development.

On behalf of the Richmond Beach Preservation Association, Mr. Kink thanked staff, particularly Ms. Redinger, Mr. Forry and Mr. Tovar, for the numerous hours they spent on the SMP document. He also thanked Barbara Nightingale, DOE representative, for her time and thoughtful advice on the process. He said that over the past 2½ years, the Richmond Beach Preservation Association has worked closely with City staff and the DOE to develop a document that recognizes the unique characteristics of 27th Avenue Northwest. As part of that process, they have done extensive research, and their edits have been based on either approved SMPs or in collaboration with the City and DOE to create appropriate language. Accordingly, the Association requests that the Planning Commission approve the edits as presented by City staff. However, they would like to reserve final judgment based on a complete review of the final SMP document, since some of the edits were just made prior to the meeting. He said that, at this point in time, it appears that many of their concerns are non-material and have to do with general verbiage.

Mr. Kink recalled that the concept of a "common-line setback" has been discussed at previous meetings. He explained that this concept would effectively be a self-imposed regulation by property owners within the SMP jurisdiction. A common-line setback has been part of the Seattle SMP and is also included in the pending Jefferson County SMP. It would maintain existing lines of sight, even if structures are behind the 20-foot buffer. Previously, this has been an issue with some property owners along 27th Avenue Northwest, as well as property owners on Richmond Beach Drive. He said he has asked property owners for their voice of either support or opposition to a common-line setback. Based on feedback, the Association may want to take up inclusion with the City Council on this topic.

Mr. Kink said that, throughout the process, the Association has been quite passionate about their concerns. The regulations directly affect the property owners, and they have commented in meetings with City staff that although the Association and City staff may currently agree on the intent and/or meaning of a particular phrase or sentence, they questioned if someone three or four years down the road would have this same understanding. That is why they have been such sticklers on verbiage. They realize that in the scope of the City, 32 homes are but a small speck. With limited resources, the Association's goal was to make the regulations as clear as possible. Additionally, he commented that there would not be a tidal wave of new bulkheads or redevelopment on 27th Avenue Northwest. The last thing most residents want to do is spend money on a chunk of concrete or a pile of rocks. When a

bulkhead repair is necessary, it is an expensive and gut-wrenching process. The Association understands that permits are required, and their goal is to make it as simple of a process as possible. Again, he thanked the Commissioners and the City staff for their time and effort.

Tim Trohimovich, Director of Planning and Law for Futurewise, a statewide, non-profit organization that works to protect working farms, working forests, and shorelines for this and future generations. He thanked the Commissioners for their volunteer work. He commented that they would not have as effective planning in Washington State without planning commissions. Mr. Trohimovich said his organization supports updates to SMPs in Washington State. Most, including the City of Shoreline's, are woefully out of date. This is evident by the number of fish and wildlife species that have been listed as endangered and threatened by the state and federal government. He noted that, in the Puget Sound Basin alone, ten species have been designated as threatened and/or endangered. He said that, clearly, the existing SMPs are failing the citizens of the state who voted for the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) in 1972.

Mr. Trohimovich said Futurewise supports many provisions of the City's SMP update. Particularly, they like the fact that it references sea level rise that is currently occurring and will substantially impact parts of the city. They also support the prohibition on bulkheads in places where they do not currently exist. Bulkheads have been shown to have very significant adverse impacts on the environment. He said Futurewise also recommends the following additional provisions to strengthen the City's SMP:

1. The state report on "mitigation that works" documents that most wetland mitigation does not work. They recognize that the City does not have a lot of wetlands within the shoreline jurisdiction, but Futurewise believes the SMP would be strongly strengthened by having wetland avoidance criteria, which urges people to not fill wetlands. This actually is helpful to both the property owner and the developer. Wetland mitigation is expensive and requires multi-year monitoring and replacement.
2. Futurewise also recommends that the City strengthen the buffer requirements. They agree with the inventory that if Point Wells becomes a part of the City of Shoreline and is redeveloped, there would be significant opportunities for restoration. The buffer requirement for the Point Wells Urban Conservancy Environment is proposed to be 115 feet, and they recommend the buffer be at least 150 feet, which is well justified by science. A 50-foot buffer is proposed for the Point Wells Urban Environment, and they recommend a 150-foot buffer, with the ability to reduce the buffer if native vegetation is provided in the buffer area.
3. Futurewise recommends that the landfilling regulations be strengthened. The regulations contained in **SMP 20.230.210.D.3.a** provide that landfilling is allowed if there is no significant damage to fish and wildlife and other listed resources. He said the standard for SMPs is no net loss of shoreline function. They recommend this be changed from "significant damage" to "no net loss of the listed resources."
4. The public access policies and regulations are somewhat inconsistent. As pointed out earlier by Commissioner Moss, the regulations should be consistent. The policies give very open-ended opportunities to waive the requirements, and the regulations also provide exemptions for when public access would not be required. Futurewise urges the City to delete the exemptions in the policies, and use the exemptions in the regulations, instead. As currently proposed, the policy provides a very broad exemption at the direction of the administrator as well as very specific ones.

It could be confusing if the policy allows a very broad exemption but the regulations do not. Also, the policies use the term “should” and the regulations say “shall.”

5. The definition for landfilling actually references upland landfills in wetlands and other upland sites, so it might not be a good idea to make it not applicable in the upland environments. There might be a circumstance where it happens.

Ed Somers, Miami Beach Florida, said he owns a house on 27th Avenue Northwest. He said he opposes the common-line setback concept. While most of his neighbors are in favor of the concept, it would severely impact his lot’s redevelopment potential. He observed that the common-line setback works great if all the houses are in the same line of development. However, while his house is in line with the other houses to the south, the houses to the north are on a different plane. His setback line would be drawn between the two houses, which would be a major increase in the setback requirement for his property. He said he worked with the common-line setback concept as a planner in the City of Seattle, and it created problems and some lawsuits because setbacks can change depending on what happens on neighboring properties.

Dave Wight, Shoreline, said that while he has lived on 27th Avenue Northwest for the past eight years, he has noticed two amazing changes that support the need for the SMP to be flexible. He said that over the past two weeks, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad has been dropping ties to replace the old ones on the tracks. The previous bridge on the tracks was made with creosote wood, and the new ties are drenched in toxins that are so lethal that creosote looks like a nourishment. These ties will go all the way along the shoreline, which will have an impact on the sea life. It will leach into the ground and then into the Sound. This change has not been addressed. Secondly, he said that when cruise ships pass the properties on 27th Avenue Northwest, they throw up a wake that was not even thought of when the existing bulkhead was developed in 1950. The wake hits the bulkhead so hard they can feel vibrations inside their homes. He commented that bulkheads have a very finite life with that kind of pounding going on. They need to keep this in mind as they consider future regulations for bulkhead replacement. If the bulkhead is destroyed, the houses along the street will be sucked down into the water. Again, he cautioned that the shoreline is not a static environment, yet the proposed SMP assumes the existing environment.

Doris McConnell, Shoreline, said she also lives on 27th Avenue Northwest. She thanked the Commissioners for working with the Richmond Beach Preservation Association to assure that the revised SMP works for the approximately 30 property owners who live along the shores of Puget Sound. She agreed with Mr. Kink that they have a unique neighborhood, and they are pleased that many of their recommendations have been added as proposed amendments for the Commission’s consideration. She also thanked the staff for the role they played in the collaborative effort. The neighborhood strongly hopes the Planning Commission supports their amendments. She thanked them for acknowledging the validity of their concerns. She said she supports the common-line setback concept. However, she also recognized the concern expressed by Mr. Somers.

Ms. McConnell pointed out that the 30-homes in her neighborhood pay an average of \$10,000 to \$15,000 in property taxes per year based on their individual assessed values. She pointed this out to show how valuable the properties are to them, and their concerns are based on wishing to maintain the integrity of the waterfront so their properties remain stable. Without many of the amendments currently

proposed, each of their shoreline boundaries could quickly become unstable and subject to great erosion. Again, she thanked the Commission for their fine, outstanding work as a group.

Stan Newell, Shoreline, said he lives on 27th Avenue Northwest. He cautioned that if the setback line is changed, the adjacent property owner would be allowed to develop a home that looks right into their living room, which is a very private area for them. He encouraged them to maintain the setback lines so they do not have to deal with privacy issues in the future.

The Commission briefly reviewed an email that was submitted by Richard Kink on behalf of the Richmond Beach Preservation Association. While there was very little text, the email contained numerous pictures.

Randy Stime, Shoreline, said the pictures provided in the email illustrate how the surface water runoff comes down the hill and out of a pipe adjacent to a property on the south end of 27th Avenue Northwest. It goes through a culvert, and during heavy storms the beauty bark and other items create a wash. He noted a line that was visible in the pictures, which indicates how far the trash goes and discolors the area. He said he asked City staff how to correct this ecological waterfront damage. The City staff responded that it is the City's problem where it comes down the street. When it hits the railroad tracks, it is BNSF's problem, and when it reaches the beach, it is the owners' problem. This is unacceptable.

Dave Wight said that while it is not shown in the picture, a type of brown/white foam discharges from the pipe and flows into Puget Sound. He said he can't imagine what sort of materials and/or chemicals are being stirred up and brought into the Sound.

Final Questions and Deliberations

Chair Wagner asked staff to respond to the questions and important observations raised by Mr. Trohimovich. Mr. Forry explained that while the actual Critical Areas Ordinance is not reiterated in the SMP, it is adopted by reference. The Critical Areas Ordinance includes protection of wetlands, slopes and other critical areas, and the primary criterion is avoidance of impact to wetlands. Also, the buffers associated with wetlands are protected far and above any of the buffers called out in the actual SMP.

As previously discussed by the Commission, Mr. Forry advised that the policies are intended to be broad statements to help craft the underlying regulations. The policies use general permissive language such as "should, may and might." However, every effort was made to use "shall, must and should" as mandatory language in the regulations.

Mr. Forry explained that the proposed buffers for the Point Wells Urban and Urban Conservancy Environments were recommended by the consultant. The City has not been provided any empirical data until this hearing to suggest there may be better science available. If this had been obtained earlier in the discussions, it could have been incorporated into the draft for the Commission's consideration. Chair Wagner advised that, if the Commission deems it appropriate, they could recommend the City Council consider incorporating updated information. Mr. Trohimovich submitted a summary table from an interim guide titled, "Protecting Near Shore Habitat and Functions in Puget Sound," which was prepared by People for Puget Sound.

Mr. Forry pointed out not a lot of development would be immediately affected by establishing a more restrictive setback or buffer along the Point Wells shoreline. A large buffer for subsequent redevelopment may be a future consideration, and he does not believe it would be a dramatic impact on the SMP, as currently drafted, to impose a greater restriction there.

Mr. Forry reminded the Commission that the overarching policy in the guiding principles of the SMA and the criteria in the SMP is to evaluate any permit or approval by looking at it first in consideration of no net loss. This would be the primary consideration when reviewing a permit application for landfilling. He said he does not see a need to change the language to address this issue further.

Mr. Forry recalled that at a previous study session, the Commission discussed ideas with staff for how the common-line setback concept could be incorporated into the SMP. As proposed by the Richmond Beach Preservation Association it would be a self-imposed restriction. The property owners certainly have the option of entering into restrictive covenants to implement a common-line setback. These covenants would be implemented by the homeowner association, and would not be enforced by the City. He suggested this would be the most equitable and easiest way to implement the concept.

Vote to Recommend Approval or Denial or Modification

COMMISSIONER MOSS MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION FORWARD THE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM (SMP) TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT IT BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED BY STAFF AND MODIFIED BY THE COMMISSION DURING THE COARSE OF THEIR DELIBERATION. COMMISSIONER BROILI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Moss thanked the staff, citizens of Shoreline and organizations throughout Puget Sound who have contributed a lot of time and energy to the SMP update. It is a clean document, and many of the Commission's questions have been answered. She suggested the Commission review the document page-by-page and make appropriate amendments.

- Commissioner Moss noted that the "acknowledgement" page should be updated to include the names of new City Council Members and Commissioners.
- The Commission discussed the definition for "Aquaculture" found in **SMP 20.210.010**. Ms. Redinger said she has not had an opportunity to examine the WAC, so she is not prepared to propose specific language for the definition.

VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI MOVED THAT STAFF MAKE THE DEFINITION FOR AQUACULTURE IN SMP 20.210.010 CONSISTENT WITH THE WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (WAC). COMMISSIONER ESSELMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI MOVED THAT A NEW DEFINITION FOR "JOINT USE PIERS AND DOCKS" BE ADDED TO SMP 20.210.010. COMMISSIONER ESSELMAN**

SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0, WITH COMMISSIONER BROILI ABSTAINING.

The Board asked staff to provide proposed language for the joint-use piers and docks definition.

- The Commission agreed to change the definition for “**Community Pier or Dock**” in **SMP 20.210.010** by striking the word “shoreline.”
- At the suggestion of Commissioner Moss, the Commission agreed to change the definition for “**Ordinary High Water Mark**” in **SMP 20.210.010** by placing a period after “thereafter” and capitalizing “in.”
- The Commission agreed to change the definition for “**Native Vegetation**” in **SMP 20.210.010** by adding “madrona” before “douglas fir.”
- **CHAIR WAGNER MOVED THAT THE DEFINITION FOR “NORMAL PROTECTIVE BULKHEAD” IN SMP 20.210.010 BE DELETED. COMMISSIONER MOSS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- The Commission agreed to amend **SMP 20.220.070.C** to add the word “or” between “approve” and “approve.”
- Ms. Redinger referred to the proposed definition for “**wave return**” in **SMP 20.210.010**. She expressed her belief that it is reasonable to allow a wave return on top of a bulkhead to prolong the life of an existing bulkhead so it does not have to be torn down and replaced. This compromise was suggested by Ms. Nightingale from the DOE, and the proposed language was provided by the Richmond Beach Preservation Association. To make the language clearer, Commissioner Broili suggested the word “natural” should be added before “ecology.”

COMMISSIONER BROILI MOVED TO INCLUDE THE PROPOSED DEFINITION FOR “WAVE RETURN” IN SMP 20.210.010 AS PROPOSED BY STAFF AND WITH THE ADDITIONAL WORD “NATURAL” BEFORE “ECOLOGY.” COMMISSIONER MOSS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Ms. Redinger said the proposed definition for “**Wetland Delineation**” in **SMP 20.210.010** was recently suggested by Ms. Nightingale from the DOE to comply with recent legislative changes. The other option for legislative compliance would be to amend the Critical Areas Ordinance.

COMMISSIONER BROILI MOVED TO INCLUDE THE PROPOSED DEFINITION FOR WETLAND DELINEATION IN SMP 20.210.010 AS SUBMITTED. VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- The Commission discussed the inconsistent language used in **SMP 20.230.040.A.1.b** and **SMP 20.230.040.B.1**. They agreed to adopt language that is consistent with the WAC.

COMMISSIONER MOSS MOVED TO AMEND THE LANGUAGE IN SMP 20.230.040.B.1 BY CHANGING “LESS THAN FOUR” TO “FOUR OR LESS.” COMMISSIONER ESSELMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Commissioner Moss once again expressed her belief that **SMP 20.230.040.B.3.f** should actually be **SMP 20.230.040.B.4**, and the items that follow should be renumbered consistently. The Commission agreed with this proposed change.
- The Commission agreed that a reference to the map showing the actual shoreline environments should be provided in **SMP 20.230.080**.
- Vice Chair Perkowski suggested that an additional sentence should be added at the beginning of the definition for **Aquatic Environment** in **SMP 20.230.080** for clarity.

VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI MOVED THAT THE DEFINITION FOR “AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT” IN SMP 20.230.080 BE AMENDED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE AT THE BEGINNING: “ENCOMPASSES ALL SUBMERGED LANDS FROM OHWM TO THE MIDDLE OF PUGET SOUND.” COMMISSIONER CRAFT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- The Commission reviewed the changes to **Table 20.230.081**, which were previously discussed. They agreed that “Shoreline Stabilization Bulkheads and Revetment” should be a heading. The word “new” was deleted.

VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI MOVED TO REPLACE THE HEADING “MAINTENANCE AND EXISTING” WITH “REPAIR, REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING HARD-SHORE ARMORING” IN TABLE 20.230.081. CHAIR WAGNER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER MOSS MOVED TO AMEND TABLE 20.230.081 BY REPLACING THE HEADING “HARD-SHORE ARMORING” WITH “HARD-SHORE ARMORING WHERE NONE PREVIOUSLY EXISTED.” COMMISSIONER ESSELMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Given the proposed definitions for “Aquatic Environment” and “Landfilling,” Vice Chair Perkowski once again pointed out that landfilling would be non-applicable in other environments.

VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI MOVED THAT, OTHER THAN THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS, ALL THE OTHER ENVIRONMENTS FOR LANDFILLING STAY NON-APPLICABLE. COMMISSIONER BROILI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Ms. Redinger recalled Mr. Trohimovich’s comment that landfilling may be applicable to upland wetlands. Vice Chair Perkowski pointed out that “landfilling” has been defined specifically as waterward of ordinary high water. At the invitation of Chair Wagner, Mr. Trohimovich recalled that

the definition of “landfill” references fill on wetlands waterward of the ordinary high water mark, and it includes uplands, as well.

AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission concurred that landfilling should remain on the use chart as a conditional use. Mr. Forry said staff reviewed these two definitions carefully to make sure they did not unduly restrict existing properties. They wanted to keep the conditional use permit requirement for specific landfilling activities that weren't part of a permit or permitted activity. For example, a certain amount of landfilling is permitted in conjunction with single-family residential development. The proposed definition is meant to capture those types of imported landfill that are not in conjunction with a development permit. It overlays the existing Critical Areas Ordinance and coincides with the WAC requirements. The Commission agreed that no changes were needed to the two definitions.

- Commissioner Moss referred to **SMP 20.230.120.B.3** and expressed concern that the provision allows parking to extend no closer to the shoreline than a permitted structure. She said she feels it is important to call out a specific setback standard for parking along the shoreline. Mr. Forry pointed out that the setback requirement for structures varies depending on the environment, and there is actually greater protection based on the required vegetation protection area. Rather than restating a specific parking setback standard, staff recommends the language be open ended so that the applicable bulk and setback standards for each environment could be applied. The Commission agreed no changes should be made.
- **VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI MOVED THAT SMP 20.230.150.B.3 BE REVISED BY STRIKING “EXCEPT SOFT SHORE.” COMMISSIONER ESSELMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- Ms. Redinger said the definition for “aquaculture” will come directly from the WAC. She also said the woman who submitted the remainder of the proposed language on behalf of the Muckleshoot Tribe has reviewed numerous SMPs. Staff believes the proposed language would be appropriate based on her explanation.

COMMISSIONER BROILI MOVED THAT THE PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE FOR SMP 20.230.115 – AQUACULTURE BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. COMMISSIONER CRAFT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Commissioner Moss referred to **SMP 20.230.150.B.5.e** and expressed her belief that structures will cause some type of an impact, and it is important that the impact is not adverse.

COMMISSIONER MOSS MOVED THAT SMP 20.230.150.B.5.e BE AMENDED BY ADDING THE WORD “ADVERSE” BEFORE “IMPACTS.” CHAIR WAGNER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI MOVED THAT SMP 20.230.170.10.a BE AMENDED BY PLACING A PERIOD AFTER “FEET” AND DELETING THE REST OF THE SENTENCE. COMMISSIONER MOSS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Craft referred to earlier discussions about potential changes in the Army Corps of Engineer’s policies. He asked if the Corps can mandate that the City follow their policy. Ms. Nightingale said the proposed amendment would be consistent with the Corps current policy. Their new policies have not yet been adopted. Commissioner Craft asked if the proposed amendment would conflict with the Corps new policy, if and when it is adopted. Ms. Nightingale answered no.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **COMMISSIONER MOSS MOVED THAT SMP 20.230.170.10.e BE AMENDED BY CHANGING “4” TO “3.” COMMISSIONER BROILI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0, WITH COMMISSIONER BROILI ABSTAINING.**
- Chair Wagner referred to Mr. Trohimovich’s recommendation that the setback requirement for the Point Wells Urban Conservancy and Point Wells Urban Environments be increased to 150 feet. She asked if this change would create inconsistencies elsewhere in the SMP. Mr. Trohimovich advised that there are no other numeric buffers or setback standards in the proposed SMP, so the change would not create an inconsistency. Ms. Redinger concurred.

COMMISSIONER BROILI MOVED TO CHANGE THE SETBACK REQUIREMENT FOR THE POINT WELLS URBAN AND POINT WELLS URBAN CONSERVANCY ENVIRONMENTS TO 150 FEET.

Ms. Redinger explained that because the proposal would increase the setback requirement for the Point Wells Urban Environment from 50 to 150, it may be prudent to include language that would allow for a setback reduction. Mr. Forry further explained that the ability to reduce setback requirements is available based on hardship through a variance process. For ease of application, he recommended that setback standards be established, and applicants could justify their reasons for reduced setback through the variance process.

VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Broili expressed his belief that the City should take every opportunity to increase setback requirements to better protect the shorelines. This concept can be applied in the Point Wells Urban Conservancy and Point Wells Urban Environments without undue hardship on future redevelopment. He questioned if public uses would be precluded in the setback areas. Mr. Forry said the proposed amendment relates to building setbacks in the native conservation area. As proposed, parks and other public uses would not be precluded within the setback areas.

Commissioner Craft requested additional information about why the City’s consultant proposed the original setback numbers. Mr. Forry said the consultant’s goal was to identify the minimum setbacks necessary to accomplish no net loss based on earlier studies and the SMP background

documents, such as the Inventory & Characterization Report and Restoration Plan. The background information does not provide a lot of additional analytical information to lead to how the consultant arrived at the proposed setbacks, except that those for the Waterfront Residential Environment were based on historical setbacks.

Chair Wagner asked Mr. Trohimovich to explain how he used the summary table from an interim guide titled, “Protecting Near Shore Habitat and Functions in Puget Sound,” to come up with his recommendation for a 150-foot setback. Mr. Trohimovich noted that the table provides a variety of ranges. For many of the functions, the setback range is in the multiple hundreds. He said a 150-foot setback in the Point Wells Urban Conservancy Environment would match the resource the City is trying to create in the Urban Conservancy Environment. He said typical justification for a buffer that is narrower than what science supports is because a site is already developed and would not change appreciably. However, this is not the case with Point Wells, which would likely be totally redeveloped. Chair Wagner summarized that Mr. Trohimovich’s recommendation is based on being reasonably close to the recommended setback for the Urban Conservancy Environment.

Chair Wagner asked if the proposed setback requirement for the SMP would be consistent with the setbacks identified in the approved Point Wells Subarea Plan. Ms. Markle said the Point Wells Subarea Plan states that, “any improvements in the westernmost portion (200 feet) within the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Management Act of the northwest and southwest subareas should be limited to walkways and public use or park areas. Outside that shoreline area, buildings should be located and configured to maintain as much openness for public views. . .” Chair Wagner observed that, for consistency with the Point Wells Subarea Plan, the setback requirement for the Point Wells Urban and Point Wells Urban Conservancy Environments should actually be 200 feet.

Ms. Redinger explained that the Point Wells Urban Environment includes most of the area that has already been developed as an industrial use. The southern portion of the Point Wells site, which is not armored, has been identified as the Point Wells Urban Conservancy Environment. The intention was that this area should be identified as “a Native Vegetation Conservation Area, which should be maintained in a predominantly natural, undisturbed and undeveloped vegetative condition, except where necessary to accommodate appurtenances.” Mr. Forry clarified that the 200 feet identified in the Point Wells Subarea Plan represents the shoreline jurisdictional boundary.

THE COMMISSION AGREED TO WITHDRAW THE MOTION.

COMMISSIONER ESSELMAN MOVED THAT THE SETBACK REQUIREMENT (TABLE 20.230.082) FOR THE POINT WELLS URBAN AND POINT WELLS URBAN CONSERVANCY ENVIRONMENTS SHOULD BE CHANGED TO 200 FEET. VICE CHAIR PERKOWSKI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Esselman observed that a 200-foot setback requirement would be consistent with the Point Wells Subarea Plan. Commissioner Moss asked why the same setback requirement would not be applied to the Shoreline Residential Environment, as well. Ms. Redinger said the currently proposed 115-foot setback requirement for the Shoreline Residential Environment is close to the

cliff edge. Extending the buffer an additional 35 feet would potentially impact many more property owners who have not been involved in the process.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Redinger reviewed the following changes to the Cumulative Impact Analysis:

- The dates contained in the opening section were updated.
- Note 2 at the end of Table 11 clarifies that the map referenced in the Cumulative Impacts Analysis still refers to Shoreline Segments A, B, C, D and E, which were developed as part of the first draft Inventory and Characterization Report. Shoreline environment designations have since been developed and incorporated into the draft SMP.
- On Page 147, the reference to “Urban Growth Area” (UGA) was changed to “Potential Annexation Area” (PAA).
- On Page 149, additional language was provided to point out that because most of the houses on 27th Avenue Northwest are non-conforming, expansion of the existing building footprint is less likely because of zoning and Critical Areas Ordinance constraints.
- On Page 152, the conditional use permit requirement was relocated for clarity.
- The remaining changes on Page 152 are intended to be consistent with the City’s existing non-conforming regulations in the Development Code.
- The language on Page 154 was changed to clarify that the primary use along the Puget Sound shoreline is not single-family residential uses. The primary development is actually the railroad tracks. It also identifies that the Point Wells site is expected to be the most extensive redevelopment change along the Puget Sound shoreline.

COMMISSIONER CRAFT MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION ACCEPT ALL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. COMMISSIONER ESSELMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MAIN MOTION TO FORWARD THE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM (SMP) TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT IT BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED BY STAFF AND MODIFIED BY THE COMMISSION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Closure of Public Hearing

Chair Wagner closed the public hearing.

THE COMMISSION TOOK A SHORT RECESS FROM 10:00 TO 10:05.

STUDY ITEM – TREE CODE AMENDMENTS

Because of time constraints, Chair Wagner invited staff to summarize their report on the tree code amendments. The Commission agreed to allow public comment prior to the staff report. It was noted that the tree code amendments are scheduled for a public hearing on March 15th.

Public Comment

Janet Way, Shoreline, said she was present to speak on behalf of the Shoreline Preservation Society. She thanked the Commission and staff for their remarkable diligence on the SMP Update. She asked that they please try and provide the same amount of diligence on the tree code amendments, as well. Ms. Way particularly complimented Commissioners Esselman and Moss for their attention to detail.

Ms. Way reminded the Commissioners of the Hippocratic Oath, First Do No Harm. She summarized that the City Council's objective was to adopt amendments to the tree code, adopt a policy of increasing tree canopy through voluntary programs, and become a Tree City USA. The City has already worked on the latter goal, but there seems to be some discrepancy as to whether or not the City has increased their tree canopy. Regardless of whether the tree canopy is better or worse, the Council's goal was to increase the tree canopy. They know that impervious surface has increased significantly; and by not increasing the tree canopy, the problems with stormwater runoff have increased. She noted that photographs were provided during the previous hearing to illustrate how stormwater runoff has impacted the shoreline. Ms. Way recalled that the City Council subsequently adopted a new standard above no net loss to increase the tree canopy. She recommended the City go further than a goal of no net loss.

Ms. Way referred to the proposal to remove non-active or non-imminent, hazardous trees as a category of the code because they would be part of tree removal. She said this makes no sense and implies that all trees are a threat or potentially hazardous. She asked how any of the proposed amendments address the purpose of the tree code as outlined in Section 20.50.290 of the Development Code. She also asked for additional clarification about the relationship between the proposed amendments and the City Council's direction.

Staff Presentation

Mr. Cohen presented a brief staff report and agreed to provide more detailed information at the next Commission meeting. To resolve some of the confusion brought forward in recent public comments, Mr. Cohen emphasized that the proposed amendments are only related to the tree code as it affects private property. He reviewed the five areas included in the City Council's direction to the Commission and staff regarding the scope of the tree code amendments as follows:

- **Modify the exemption for six significant trees removal in a three-year period.** Issues have been raised about whether or not tree removal should be regulated. However, removing the exemption would require City approval for the removal of every significant tree. This would involve a fair amount of administrative costs, which would be borne by private property owners. Because violations have not been excessive and the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Report dispels the notion that the tree canopy has been reduced in the past 10 years, staff recommends that the regulation should

remain unchanged. Staff further recommends that the City survey the tree canopy periodically to determine the effectiveness of the tree code in maintaining or increasing the canopy.

- **Remove non-active and non-imminent, hazardous trees as a category of the code because they could be part of tree removal.** Mr. Cohen explained that it is quite easy for a professional arborist to find imperfections in significant trees to justify the designation of non-active or non-imminent hazardous. Therefore, the provision does not have any great value as a separate category. He said staff recommends that this provision be removed from the tree code. Trees deemed dangerous by a property owner could be removed as part of the six trees they are allowed to be removed in a three-year period. If they go beyond six trees, they could apply for a clearing and grading permit, which is simple and would eliminate unnecessary costs for both the City and property owner. He said staff is recommending that the provision remain in the Critical Areas Ordinance where clearing and grading permits is not allowed. There should be a mechanism for people to remove truly hazardous trees in critical areas.
- **Allow active or imminent, hazardous trees to be removed quickly first with documentation and then require a tree removal permit later.** Mr. Cohen said the goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to remove trees that are truly hazardous. The proposed code language would allow an actively hazardous tree to be photographed and cut immediately. After cutting, the property owner must provide the City with photographic proof and, if needed, the appropriate application.
- **Remove the provision that does not allow tree removal without a development proposal.** Mr. Cohen said the current code allows developed properties with no future proposal to remove trees, and “development” is defined as any permitted activity that includes land clearing and tree removal. However, the tree code currently contains a provision that prohibits the removal of trees for the purposes of sale or future development. Due to lack of reasoning, staff recommends that this provision be removed so that property owners are allowed to remove trees to code on properties that do not have development applications. The impacts of the tree removal would be no different whether there is a development proposal for the site or not. In addition, the same protections and tree replacement requirements would apply in both situations.
- **Allow the Director the option of requiring tree maintenance bonds based on the scope of the project.** Mr. Cohen said there is currently a lot of discretion in the code that allows the Director to make decisions about whether to require fewer or allow more trees to be removed. In addition, there is flexibility on the number of replacement trees required. Staff recommends that the Director also have the ability to decide whether or not a maintenance bond should be required for replacement trees. He noted that a replacement bond can be a hardship for a single-family residential property owner. Maintenance bonds are more appropriate for large redevelopment projects.

Commissioner Broili said he is most concerned with staff’s recommendation to maintain rather than modify the current exemption which allows up to six significant trees to be removed in a three-year period. He observed that, at this time, a property owner is allowed to remove up to six significant trees in a three-year period, regardless of the size of the lot. He suggested this is a huge inequity that needs to be addressed. The number of trees that are removed should be related to the number of acres being affected.

Commissioner Broili referred to the pictures that were provided by the Richmond Beach Preservation Association to illustrate the impact of stormwater runoff to the shoreline. He said he believes there is a definite relationship between vegetative cover and stormwater runoff. Rather than a tree code, he said he would prefer a code that speaks to all types of vegetative cover. He said the City spends more than \$3 million on stormwater management, and vegetative cover is a major opportunity to capture up to 60% of stormwater runoff.

Commissioner Broili said the Urban Tree Canopy Report indicates that the tree canopy is consistent at about 31% coverage throughout the City. However, this same report identified a 10% increase in impervious surfaces, which are not vegetated. Mr. Cohen said there is some overlap between the canopy and impervious surfaces. For example, a tree could be in the middle of a parking lot, and its canopy could actually be over the top of an impervious surface to some extent. Commissioner Broili said there is a direct relationship between impervious surfaces and vegetative cover. If the cover is not vegetated, it is probably impervious surface. He summarized his belief that the City has a problem when the tree canopy has not changed yet impervious surfaces have grown by 10%, and one is directly related to the other. Commissioner Broili encouraged the Commissioners to think about tree and vegetative cover as economic opportunities. The money that is currently spent for stormwater management can be countered by good vegetative management.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Markle did not have any additional items to report to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Brainstorm Annual Report to City Council

This item was discussed at the dinner meeting that took place prior to the regular meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None of the Commissioners provided reports or announcements.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Szafran said staff would provide an expanded presentation on the tree code amendments on March 15th, followed by a public hearing on the proposed amendments. An additional development code amendment would also be presented to the Commission on March 15th for a public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 P.M.

Michelle Linders Wagner
Chair, Planning Commission

Jessica Simulcik Smith
Clerk, Planning Commission

TIME STAMP
March 1, 2012

ROLL CALL: 0:19

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: 0:38

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2:34

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: 2:49

PUBLIC HEARING ON SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM: 3:15

Staff Presentation and Questions by the Commission: 5:40

Public Testimony: 1:09:02

Final Questions and Deliberations: 1:34:12

Vote to Recommend Approval or Denial or Modification: 1:44:05

Closure of Public Hearing: 2:57:53

BREAK: 2:58:00

STUDY ITEM – Tree Code Amendments: 3:02:24

Public Comment: 3:02:26

Staff Presentation: 3:08:03

Commission Questions: 3:16:32

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: 3:21:55

NEW BUSINESS: 3:21:59

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: 3:22:08

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: 3:22:10

ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT

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PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Comprehensive Plan Update, Natural Environment Element
DEPARTMENT: Planning & Community Development
PRESENTED BY: Miranda Redinger, Associate Planner
Rachael Markle, AICP, Director P&CD

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Study Session | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion | <input type="checkbox"/> Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

On January 5, 2012, staff and Commissioners discussed the proposed process for the Comprehensive Plan Update and public involvement. Commissioners have previously discussed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Community Design; and Transportation Elements. The subject of tonight’s agenda item will be the Natural Environment Element. Originally, the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element was to be discussed this evening as well, but due to availability of key staff, that topic has been postponed until April 19th.

In the existing version of the Comprehensive Plan, policies dealing with the natural environment are contained in the Land Use Element. It is staff’s recommendation that it be broken out into its own element through the revision process. Many other jurisdictions have a separate Natural Environment Element, and with the City’s focus on sustainability in the last several years, staff thought it appropriate to create an element focused exclusively on the natural environment.

RELEVANT VISION 2029 FRAMEWORK GOALS

- FG7: Conserve and protect our environment and natural resources, and encourage restoration, environmental education and stewardship.
- FG8: Apply innovative and environmentally sensitive development practices.

DISCUSSION

Council adopted the City’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy in 2008, and the Green Team tasked with implementing it has completed or is in the process of completing 42 of the 50 recommendations contained therein. The remaining recommendations are not feasible at this time. Staff would be happy to elaborate on accomplishments to date, but one of the most significant will be the launching of a web page to track indicators of environmental sustainability, created using funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The address will be www.shorelinewa.gov/forevergreen and it will be live in time for the staff presentation to Council on April 16th, 2012. Many indicators that will be tracked will help citizens and decision-makers gauge implementation of goals and policies contained in the Natural Environment Element.

One upcoming initiative of the Green Team, funded through a grant secured and administered by the Environmental Services division of Public Works, will be the creation of a Climate Action Plan. As that develops, staff anticipates that additional policy direction and analysis will be added to the Natural Environment Element. Likewise, staff will incorporate additional policy

Approved By: Project Manager  Planning Director 

guidance from the Surface Water Master Plan. These additional recommendations will be included in future drafts of this element, so there are placeholders for such content in the attached version. ***The Commission is encouraged to provide staff additional direction about policies it would like to see developed.***

Attachments A-D are similar to previous packets in that they contain goals and policies, and analysis sections of the element in both track change and "clean" versions. Attachment E is a white paper produced by the consultant who developed the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which analyzed how sustainability could be incorporated into Comprehensive Plan policies. Recommendations in this paper have been incorporated for the Natural Environment Element, where appropriate, but the entire white paper is included for reference, and recommendations for other elements will be incorporated as they are updated for Commission review.

Since this is one of the first elements where policy language is not taken from an adopted Master Plan, the staff presentation at the meeting will include a discussion of how to most effectively group edit the individual elements and full draft Comprehensive Plan document when it is assembled.

NEXT STEPS

The April 19th discussion will focus on the Capital Facilities/Utilities Element, which is a proposed merger of the two separate elements in existing Comprehensive Plan.

The next Speaker's Series event, focusing on the Natural Environment topic, will be held on Thursday, April 12th from 6:30-8:30 in the Council Chambers. The topic will be the Beacon Food Forest in Seattle, and designer Jenny Pell will speak to the purpose and process undertaken by the group of neighbors responsible for creating the project. This date represents a deviation from the previous schedule because the 4th Wednesday date on which the other Speaker's Series events have been held was not available in March due to a conflict with the previously scheduled Shoreline Eats4Health event.

Commission will discuss the Housing and Economic Development Elements at the May 3rd meeting. Staff is deciding whether to hold a Speaker's Series event for each topic (most likely a panel of speakers rather than an individual), or just focus on Economic Development. Does the Commission have a preference? Do you think that a panel discussion about innovative housing styles, such as LEED-certified pre-fabricated homes, would be beneficial, or would you prefer fewer meetings in May? Ideas and suggestions are also still welcomed for a Land Use speaker for June.

If you have questions or comments prior to the meeting, please contact Miranda Redinger at (206) 801-2513 or by email at mredinger@shorelinewa.gov.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A- Natural Environment Element, Goals & Policies, track change version
Attachment B- Natural Environment Element, Goals & Policies, clean version
Attachment C- Natural Environment Element, Analysis, track change version
Attachment D- Natural Environment Element, Analysis, clean version
Attachment E- Shoreline Sustainability Strategy: Existing Guidance and Potential Framework Goals and Objectives for Discussion

Natural Environment Element Goals & Policies

Introduction

This Element contains the goals and policies necessary to support the City's responsibility for protection of the natural environment. Previously, these policies were housed in the Land Use Element, but were separated into their own element in the 2012 update to support the City's emphasis on sustainability, with major impetus provided by the 2007 Council goal to "Create an Environmentally Sustainable Community."

To demonstrate this commitment to sustainability, the City has also signed on to the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the Cascade Agenda, the Green City Partnership Program, and the King County- Cities Climate Collaboration. In 2008, the City adopted an Environmental Sustainability Strategy and created a Green Team tasked with its implementation. In 2012, with funding from the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, the City launched a webpage to track indicators of environmental sustainability over time. Information displayed on this webpage (www.shorelinewa.gov/forevergreen) will inform citizens and decision-makers about progress of goals and policies contained in this element.

Relevant Framework Goals from Vision 2029

FG7: Conserve and protect our environment and natural resources, and encourage restoration, environmental education and stewardship.

FG8: Apply innovative and environmentally sensitive development practices.

Natural Environment Goals

Goal NE I: Strive to minimize adverse impacts on the natural environment through leadership, policy, and regulation, and to address impacts of past practices where possible. the City shall strive to minimize impacts on the natural environment. The City shall

Goal NE II: Lead and support efforts to protect and improve the natural environment, protect and preserve environmentally critical areas, and minimize pollution and the waste of energy and materials.

Goal NE III: Conserve soil resources and protect people, property and the environment from geologic hazards, including steep slope areas, landslide hazard areas, seismic hazard areas, and erosion hazard areas by regulating disturbance and development.

Comment [j1]: Goal LU XIII. Please note that these citations reference goal and policy numbers in the current version of the Comp. Plan.

Comment [r2]: Set high bars or the environment won't be protected.

Comment [m3]: Rest of goal moved to new one below.

Comment [j4]: Goal LU XIV

Goal NE IV: Protect, enhance and restore habitat of sufficient diversity and abundance to sustain existing indigenous fish and wildlife populations. ~~Balance the conditional right of private property owners to develop and alter land with the protection of native vegetation and critical areas.~~

Comment [j5]: Goal LU XV

Comment [s6]: Moved to policy

Goal NE V: ~~Ensure~~Protect clean air and the climate for present and future generations through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions ~~and through the promotion of efficient and effective solutions to for transportation issues,~~ clean industries, and development.

Comment [j7]: Goal LU XVI

Comment [sc8]: "Ensure" is a high bar.

Goal NE VI: Manage the storm and surface water system through the preservation of ~~natural systems a combination of engineered and structural solutions and the preservation of natural systems~~ in order to:

Comment [j9]: Goal LU XVII

- Protect water quality;
- Preserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and critical areas;
- Maintain a hydrologic balance;
- Prevent property damage; and
- Provide for public safety and services.

Comment [m10]: Test and bullets were rearranged from current version to indicate priority

Goal NE VII: Continue to mandate natural and on-site solutions, such as infiltration, rain gardens, etc. ~~be proven infeasible before considering engineered solutions, such as detention.~~

Comment [j11]: New

Goal NE VIII: Preserve, protect, and, where feasible, restore wetlands, shorelines, and ~~streams surface water, and ground water~~ for wildlife, appropriate human use, and the maintenance of hydrological and ecological processes.

Comment [m12]: Goal LUXVIII

Goal NE IX: Use education and outreach ~~as a tool~~ to increase understanding, stewardship and protection of ~~critical areas the natural environment and understanding of environmental values.~~

Comment [j13]: Goal LU XIX

Comment [d14]: Do we want anything for GHG/carbon reduction? SEE BELOW

Land Use Policies

General

NE 1: Preserve suburban fringe, rural areas, open spaces, and agricultural lands in the region through infill development in existing communities.

Comment [m15]: New. Could also incorporate additional Smart Growth principles into other elements.

NE 2: Preserve environmental quality by taking into account the land's suitability for development and directing intense development away from ~~natural hazards and important natural resources~~critical areas.

Comment [m16]: LU1

NE 3: ~~Balance the conditional right of private property owners to develop and alter land with the protection of native vegetation and critical areas.~~

Comment [j17]: LU83

Comment [s18]: Moved from goal statement above

NE: Lead and support regulatory efforts, incentives, and projects to protect and improve the natural environment and preserve environmentally critical areas consistent with federal and state requirements. ~~Where different state and federal requirements exist, the more stringent of the two shall be applied. SUPERSEDED~~

~~NE: Consider and evaluate the immediate, long-range, and cumulative environmental impacts of policy and development decisions consistent with the SEPA and GMA.~~
SUPERSEDED

Comment [j19]: LU84 - DELETE

~~NE 4: Conduct all City operations in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts, by: The City should reduce its consumption and waste of energy and materials; minimizing its use of toxic and polluting substances; reusing, reducing, and recycling; and disposing of all waste in a safe and responsible manner. The City should give preference to recycled products, and alternative energy sources, whenever feasible.~~

Comment [j20]: LU85

~~NE 5: Support, promote, and lead public education and involvement programs to raise public awareness about environmental issues, advocate respect for the environment, encourage/motivate individuals and community efforts/organizations to protect the environment, and provide opportunities for the community and visitors to practice stewardship and respect and enjoy Shoreline's unique environmental features.~~

Comment [m21]: This is superseded by Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy.

Comment [jn22R21]: Not sure EPP is implemented/strong enough yet to remove this policy. This will help support implementation and enhancement of the guidelines in the next few years.

Comment [j23]: LU86

~~NE: Provide incentives for site development that will minimize environmental impacts. Incentives may include density bonuses for cluster development and a transfer of development rights (TDR) program.~~
OBSOLETE

Comment [j24]: LU87

Comment [m25]: We're moving towards more ambitious mandates for "green" site development, and haven't pursued TDR. **BIG PICTURE QUESTION: DO WE WANT TO CONSIDER TDR?**

Comment [j26]: LU88

~~NE 6: Coordinate with local, state, and federal governments, Indian tribes, international other governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations to protect and enhance the environment, especially on issues that affect areas beyond Shoreline's boundaries. Participate in regional programs to protect critical areas.~~

~~NE: The following shall be designated environmentally critical areas and regulated through the Shoreline Municipal Code: frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, wetlands, streams, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.~~
OBSOLETE

Comment [j27]: LU89

Comment [j28]: LU90

Comment [j29]: LU91
 Is it already in our code that a private development can use critical areas as required open space? JN: not addressed one way or another. What is our policy?

Is this necessary policy language? If there are sound environmental reasons to stay away from critical areas, don't our current regs cover this? JN: passive use of critical areas for recreation actually leads to better stewardship of the resource in most cases.

~~NE 7: Continue to identify/identify and map the location of all critical areas and buffers located within Shoreline. If there is a conflict between the mapped location and field information collected during project review, field information that is verified by the City shall govern. The City shall consider updates, including citizen petitions, to the critical areas maps at least annually.~~

~~NE 8: Environmentally critical areas may be designated as open space and should be conserved and protected from loss or degradation wherever feasible.~~

9/15 Kim L - I thought the "may be designated..." part meant something more along the lines of dedication as protected areas like we do with our requirement for buffers, fencing and signage. ... which actually is in the code. But I don't think there's anything in the code that specifically allows the use of critical areas as required open space. The CAO dictates what kinds of activities can take place in critical areas/buffers. FOLLOW UP.

~~NE: Develop, actively participate in, and help publicize, local and regional programs to conserve open space and protect environmentally critical areas, including future transfer of development rights (TDR) programs, conservation efforts of the Land Conservancy of Seattle and King County, and King County's Public Benefit Rating System.~~
REDUNDANT

Steve S - The first part is regulatory, it doesn't belong in the Comp Plan. The second part sounds nice.

~~NE: Restrict the creation of new lots in critical areas or critical area buffers.~~
SUPERSEDED

Comment [j30]: LU92

Comment [j31]: LU93

NE: Regulations should limit noise to levels that protect the public health and that allow residential, commercial, and manufacturing areas to be used for their intended purposes. Noise walls or other effective mitigation measures should be required when noise levels exceed adopted standards. OBSOLETE

Comment [j32]: LU94

NE: Work with the State Department of Transportation and other appropriate agencies and groups to mitigate freeway and arterial noise and address aesthetic concerns.

Comment [j33]: LU95

Comment [m34]: Doesn't seem like Natural Environment is the right place for these, but could be placed elsewhere.

NE 9: Encourage the use of "green" building methods and materials (such as those specified under certification systems like LEED, Built Green, Living Building, etc.) that may reduce impacts on the built and natural environment, such as to:

Comment [j35]: LU96

- Reduce stormwater impacts to protect local watersheds and salmon,
- Conserve energy and water,
- Prevent air and water pollution and conserve natural resources,
- Improve indoor air quality, and
- Enhance building durability.

Geological and Flood Hazard Areas – the entire section was moved over from LU Element

NE 10: Mitigate drainage, erosion, siltation, and landslide impacts while encouraging native vegetation, by:

Comment [j36]: LU97

- utilizing geotechnical engineering,
- clustering development to avoid hazards,
- decreasing development intensity, building site coverage and impervious surfaces, and
- limiting vegetation removal that would increase hazards.

Development regulations and required mitigation shall fit the specific type and level of potential impact. **REGULATION**

NE: Development of geologic hazard areas shall be discouraged and closely regulated. Where development is allowed on or adjacent to slopes which are less than 40% and have not experienced documented landslide activity, land uses shall be designed and sited to prevent property damage and environmental degradation, and to protect wildlife habitat to the maximum extent feasible by:

Comment [j37]: LU98

- preserving existing native vegetation,
- preventing soil saturation, and
- preventing overland flows of water. **REGULATION**

NE: The City shall actively enforce construction and erosion control standards and regulations, including best management practices and seasonal restrictions. SUPERSEDED

Comment [j38]: LU99

NE 11: In seismic hazards areas, seek to minimize risks to people and property, and prevent post-seismic collapse by requiring pre-development risk analysis and appropriate building design and construction measures. **REGULATION**

Comment [j39]: LU100

Comment [j40]: Do we have a seismic hazard area? Tsunami model, soils?
JN: Seismic hazard areas are defined and probably exist. I have never encountered a CA report that identified one though. There are maps of potential seismic hazard areas based on liquefaction in the 2009 City of Shoreline Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NE 12: Research information available on tsunami hazards and map the tsunami hazard areas located in Shoreline. Consider the creation of development standards and

Comment [j41]: LU101

emergency response plans for tsunami hazard areas to avoid tsunami-related impacts. (Think about keeping 2nd sentence.)

NE: ~~Allow land alteration, such as clearing, grading, and filling only for approved development proposals or approved mitigation plans. The City shall periodically review clearing and grading regulations to ensure that they adequately prevent environmental impacts. REGULATION~~

NE 13: ~~Promote educational efforts to inform landowners about site development, drainage, and yard maintenance practices which that impact slope stability and water quality.~~

NE: ~~Protect floodplains by limiting new development. All new permanent structures and roadways should be located above the 100-year flood level, wherever feasible. New development should be required to replace existing flood storage capacity lost due to filling. The City should not increase the allowed housing density of residential areas within the 100-year floodplain. REGULATION~~

NE 14: ~~Resolve long standing flooding impacts and prevent new flooding impacts, and ensure adequate surface water services for existing and anticipated development at service levels designated by the Capital Facilities Element. SUPERSEDED~~

NE 15: ~~Prioritize the resolution of flooding problems based on property damage, public safety risk, and flooding frequency.~~

Vegetation Protection – *the entire section was moved over from LU Element*

NE 16: ~~Develop educational materials, incentives, policies, and regulations to conserve native vegetation on public and private land for wildlife habitat, erosion control and human enjoyment. The city shall should establish regulations to protect mature trees and other native vegetation from the negative impacts of residential and commercial development, including short-plat development.~~

NE 17: ~~The removal of healthy trees should be minimized, particularly when they are located in environmentally critical areas.~~

NE: ~~The City shall encourage the replacement of removed trees on private land and require the replacement of removed trees on public land, wherever feasible. Trees which are removed should be replaced with a suitable number of native trees that are of a size and species which will survive over the long term and provide adequate screening in the short term. REGULATION~~

~~The City may require tree replacement on private property as required project mitigation or subject to terms and limitations in a vegetation conservation and management ordinance.~~

NE: ~~Trees that are a threat to public safety should be removed by property owners or designated maintenance providers at property owner expense. REGULATION~~

Comment [m42]: Not really addressed in SMP, Gail do we have this in Emergency Preparedness Plan?

JN: Tsunami hazards evaluated in 2009 City of Shoreline Hazard Mitigation plan, pg 92. "It is unlikely that a tsunami or seiche generated by a distant or Cascadia Subduction earthquake would result in much damage in Shoreline. One computer model suggests that a tsunami generated by such an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.5 would only be 0.2 to 0.4 meters in height when it reached the Seattle/Shoreline area. This results from the shielding of the Olympic Peninsula and the Puget Sound islands. However, Puget Sound is vulnerable to tsunamis generated by local crustal earthquakes (such as along the Seattle fault or South Whidbey Island fault) or by submarine landslides triggered by earthquake shaking. This type of tsunami could impact Shoreline. The low-lying areas along the Puget Sound coastline could suffer damage. Warning vulnerable areas would be nearly impossible due to the close proximity to the origin of the tsunami. The first wave would probably hit coastline areas within minutes."

Comment [j43]: LU102

Comment [j44]: LU103

Comment [j45]: LU104

Comment [j46]: LU105

Comment [j47]: State requirement

Comment [j48]: LU106

Comment [j49]: LU107

Comment [j50]: LU108

Comment [j51]: LU109

Comment [j52]: LU110

NE 18: If development is allowed in an environmentally critical area or critical area buffer, clearing and grading should be restricted ~~minimized to building footprints, roads, and small areas immediately adjacent to these improvements.~~ Native vegetation outside of these areas should be preserved, wherever feasible, or replanted.

Comment [j53]: LU111

REGULATION

NE 19: Identify and protect wildlife corridors prior to, ~~and during and after land development through public education, incentives, regulation, and code enforcement.~~

Comment [j54]: Is this superseded by DFW standards? JN: Existing regulations are Fish and Wildlife Habitat critical area . Data is from DFW currently. No City process for identifying new wildlife data.

NE 20: Encourage the use of native and low maintenance vegetation to provide additional secondary habitat, reduce water consumption, and reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer.

Comment [m55]: Recommendation of SE Neighborhoods Subarea Plan

Wetlands and Habitat Protection ~~– the entire section was moved over from LU Element~~

NE 21: ~~Actively participate~~ Participate in regional species protection efforts, including salmon habitat protection and restoration.

Comment [j56]: LU114

NE: ~~Critical wildlife habitat, including habitats or species that have been identified as priority species or priority habitats by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be preserved through regulation, acquisition, incentives and other techniques. Habitats and species of local importance will also be protected in this manner.~~ **SUPERSEDED**

Comment [j57]: LU115

NE 22: Preserve wetlands, and aquatic and riparian habitats in a natural state. ~~Appropriate buffers shall be maintained around natural areas of the Puget Sound shoreline, wetlands, lakes, creeks, and streams to protect native vegetation, water quality, habitat for fish and wildlife, and hydrologic function.~~

Comment [jn58]: This is actually a helpful policy, it was unclear to me recently reviewing the CA regulations whether it was the intent to specifically include priority species and habitats in the CA regulations. If they want that to remain, it should probably stay as a policy because it is not obvious.

Comment [j59]: LU116

NE: ~~Preserve and maintain wetlands in a natural state. Alterations to wetlands may be considered only if they:~~

- ~~•are necessary to provide a reasonable economic use of a property, provided all wetland functions are evaluated, impact to the wetland is minimized to the maximum extent practicable, and affected significant functions are appropriately mitigated;~~
- ~~•are absolutely necessary for a public agency or utility development; or~~
- ~~▪ provide necessary road or utility crossings.~~ **REGULATION**

Comment [j60]: LU117

NE: ~~Maintain a ranking and classification system for wetlands which rates wetlands based on size, vegetative complexity, ecological and hydrological function, and presence of threatened or endangered species. The City should work with other jurisdictions to establish a consistent regional classification system for wetlands that allows for the designation of both regionally important and locally unique wetlands.~~ **REGULATION**

Comment [j61]: LU118

NE: ~~Maintain regulations for wetlands that:~~

- ~~•recognize and protect the functions and values of all wetlands where feasible;~~

Comment [j62]: LU119

- *provide increasingly stronger protection to wetlands according to the ranking and classification system hierarchy;
- *recognize and protect wetlands of significant size;
- *preserve appropriate buffers to facilitate infiltration and maintain stable water temperatures, limit the rate at which stormwater enters the wetland, and provide wildlife habitat;
- *protect the natural water quality and regime;
 - preserve native wetland vegetation and allow the removal of noxious weeds; and limit public access based on the importance and sensitivity of the wetland. **REGULATION**

NE 23: ~~Strive to Achieve a level of no net loss of wetlands function, area, and value within each drainage basin over the long term. Shoreline should seek to maintain total wetlands acreage over the long term.~~

Comment [j63]: LU120

NE: ~~When development may impact wetlands or habitat, the following hierarchy should be followed in deciding the appropriate course of action:~~

- ~~*avoid impacts to the wetland and habitat;~~
- ~~*minimize impacts to the wetland and habitat;~~
- ~~*restore the wetland and habitat when impacted; and~~
- ~~*recreate the wetland and habitat at a ratio which will provide for its assured viability and success. **REGULATION**~~

Comment [j64]: LU121

~~On-site, in-kind mitigation shall be generally preferred. Because it is difficult to replace or restore many natural wetland and habitat values and functions after a site has been degraded, a significantly larger mitigation area than the area impacted should generally be required. Allow wetland or habitat mitigation off-site only if there is a new benefit to the resource and if long term monitoring and maintenance is ensured. **REGULATION**~~

NE: ~~If wetlands are used as part of a storm drainage system, assure that water level fluctuations will be similar to fluctuations under natural conditions and that water quality standards are met prior to discharging stormwater into a wetland. **REGULATION**~~

Comment [j65]: LU122

NE: ~~All wetlands in the City should be identified and preliminarily classified. The City shall identify all wetlands on public property and establish and implement a voluntary program to identify wetlands on private land. **REDUNDANT**~~

Comment [j66]: LU123

NE 24: ~~Existing degraded wetlands should be restored where feasible. Restoration of degraded wetlands may be required as a condition of redevelopment.~~

Comment [j67]: LU124

NE 25: ~~Wetland and habitat restoration efforts should focus on those areas that will result in the greatest benefit to the resource and that have been identified by the City as priority for restoration.~~

Comment [j68]: LU125

Streams and Water Resources ~~– the entire section was moved over from LU Element~~

NE 26: ~~The City should develop Support and promote basin stewardship programs to prevent surface water impacts and to identify opportunities for restoration. The~~

Comment [j69]: LU126

Comment [m70]: Brian, these are called for in SWMP, but not yet created, correct?

following issues should be considered when formulating plans and implementing projects which have the potential to impact stream basins: public access, respect for private property, restoration of the feature to a more natural state, retention of native vegetation, improvement of surface water management in the basin, improvement of fish habitat and channel substrate, and streambank stabilization.

REGULATION

- NE:** Streams shall not be permanently altered except for:
- Habitat restoration;
 - Water quality restoration;
 - Flood protection;
 - Correction to bank erosion;
 - Road crossings when alternative routes are not feasible; or
 - Private driveway crossings when it is the only means of access.

REGULATION

Comment [j71]: LU127

Stream Alterationsalterations, other than habitat improvements, should only occur when it is the only means feasible and should be the minimum necessary. Any alteration to a stream should result in a net improvement to habitat and streams should be encouraged to return to natural channel migration patterns, where feasible. In cases where stream alteration is consistent with this policy, channel stabilization techniques shall generally be preferred over culverting.

REGULATION

- NE 27:** Work with Engage community to identify identify and prioritize potential surface water features with stream restoration projects potential and attempt to obtain citizen involvement and community consensus on any future attempt to restore features which have been altered. Restoration efforts may include the daylighting of streams which have been diverted into underground pipes or culverts.

Comment [j72]: LU128

- NE:** Solutions to stream habitat problems should focus on those types of problems that first protect and preserve existing habitat, then enhance and expand habitat in areas where wild anadromous fish are present, and lastly, enhance and expand habitat in areas where other wild fish are present. **REGULATION**

Comment [j73]: LU129

- NE 28:** The City shall Wwork with citizen volunteers, state and federal agencies, and Indian tribes to identify, prioritize, and eliminate physical barriers and other impediments to anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat.

Comment [j74]: LU130

- NE 29:** Preserve and protect natural surface water storage sites, such as wetlands, aquifers, streams and water bodies that help regulate surface flows and recharge groundwater.

Comment [j75]: LU131

- NE 30:** Conserve and protect groundwater resources by informing the Washington Department of Ecology of major increases in groundwater withdraws by public and private parties, appropriate regulation of surface water quality, and facilitating enforcement of waste disposal ordinances by appropriate agencies.

Comment [j76]: LU132

REGULATION

- NE:** Use the Washington State Shoreline Management Act to guide protection efforts for shorelines of statewide significance and to guide protection efforts for other

Comment [j77]: LU133

water features in the City which do not qualify for Shoreline Management Act regulations. **SUPERSEDED**

NE: ~~The City shall work with citizens and watershed interest groups, and cooperate with King County, Snohomish County, and other local governments, regional governments, state agencies, and Indian tribes in developing and implementing watershed action plans and other types of basin plans for basins which include or are upstream or downstream from the City of Shoreline. **REDUNDANT**~~

Comment [j78]: LU134

NE: ~~The City shall establish an interjurisdictional stewardship committee to use as a forum for working with neighboring communities to improve water quality and stream habitat in basins that share interjurisdictional boundaries. **REGULATION**~~

Comment [j79]: LU135

NE 31: Provide additional public access to Shoreline's natural features, including the Puget Sound shoreline. The City will attempt to reach community and neighborhood consensus on any proposal to improve access to natural features where the proposal has the potential to negatively impact private property owners.

Comment [j80]: LU136

Clean Air and Climate Protection – *the entire section was moved over from LU Element*

Comment [jn81]: This was a suggested addition to the goals so it should be reflected in the policies. NE 30 starts to address climate change.

NE 32: Support federal, state, and regional policies intended to protect clean air in Shoreline and the Puget Sound Basin. ~~The City will support the active enforcement of air quality policies and ordinances by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.~~

Comment [j82]: LU154

NE 33: Support the expansion of public mass transit and encourage cycling and walking in the City to reduce greenhouse gases emissions and as an alternative to dependence on individual vehicles.

Comment [j83]: LU155

NE 34: Reduce the amount of air-borne particulates through continuation and possible expansion of the street-sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, education to reduce burning of solid and yard waste, and other methods that address particulate sources.

Comment [j84]: LU156

Comment [jn85]: If the City is serious about reducing particulates – regulating woodburning stoves is a logical area of consideration –banning or requiring EPA certified.

NE 35: Support and implement the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, other climate pledges and commitments undertaken by the City, and other multi-jurisdictional efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses and address climate change, sea-level rise, and other impacts of global warming.

Comment [m86]: Recommendation from Sustainability white paper (Att. E, 4/5/12 staff report)

Sustainability

Comment [m87]: Policies in this section are taken directly from Sustainability Strategy Guiding Principles.

NE 36: Establish policy decisions and priorities considering their long-term impacts on the natural and human environments.

NE 37: Lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to commit to sustainability. Learn from other's success and design our programs, policies, facilities and practices as models to be emulated by other organizations and individuals.

- NE 38:** Recognize that a sustainable community requires and supports economic development, human health, and social benefit. Make decisions using the “triple bottom line” approach to sustainability (environment, economy, and equity).
- NE 39:** Promote community awareness, responsibility, and participation in sustainability efforts through public outreach programs and other opportunities for change. Serve as catalyst and facilitator for partnerships to leverage change in the broader community.
- NE 40:** Apply adaptive management to efforts and clearly communicate findings to the Shoreline community- individuals, businesses, non-profits, utilities, and City decision-makers. Use analytical and monitoring tools and performance targets to evaluate investments.

Natural Environment Policy Recommendations from SE Neighborhoods Subarea

Plan:

NE: Remove regulatory barriers and Create incentives to encourage the use of innovative methods of protecting natural resources (solar power for lighting outside space, green storm water conveyance systems, new recycling options).

NE: Create incentives to encourage innovative strategies to enhance the natural environment on and around developed sites (green roof and green wall techniques, hedgerow buffers, contiguous green zones/corridors through neighborhoods, green natural storm water conveyance systems).

NE: When redeveloping a site, encourage incorporation of measures that improve or complement the community’s natural assets such as its tree canopy, surface water elements, wildlife habitat, and open space.

NE: Create incentives to encourage enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat on both public and private property through existing programs such as the backyard wildlife habitat stewardship certification program.

NE: Develop technical resources for better understanding of overall hydrology, including the locations of covered streams in the subarea, and recommend actions and measures to address existing stormwater drainage problems.

NE: Create incentives to plan all remodel and new development around substantial trees and groves of trees to preserve tree canopy.

NE: Retain and establish new trees, open spaces, and green belts.

NE: Use green buffers of specific buffer area to building height ratio between different land uses, especially where transition zoning is not possible.

What other additions should we make?

- **Green building?**
- **Green infrastructure?**
- **Greenhouse gas emissions?**
- **Other Climate recommendations?**
- **Recommendations from Surface Water Master Plan?**
- **Recommendations from Emergency Preparedness Plan?**

Comment [m88]: Are these appropriate to include?

Comment [jn89]: I’d suggest adding this language to almost all of these. Not sure if it is really feasible to “create incentives” for all of these things. Can we soften the verbs?

Comment [jn90]: Would this be the basin planning that SW is doing or something else?

Comment [jn91]: Aren’t there already green building related policies somewhere?

Natural Environment Element Goals & Policies

Introduction

This Element contains the goals and policies necessary to support the City's responsibility for protection of the natural environment. Previously, these policies were housed in the Land Use Element, but were separated into their own element in the 2012 update to support the City's emphasis on sustainability, with major impetus provided by the 2007 Council goal to "Create an Environmentally Sustainable Community."

To demonstrate this commitment to sustainability, the City has also signed on to the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the Cascade Agenda, the Green City Partnership Program, and the King County- Cities Climate Collaboration. In 2008, the City adopted an Environmental Sustainability Strategy and created a Green Team tasked with its implementation. In 2012, with funding from the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, the City launched a webpage to track indicators of environmental sustainability over time. Information displayed on this webpage (www.shorelinewa.gov/forevergreen) will inform citizens and decision-makers about progress of goals and policies contained in this element.

Relevant Framework Goals from Vision 2029

FG7: Conserve and protect our environment and natural resources, and encourage restoration, environmental education and stewardship.

FG8: Apply innovative and environmentally sensitive development practices.

Natural Environment Goals

- Goal NE I:** Minimize adverse impacts on the natural environment through leadership, policy, and regulation, and address impacts of past practices where possible.
- Goal NE II:** Lead and support efforts to protect and improve the natural environment, protect and preserve environmentally critical areas, and minimize pollution and the waste of energy and materials.
- Goal NE III:** Conserve soil resources and protect people, property and the environment from geologic hazards, including steep slope areas, landslide hazard areas, seismic hazard areas, and erosion hazard areas by regulating disturbance and development.
- Goal NE IV:** Protect, enhance and restore habitat of sufficient diversity and abundance to sustain existing indigenous fish and wildlife populations.

- Goal NE V:** Protect clean air and the climate for present and future generations through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the promotion of efficient and effective solutions for transportation, clean industries, and development.
- Goal NE VI:** Manage the storm and surface water system through the preservation of natural systems and structural solutions in order to:
- Protect water quality;
 - Preserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and critical areas;
 - Maintain a hydrologic balance;
 - Prevent property damage; and
 - Provide for public safety and services.
- Goal NE VII:** Continue to mandate natural and on-site solutions, such as infiltration, rain gardens, etc. be proven infeasible before considering engineered solutions, such as detention.
- Goal NE VIII:** Preserve, protect, and, where feasible, restore wetlands, shorelines, and streams for wildlife, appropriate human use, and the maintenance of hydrological and ecological processes.
- Goal NE IX:** Use education and outreach to increase understanding, stewardship and protection of the natural environment.

Land Use Policies

General

- NE 1:** Preserve suburban fringe, rural areas, open spaces, and agricultural lands in the region through infill development in existing communities.
- NE 2:** Preserve environmental quality by taking into account the land's suitability for development and directing intense development away from critical areas.
- NE 3:** Balance the conditional right of private property owners to develop and alter land with the protection of native vegetation and critical areas.
- NE 4:** Conduct all City operations in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts, by reducing consumption and waste of energy and materials; minimizing use of toxic and polluting substances; reusing, reducing, and recycling; and disposing of all waste in a safe and responsible manner.
- NE 5:** Support, promote, and lead public education and involvement programs to raise awareness about environmental issues, motivate individuals and community organizations to protect the environment, and provide opportunities for the community and visitors to practice stewardship and enjoy Shoreline's unique environmental features.
- NE 6:** Coordinate with other governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations to protect and enhance the environment.

- NE 7:** Continue to identify and map the location of all critical areas and buffers located within Shoreline. If there is a conflict between the mapped location and field information collected during project review, field information that is verified by the City shall govern.
- NE 8:** Environmentally critical areas may be designated as open space and should be conserved and protected from loss or degradation wherever feasible.
- NE 9:** Encourage the use of “green” building methods and materials (such as those specified under certification systems like LEED, Built Green, Living Building, etc.) that may reduce impacts on the built and natural environment,

Geological and Flood Hazard Areas

- NE 10:** Mitigate drainage, erosion, siltation, and landslide impacts while encouraging native vegetation.
- NE 11:** In seismic hazards areas, seek to minimize risks to people and property.
- NE 12:** Research information available on tsunami hazards and map the tsunami hazard areas located in Shoreline. Consider the creation of development standards and emergency response plans for tsunami hazard areas to avoid tsunami-related impacts.
- NE 13:** Promote educational efforts to inform landowners about site development, drainage, and yard maintenance practices that impact slope stability and water quality.
- NE 14:** Resolve long standing flooding impacts and prevent new flooding impacts.
- NE 15:** Prioritize the resolution of flooding problems based on property damage, public safety risk, and flooding frequency.

Vegetation Protection

- NE 16:** Develop educational materials, incentives, policies, and regulations to conserve native vegetation on public and private land for wildlife habitat, erosion control and human enjoyment. The city should establish regulations to protect mature trees and other native vegetation from the negative impacts of residential and commercial development, including short-plat development.
- NE 17:** The removal of healthy trees should be minimized
- NE 18:** If development is allowed in an environmentally critical area or critical area buffer, clearing and grading should be minimized.
- NE 19:** Identify and protect wildlife corridors prior to, during and after land development through public education, incentives, regulation, and code enforcement.

- NE 20:** Encourage the use of native and low maintenance vegetation to provide additional secondary habitat, reduce water consumption, and reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer.

Wetlands and Habitat Protection

- NE 21:** Participate in regional species protection efforts, including salmon habitat protection and restoration.
- NE 22:** Preserve wetlands, and aquatic and riparian habitats in a natural state to protect native vegetation, water quality, habitat for fish and wildlife, and hydrologic function.
- NE 23:** Strive to achieve a level of no net loss of wetlands function, area, and value within each drainage basin.
- NE 24:** Existing degraded wetlands should be restored where feasible.
- NE 25:** Wetland and habitat restoration efforts should focus on those areas that will result in the greatest benefit to the resource and that have been identified by the City as priority for restoration.

Streams and Water Resources

- NE 26:** Support and promote basin stewardship programs to prevent surface water impacts and to identify opportunities for restoration. Stream alterations, other than habitat improvements, should only occur when it is the only means feasible and should be the minimum necessary.
- NE 27:** Engage community to identify and prioritize potential stream restoration projects. Restoration efforts may include the daylighting of streams which have been diverted into underground pipes or culverts.
- NE 28:** Work with citizen volunteers, state and federal agencies, and Indian tribes to identify, prioritize, and eliminate physical barriers and other impediments to anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat.
- NE 29:** Preserve and protect natural surface water storage sites, such as wetlands, aquifers, streams and water bodies that help regulate surface flows and recharge groundwater.
- NE 30:** Conserve and protect groundwater resources.
- NE 31:** Provide additional public access to Shoreline's natural features, including the Puget Sound shoreline. The City will attempt to reach community and neighborhood consensus on any proposal to improve access to natural features where the proposal has the potential to negatively impact private property owners.

Clean Air and Climate Protection

- NE 32:** Support federal, state, and regional policies intended to protect clean air in Shoreline and the Puget Sound Basin.
- NE 33:** Support the expansion of public mass transit and encourage cycling and walking in the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and as an alternative to dependence on individual vehicles.
- NE 34:** Reduce the amount of air-borne particulates through continuation and possible expansion of the street-sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, education to reduce burning of solid and yard waste, and other methods that address particulate sources.
- NE 35:** Support and implement the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, other climate pledges and commitments undertaken by the City, and other multi-jurisdictional efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses and address climate change, sea-level rise, and other impacts of global warming.

Sustainability

- NE 36:** Establish policy decisions and priorities considering their long-term impacts on the natural and human environments.
- NE 37:** Lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to commit to sustainability. Learn from other's success and design our programs, policies, facilities and practices as models to be emulated by other organizations and individuals.
- NE 38:** Recognize that a sustainable community requires and supports economic development, human health, and social benefit. Make decisions using the "triple bottom line" approach to sustainability (environment, economy, and equity).
- NE 39:** Promote community awareness, responsibility, and participation in sustainability efforts through public outreach programs and other opportunities for change. Serve as catalyst and facilitator for partnerships to leverage change in the broader community.
- NE 40:** Apply adaptive management to efforts and clearly communicate findings to the Shoreline community- individuals, businesses, non-profits, utilities, and City decision-makers. Use analytical and monitoring tools and performance targets to evaluate investments.

Natural Environment Policy Recommendations from SE Neighborhoods Subarea

Plan:

NE: Remove regulatory barriers and create incentives to encourage the use of innovative methods of protecting natural resources (solar power for lighting outside space, green storm water conveyance systems, new recycling options).

NE: Create incentives to encourage innovative strategies to enhance the natural environment on and around developed sites (green roof and green wall techniques,

hedgerow buffers, contiguous green corridors through neighborhoods, natural storm water conveyance systems).

NE: When redeveloping a site, encourage incorporation of measures that improve or complement the community's natural assets such as its tree canopy, surface water elements, wildlife habitat, and open space.

NE: Create incentives to encourage enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat on both public and private property through existing programs such as the backyard wildlife habitat stewardship certification program.

NE: Develop technical resources for better understanding of overall hydrology, including the locations of covered streams in the subarea, and recommend actions and measures to address existing stormwater drainage problems.

NE: Create incentives to plan all remodel and new development around substantial trees and groves of trees to preserve tree canopy.

NE: Retain and establish new trees, open spaces, and green belts.

NE: Use green buffers of specific buffer area to building height ratio between different land uses, especially where transition zoning is not possible.

What other additions should we make?

- **Green building?**
- **Green infrastructure?**
- **Greenhouse gas emissions?**
- **Other Climate recommendations?**
- **Recommendations from Surface Water Master Plan?**
- **Recommendations from Emergency Preparedness Plan?**

Natural Environment Element Supporting Analysis

Background and Context

Shoreline's environment is comprised of both natural and built features. Puget Sound vistas, mature trees, natural vegetation, streams, wetlands, lakes, and tidelands are just some of the aspects of the natural environment that Shoreline citizens value. The relationships between these features, development, and natural processes, and the quality of the resulting environment, have profound impacts on the quality of life in Shoreline. Shoreline is not a pristine landscape, but the very name of the City reflects the importance of the natural environment to the community identity. Preserving the quality of the environment depends on government, ~~corporate business~~, and individual decisions, and coordinated actions to minimize the adverse environmental impacts that ~~are caused by human development~~ can occur during development or redevelopment and daily life.

Environmental Conditions

Shoreline is a community that developed mostly as a suburban residential area with ~~the an~~ associated mix of commercial centers, parks, schools, and natural areas. Natural areas are comprised of the Puget Sound shoreline, bluffs, steep slopes, ravines, natural reserves, wetlands, streams, lakes, native growth easements, and stands of mature trees. These areas are found on both private property and public property, such as larger single family residential lots and City parks.

~~Portions of Shoreline is known to have contain~~ the following environmentally critical areas: geological hazard areas (including steep slopes and erosion hazards), frequently flooded hazard areas, streams, wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The City does not contain any known critical aquifer recharge areas that supply potable water. ~~Almost without exception, residents get their d~~Drinking water comes from surface systems that originate in the Cascade Mountains and are operated by the Shoreline Water District and the City of Seattle, predominantly from the Tolt River.

Shoreline has adopted regulations to protect environmentally critical areas in the City. These regulations are referred to as the Critical Areas Regulations and are located in Chapter 20.80 of the Shoreline Municipal Code. These regulations ~~to protect critical areas~~ are periodically reviewed and updated in accordance with ~~the Growth Management Act~~state mandates.

Geologic Hazards and Frequently Flooded Areas

Continental glaciers extended many times into central Puget Sound over the past two million years depositing layers of silt-clay, gravel and till in a rolling plateau known as the Seattle

Comment [jn1]: There are a lot more types of geo hazard areas so why name just a couple?

Comment [jn2]: Is this just because we don't have any data? Or does the data show there aren't any? Why do we have the regulations if not?

Comment [jn3]: I think it is all from the Tolt.

drift plain. The City is located on this plateau which drops irregularly to Puget Sound and Lake Washington through a series of basins formed by small streams that flow through the area. A number of steep bluffs are located along the shores of Puget Sound within The Highlands and Innis Arden neighborhoods. The size of these bluffs diminishes in the Richmond Beach neighborhood. Hazards, including landslides and mudslides, ~~are associated with~~ have occurred along these steep bluffs. Steep bluffs are also found along the eastern edges of the City. The majority of the remaining areas of the City are located on a rolling plateau with a north/south topographical orientation. Development on or adjacent to severe slopes and highly erodable soils can have a negative impact on slope stability.

Soil type, vegetative cover, presence of ground water, and degree of slope affect the suitability of a site for development. The City is predominately covered with the Alderwood series of soils (U.S. Geological Survey Maps). Alderwood soils have drainage problems during periods of heavy seasonal rainfall. Erosion can be severe and accelerated if vegetation (including trees) and forest litter, which protects the soils from rain, are removed for development. The City of Shoreline contains geologic hazard areas prone to landslide, seismic, and erosion hazards. Most of these hazard areas are located on the bluffs along Puget Sound or along adjacent to creek streambeds.

Comment [jn4]: Beds implies the flat part at the bottom of the stream.

Landslide Hazards

Many of the bluffs along Puget Sound consist of severe slopes and isolated glacial deposits that are susceptible to landslides. These unstable slopes are a major hazard to people, structures, and other land uses and improvements (such as railroad tracks). The identification of areas susceptible to landslides is necessary to effectively regulate grading, building, foundation design, housing density, drainage and to implement other regulations to reduce or eliminate the risk of property damage and personal injury.

The City contains areas that are susceptible to landslides. Within the City these areas include the bluffs and stream ravines along Puget Sound, the Boeing Creek ravine and the hillsides along McAleer Creek.

Seismic Hazards

Seismic hazard areas are those areas subject to severe risk of earthquake damage as a result of settlement or soil liquefaction. These conditions occur in areas underlain by soils with low cohesion and density, usually in association with a shallow groundwater table. When shaken by an earthquake, certain soils lose their ability to support a load. Some soils will actually flow like a fluid; this process is called liquefaction. Loss of soil strength can also result in failure of the ground surface and damage to structures supported in or on the soil. Loose, water-saturated materials are the most susceptible to ground failure due to earthquakes.

One area of identified seismic hazard is located along Puget Sound in Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. In this area, park structures and the Burlington Northern railroad tracks may be at risk. The other seismic hazard area is located along McAleer Creek between NE 196th Street and NE 205th Street. Roads, single-family residences, and other public and private improvements may be affected in this area. A small area near 24th Avenue NE is susceptible to both landslides and seismic hazards.

Erosion Hazards/Sedimentation

Erosion is a natural process where rain, running water, and wind loosen and eliminate or reduce soil coverage and deposit it elsewhere. Of these natural forces, erosion by rain and running water is by far the most common within the Puget Sound region. The susceptibility of any soil type to erosion depends upon the physical and chemical characteristics of the soil, its protective vegetative cover, slope length and gradient, intensity of rainfall, and the velocity of water runoff. During storms, water runoff saturates the upper layers of till and sand-gravel. When the water migrates to the less permeable layer of silt-clay below the layer of sand-gravel it begins to flow laterally toward Puget Sound or Lake Washington. Erosion and slides occur as the sand-gravel layer washes away or slides on top of the slippery silt-clay layer. Runoff also erodes topsoil, which contributes to the erosion and landslide hazards.

The City contains areas that are prone to erosion activity. These areas include the bluffs along Puget Sound, the Boeing Creek ravine, and the hillsides along McAleer Creek, near the eastern boundary of the City. **Erosion hazards** also include hillsides in the Richmond Beach neighborhood, the vicinity of Paramount Park, east of Holyrood Cemetery, and the vicinity of Hamlin Park and Shorecrest High School. A large portion of the Boeing Creek Basin, which includes Shoreview Park, is both an erosion hazard area and a landslide area. Other small erosion hazard areas are variously located within the City.

Comment [jn5]: What data is this paragraph based on? Doesn't match erosion hazard soils data.

Potential geologic hazard areas are shown on Figure LU-2 at the end of this **section**.

Comment [sc6]: Update map

Frequently-Flooded Hazard Areas

~~Frequently flooded~~ **Flood hazard** areas are those areas within the regulatory floodplain ~~subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year~~ which include the floodway, channel migration zones, riparian habitat zones, and special flood hazard areas. Floodplains have been mapped on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) prepared by FEMA. Within Shoreline, only limited areas adjacent to ~~streams-Thornton and Boeing creeks,~~ Ronald Bog and the Puget Sound Shoreline have been designated as potential floodplains. In addition to floodplains, unmapped spot flooding occurs during storm events in various areas in the City that lack adequate drainage.

Comment [jn7]: May want to add information on tree canopy study and park vegetation management plans.

Vegetation Protection

Residents characterize the City of Shoreline as a wooded community; this is often cited as a key reason for locating in the area. Large evergreen trees can be seen rising above residential neighborhoods, on hilltops, and even on the periphery of Aurora Avenue. As the City has become more urbanized, the area covered by native ground cover and/or shaded by native trees has been vastly reduced.

Forested open space, wetlands, and native vegetation found on steep slopes and larger residential lots are important resources that should be preserved. Trees help stabilize soils on steep slopes and act as barriers to wind and sound. Plants replenish the soil with nutrients and generate oxygen and clean pollutants from the air. Native vegetation provides habitat for wildlife; the native vegetation found near creeks, lakes, and saltwater areas offer habitats for many migrating and resident birds and other wildlife. Less developed wooded areas and City parks also provide habitats for many birds and mammals. Wetlands and

riparian vegetation provide surface water storage and help clean surface water of pollutants and sediment.

Aerial photos show that the community is a mosaic of various types of vegetation. The largest, most contiguous areas of native vegetation in Shoreline are primarily found in City parks, publicly owned open space, privately owned open space (such as the Boeing Creek area of The Highlands and the reserves in Innis Arden) and designated critical areas (such as steep slopes along the Puget Sound shoreline). These areas include the highest quality wildlife habitat found in the City. However, areas of less intensive residential development also contain mature trees and other native vegetation which provide secondary wildlife habitat and substantially contribute to the quality of life in our City. Native vegetation in residential areas that may be subdivided or otherwise more intensely developed is at the greatest risk of being lost.

Comment [sc8]: Do we own this now? JN: NO

~~Development standards and incentives help protect native vegetation during the development process. For example, standards may require that the developer file a vegetation management plan which specifies how he/she will reduce the amount of vegetation which is cleared from the site and where he/she will plant trees to replace the ones which are lost. Incentives could include density bonuses for cluster housing which protects areas of undisturbed open space or expedited permit review. Other tools which can be used to protect vegetation include public education, habitat enhancement assistance, conservation easements, open space designation and property tax reduction under the Public Benefit Rating System, transfer or purchase of development rights, and outright acquisition.~~

Comment [sc9]: We should probably only refer to current regs, not prospective ones

Habitat Protection

The process of urbanization can result in the conversion of wildlife habitat to other uses. The loss of certain types of habitat can have significant, adverse effects on the health of certain species. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are those that are necessary for maintaining species within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. Designated habitats include those areas associated with species that state or federal agencies have designated as endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate species, anadromous fish habitat, waterfowl and raptor nests, heron rookeries and designated habitats of local importance.

Currently in the Puget Sound, the bald eagle and Chinook salmon are listed as threatened species by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife indicates bald eagle territory in the Richmond Beach and Point Wells areas. WDFW maps and the City's stream inventory indicate the presence of Chinook salmon in portions (including sections outside of the City) of McAleer Creek, Thornton Creek and Boeing Creek. Other sources have indicated the presence of fish in other streams within the City, although the full extent of fish habitat has not been confirmed. To help restore healthy salmon runs, local governments and the State government must work proactively to address salmon habitat protection and restoration.

Comment [jn10]: Double check to see if listings have changed at all.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has developed the Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Program to help preserve the best and most important habitats and provide for the life requirements of fish and wildlife. Priority species are fish and wildlife species that require protective measures and/or management guidelines to ensure their

perpetuation. Priority habitats are habitat types with unique or significant value to many species. The WDFW has documented the locations of priority habitats and species within the City. These PHS areas include wetlands, anadromous fish habitat, riparian areas, bald eagle territory, urban natural open space, habitat for a priority bird species, and the point location of a priority bird species siting. These areas combined comprise less than 5% of the total land area of the City and are often found within existing City parks, public open space, and designated private open space

Comment [jn11]: Check against current data.

The City has developed a geographic information system (GIS) that includes detailed maps of PHS areas based on data provided by the WDFW and other mapping resources. WDFW provides management recommendations for priority species and habitats that are intended to assist landowners, users, and managers in conducting land-use activities in a manner that incorporates the needs of fish and wildlife. Management recommendations are developed through a comprehensive review and synthesis of the best scientific information available. The City has reviewed the PHS management recommendations developed by WDFW for species identified in Shoreline and used them to guide the development of critical areas regulations that fit the existing conditions and limitations of our relatively urbanized environment.

Comment [m12]: Have we done this? JN: Started doing this, but not fully launched for use by the planners.

Streams and Water Resources

Wetlands

Wetlands perform valuable functions that include surface and flood water storage, water quality improvement, groundwater exchange, stream base flow augmentation, and biological habitat support. A review of background information, including aerial photos from 1992, identified 17 individual wetlands within the City. These wetlands range from the large estuarine system (a mixture of salt and fresh waters) adjacent to Puget Sound, to lakes and small excavated ponds. With the exception of the Puget Sound estuarine system, all wetlands in the City are palustrine systems (freshwater). The largest palustrine system is Echo Lake located in the north-central portion of the City. Other large wetlands include ponds within Ronald Bog Park, Twin Ponds Park, Paramount Park, and the Seattle Country Club, as well as numerous undocumented wetlands of .5 acres or less. Most wetlands in the City are relatively isolated systems and are surrounded by development.

Under the Shoreline Municipal Code, wetlands are designated using a tiered classification system (from ~~Class 4~~Type I to ~~Class 3~~Type IV) based on size, vegetative complexity, and the presence of threatened or endangered species. The entire Puget Sound shoreline is classified as a ~~Class 4~~Type I wetland. This wetland includes approximately 150 acres of aquatic bed and shoreline habitat. No other wetlands in the City have received a Class I rating. All wetlands, regardless of size, are regulated under the Shoreline Municipal Code. When a development is proposed on a site with known or suspected wetlands, a wetland evaluation is required to verify and classify wetlands and delineate boundaries and buffer areas.

Comment [jn13]: Check SMP data. Need to confirm that Puget Sound IS classified as a wetland, Type I)

Comment [m14]: Is this still correct?

All of the documented wetlands within the City have experienced some level of disturbance as a result of development and human activity. Disturbances have included major alterations such as wetland excavation, fill or water impoundment. Some wetland areas occur within parks that receive constant use by people, threatening the wetlands with impacts of human activity, such as trash and trampling of vegetation.

Lakes

There are four lakes in the City of Shoreline: Echo Lake, Ronald Bog, Hidden Lake and Twin Ponds. Like most small urban lakes, Shoreline’s lakes contain pollutants and contaminated runoff, including fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens; oils, greases, and heavy metals from vehicles; and fecal coliform bacteria. The quality of the water in the lakes is a concern to many residents and City staff. Ronald Bog and Twin Ponds were historically bogs that were dredged. As urban development in the City has occurred, the process by which the nutrient level and vegetation in these lakes increases has accelerated. Ronald Bog and Twin Ponds will eventually revert to bogs.

Comment [jn15]: There are technically NO lakes in shoreline. Should this be rewritten. Technically these are wetlands. From a regulatory perspective we do not classify them as lakes, but as openwater wetlands.

Hidden Lake is currently used as a sediment storage facility and has been significantly altered to accommodate this function. King County completely reconstructed this feature by removing the sediment eroded from sites further upstream in the basin. Hidden Lake has served as a sink for this sediment and has protected the water quality and potential fish habitat in the lower reaches of Boeing Creek. Sedimentation will continue to impact Hidden Lake unless action is taken to stabilize the upper reaches of Boeing Creek and/or reduce run-off rates in the upper reaches of the basin. If future stabilization of Boeing Creek includes changes to the channel, the habitat values associated with the upper reaches of the Creek could be reduced. Some community members would like to see Hidden Lake restored to a more natural condition. However, this could limit the ability of the City to continue to use this feature for and could increase sedimentation and habitat degradation in the lower reaches of Boeing Creek.

The City anticipates preparing a master plan for Shoreview Park. This plan will guide the City as it acts to close and rehabilitate user created trails and access points to Hidden Lake and establish public access in a suitable location(s). This will reduce erosion and sedimentation in and around this location. The City is also working with King County in an effort to remove barriers to fish passage along the lower reaches of Boeing Creek. The restoration of viable fish habitat may make the protection of the lower reaches of the Creek from sedimentation (a role played by Hidden Lake) a higher priority.

Comment [sc16]: Is this still relevant?

Comment [sc17]: Is this still on the work program? Has it been accomplished?

Streams and Creeks

Numerous small stream and creeks are found within or adjacent to the City of Shoreline. Many of these streams have been placed in culverts, channels, or otherwise altered and degraded. Boeing Creek flows to the Puget Sound and drains an area which includes Shoreview Park. Thornton Creek originates in Ronald Bog, near the geographic center of the City, flows to Twin Ponds, crosses the City limits, and emerges as an open channel in the City of Seattle’s Jackson Park Golf Course. McAleer Creek flows in the southeasterly direction and passes through the northeast corner of the City and into Lake Forest Park. Lyon Creek flows in a similar direction just outside of the City. Other features include small and unnamed creeks which flow into the Puget Sound in the Richmond Beach, Innis Arden, and Highlands neighborhoods.

Large portions of the watersheds drained by creeks in the City have been paved or otherwise developed. This development dramatically increases the volume of water in the creeks during storm surges and reduces in-stream flows during drier periods of the year. This combination of more intense storm surges and overall lower flows causes numerous environmental problems, including: increased bank erosion, scouring and deepening of the stream channel, reduced water quality, sedimentation of gravels, damage to stream-side

vegetation, and reduction or elimination of habitat for wildlife, fish, and the insects that fish feed on.

McAleeer Creek and Thornton Creek and an area of Puget Sound adjacent to Richmond Beach are currently on the Washington State list of water features that do not meet water quality standards due to high levels of fecal coliform, and in some locations for dissolved oxygen and temperature. It is believed that Boeing Creek does not meet State standards for sediment. Creeks continue to be damaged as a result of large quantities of stormwater as well as by pollutants it may contain.

Comment [m18]: Is this still true? JN: checked data on: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wqawa2008/viewer.htm>

Groundwater

Groundwater aquifers are used for supplying water to lakes, wetlands, and streams during the dry season and for a few private wells that supply water for irrigation and possibly drinking water in a few isolated instances. Wetlands and lakes are thought to be the main groundwater recharge areas in the City.

Comment [jn19]: This is weird wording. They are not "used", except for the wells mentioned. The rest are natural processes.

Water Quality and Drainage

Drainage in the City consists of nine separate areas or drainage basins: Lyons Creek, McAleeer Creek, Thornton Creek, Boeing Creek, West Lake Washington, Bitter Lake, Seattle Golf Club and two separate areas of the Middle Puget Sound Basin (north and south).

Comment [jn20]: Check SW master plan maps/designations. These do not match the current labels on the basins in the GIS.

Along the west half of the City, the Boeing Creek Basin empties directly into Puget Sound, and the Middle Puget Sound basins drain into Puget Sound via small creeks and surface water systems. The McAleeer Creek Basin in the northeastern portion of the City drains into Echo Lake and Lake Ballinger and eventually into Lake Washington. The approximate eastern half of the City from Interstate 5 drains to Lake Washington via Thornton Creek. The Ballinger area drains to Lake Washington via Lyon Creek. Small portions of the City at the north and northeastern edges drain into Lake Washington through small creeks and surface water systems.

Drainage facilities in the City consist of a combination of conveyance pipes, ditches, and stream channels. Much of the development in the City took place in the 1940s and 1950s, prior to the implementation of stormwater mitigation regulations in the 1970s.

Many natural creek systems have been stabilized or reconstructed to repair and prevent slope erosion or bank failures. However, water quality mitigation measures have not been adequate to protect natural waterways. Consequently, the water quality of the lakes and streams in the City has been negatively impacted by the large volumes of polluted runoff that they regularly receive. Although open vegetated drainage ways are generally the preferred option from a water quality standpoint, the construction of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks may be appropriate in areas with urban densities, high vehicular traffic, schools, parks, bus stops, shopping or employment concentrations.

Comment [m21]: What text should be added about improvements to Cromwell Park and the effect on Ronald Bog and where should it go? Are there other recent or potential improvements to note? Should we talk about GreenWorks projects from the SWMP?

Surface water and wetland areas are shown on Figure LU-3 at the end of this section.

Comment [m22]: Will replace map

Air Quality

One of the basic characteristics of a livable city is clean air. Numerous federal, state, regional, and local agencies enact and enforce legislation to protect air quality. Good air quality in Shoreline, and in the region, requires controlling emissions from all sources, including: internal combustion engines, industrial operations, indoor and outdoor burning,

Comment [sc23]: Is this useful for the comp plan? To my knowledge we don't address this directly

and wind-borne particles from land clearing and development. In the Puget Sound region, vehicle emissions are the primary source of air pollution. Local and regional components must be integrated in a comprehensive strategy designed to improve air quality through transportation system improvements, vehicle emissions reductions, and demand management strategies.

Air quality is measured by the concentration of chemical compounds and particulate matter in the air outside of buildings. Air that contains carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter can degrade the health of humans, animals, and plants. Human health risks from poor air quality range in severity from headaches and dizziness to cancer, respiratory disease, and other serious illnesses, to premature death. Potential ecological impacts include damage to trees and other types of vegetation. Quality of life concerns include degradation of visibility and deposition of soot and other particulate matter on homes and other property.

The City seeks long-term strategies to address air quality problems, not only on the local level, but in the context of the entire Puget Sound Basin with coordination and major direction from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Sustainability

What other information should we include for sustainability? We probably don't want to overload with background information, but it is appropriate to discuss our recent and upcoming efforts, such as:

- Cleanscapes programs
- Indicator Tracking website
- City Hall
- Backyard Habitat certification
- Uses of funds from EECBG
- Tree canopy study

Comment [jn24]: Yes. Not sure what is appropriate for the comp plan level of detail, but let me know what I can help with.

Natural Environment Element Supporting Analysis

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Shoreline is a community that developed mostly as a suburban residential area with an associated mix of commercial centers, parks, schools, and natural areas. Natural areas are comprised of the Puget Sound shoreline, bluffs, steep slopes, ravines, natural reserves, wetlands, streams, lakes, native growth easements, and stands of mature trees. These areas are found on both private property and public property, such as larger single family residential lots and City parks.

Portions of Shoreline contain the following environmentally critical areas: geological hazard areas, flood hazard areas, streams, wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The City does not contain any known critical aquifer recharge areas that supply potable water. Drinking water comes from surface systems that originate in the Cascade Mountains and are operated by the Shoreline Water District and the City of Seattle, predominantly from the Tolt River.

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area. A number of steep bluffs are located along the shores of Puget Sound within The Highlands and Innis Arden neighborhoods. The size of these bluffs diminishes in the Richmond Beach neighborhood. Hazards, including landslides and mudslides, have occurred along these steep bluffs. Steep bluffs are also found along the eastern edges of the City. The majority of the remaining areas of the City are located on a rolling plateau with a north/south topographical orientation. Development on or adjacent to severe slopes and highly erodible soils can have a negative impact on slope stability.

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Landslide Hazards

Many of the bluffs along Puget Sound consist of severe slopes and isolated glacial deposits that are susceptible to landslides. These unstable slopes are a major hazard to people, structures, and other land uses and improvements (such as railroad tracks). The identification of areas susceptible to landslides is necessary to effectively regulate grading, building, foundation design, housing density, drainage and to implement other regulations to reduce or eliminate the risk of property damage and personal injury.

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running water is by far the most common within the Puget Sound region. The susceptibility of any soil type to erosion depends upon the physical and chemical characteristics of the soil, its protective vegetative cover, slope length and gradient, intensity of rainfall, and the velocity of water runoff. During storms, water runoff saturates the upper layers of till and sand-gravel. When the water migrates to the less permeable layer of silt-clay below the layer of sand-gravel it begins to flow laterally toward Puget Sound or Lake Washington. Erosion and slides occur as the sand-gravel layer washes away or slides on top of the slippery silt-clay layer. Runoff also erodes topsoil, which contributes to the erosion and landslide hazards.

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Potential geologic hazard areas are shown on Figure LU-2 at the end of this section.

Flood Hazard Areas

Flood hazard areas are those areas within the regulatory floodplain which include the floodway, channel migration zones, riparian habitat zones, and special flood hazard areas. Floodplains have been mapped on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) prepared by FEMA. Within Shoreline, only limited areas adjacent to Thornton and Boeing creeks, Ronald Bog and the Puget Sound Shoreline have been designated as potential floodplains. In addition to floodplains, unmapped spot flooding occurs during storm events in various areas in the City that lack adequate drainage.

Vegetation Protection

Residents characterize the City of Shoreline as a wooded community; this is often cited as a key reason for locating in the area. Large evergreen trees can be seen rising above residential neighborhoods, on hilltops, and even on the periphery of Aurora Avenue. As the City has become more urbanized, the area covered by native ground cover and/or shaded by native trees has been vastly reduced.

Forested open space, wetlands, and native vegetation found on steep slopes and larger residential lots are important resources that should be preserved. Trees help stabilize soils on steep slopes and act as barriers to wind and sound. Plants replenish the soil with nutrients and generate oxygen and clean pollutants from the air. Native vegetation provides habitat for wildlife; the native vegetation found near creeks, lakes, and saltwater areas offer habitats for many migrating and resident birds and other wildlife. Less developed wooded areas and City parks also provide habitats for many birds and mammals. Wetlands and riparian vegetation provide surface water storage and help clean surface water of pollutants and sediment.

Aerial photos show that the community is a mosaic of various types of vegetation. The largest, most contiguous areas of native vegetation in Shoreline are primarily found in City parks, publicly owned open space, privately owned open space (such as the Boeing Creek

area of The Highlands and the reserves in Innis Arden) and designated critical areas (such as steep slopes along the Puget Sound shoreline). These areas include the highest quality wildlife habitat found in the City. However, areas of less intensive residential development also contain mature trees and other native vegetation which provide secondary wildlife habitat and substantially contribute to the quality of life in our City. Native vegetation in residential areas that may be subdivided or otherwise more intensely developed is at the greatest risk of being lost.

Habitat Protection

The process of urbanization can result in the conversion of wildlife habitat to other uses. The loss of certain types of habitat can have significant, adverse effects on the health of certain species. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are those that are necessary for maintaining species within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. Designated habitats include those areas associated with species that state or federal agencies have designated as endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate species, anadromous fish habitat, waterfowl and raptor nests, heron rookeries and designated habitats of local importance.

Currently in the Puget Sound, the bald eagle and Chinook salmon are listed as threatened species by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife indicates bald eagle territory in the Richmond Beach and Point Wells areas. WDFW maps and the City's stream inventory indicate the presence of Chinook salmon in portions (including sections outside of the City) of McAleer Creek, Thornton Creek and Boeing Creek. Other sources have indicated the presence of fish in other streams within the City, although the full extent of fish habitat has not been confirmed. To help restore healthy salmon runs, local governments and the State government must work proactively to address salmon habitat protection and restoration.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has developed the Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Program to help preserve the best and most important habitats and provide for the life requirements of fish and wildlife. Priority species are fish and wildlife species that require protective measures and/or management guidelines to ensure their perpetuation. Priority habitats are habitat types with unique or significant value to many species. The WDFW has documented the locations of priority habitats and species within the City. These PHS areas include wetlands, anadromous fish habitat, riparian areas, bald eagle territory, urban natural open space, habitat for a priority bird species, and the point location of a priority bird species siting. These areas combined comprise less than 5% of the total land area of the City and are often found within existing City parks, public open space, and designated private open space

The City has developed a geographic information system (GIS) that includes detailed maps of PHS areas based on data provided by the WDFW and other mapping resources. WDFW provides management recommendations for priority species and habitats that are intended to assist landowners, users, and managers in conducting land-use activities in a manner that incorporates the needs of fish and wildlife. Management recommendations are developed through a comprehensive review and synthesis of the best scientific information available. The City has reviewed the PHS management recommendations developed by WDFW for species identified in Shoreline and used them to guide the development of critical areas regulations that fit the existing conditions and limitations of our relatively urbanized environment.

Streams and Water Resources

Wetlands

Wetlands perform valuable functions that include surface and flood water storage, water quality improvement, groundwater exchange, stream base flow augmentation, and biological habitat support. A review of background information, including aerial photos from 1992, identified 17 individual wetlands within the City. These wetlands range from the large estuarine system (a mixture of salt and fresh waters) adjacent to Puget Sound, to lakes and small excavated ponds. With the exception of the Puget Sound estuarine system, all wetlands in the City are palustrine systems (freshwater). The largest palustrine system is Echo Lake located in the north-central portion of the City. Other large wetlands include ponds within Ronald Bog Park, Twin Ponds Park, Paramount Park, and the Seattle Country Club, as well as numerous undocumented wetlands of .5 acres or less. Most wetlands in the City are relatively isolated systems and are surrounded by development.

Under the Shoreline Municipal Code, wetlands are designated using a tiered classification system (from Type I to Type IV) based on size, vegetative complexity, and the presence of threatened or endangered species. The entire Puget Sound shoreline is classified as a Type I wetland. This wetland includes approximately 150 acres of aquatic bed and shoreline habitat. No other wetlands in the City have received a Class I rating. All wetlands, regardless of size, are regulated under the Shoreline Municipal Code. When a development is proposed on a site with known or suspected wetlands, a wetland evaluation is required to verify and classify wetlands and delineate boundaries and buffer areas.

All of the documented wetlands within the City have experienced some level of disturbance as a result of development and human activity. Disturbances have included major alterations such as wetland excavation, fill or water impoundment. Some wetland areas occur within parks that receive constant use by people, threatening the wetlands with impacts of human activity, such as trash and trampling of vegetation.

Lakes

There are four lakes in the City of Shoreline: Echo Lake, Ronald Bog, Hidden Lake and Twin Ponds. Like most small urban lakes, Shoreline's lakes contain pollutants and contaminated runoff, including fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens; oils, greases, and heavy metals from vehicles; and fecal coliform bacteria. The quality of the water in the lakes is a concern to many residents and City staff. Ronald Bog and Twin Ponds were historically bogs that were dredged. As urban development in the City has occurred, the process by which the nutrient level and vegetation in these lakes increases has accelerated. Ronald Bog and Twin Ponds will eventually revert to bogs.

Hidden Lake is currently used as a sediment storage facility and has been significantly altered to accommodate this function. King County completely reconstructed this feature by removing the sediment eroded from sites further upstream in the basin. Hidden Lake has served as a sink for this sediment and has protected the water quality and potential fish habitat in the lower reaches of Boeing Creek. Sedimentation will continue to impact Hidden Lake unless action is taken to stabilize the upper reaches of Boeing Creek and/or reduce run-off rates in the upper reaches of the basin. If future stabilization of Boeing Creek includes changes to the channel, the habitat values associated with the upper reaches of the Creek could be reduced. Some community members would like to see Hidden Lake restored to a more natural condition. However, this could limit the ability of the City to

continue to use this feature for and could increase sedimentation and habitat degradation in the lower reaches of Boeing Creek.

The City anticipates preparing a master plan for Shoreview Park. This plan will guide the City as it acts to close and rehabilitate user created trails and access points to Hidden Lake and establish public access in a suitable location(s). This will reduce erosion and sedimentation in and around this location. The City is also working with King County in an effort to remove barriers to fish passage along the lower reaches of Boeing Creek. The restoration of viable fish habitat may make the protection of the lower reaches of the Creek from sedimentation (a role played by Hidden Lake) a higher priority.

Streams and Creeks

Numerous small stream and creeks are found within or adjacent to the City of Shoreline. Many of these streams have been placed in culverts, channels, or otherwise altered and degraded. Boeing Creek flows to the Puget Sound and drains an area which includes Shoreview Park. Thornton Creek originates in Ronald Bog, near the geographic center of the City, flows to Twin Ponds, crosses the City limits, and emerges as an open channel in the City of Seattle's Jackson Park Golf Course. McAleer Creek flows in the southeasterly direction and passes through the northeast corner of the City and into Lake Forest Park. Lyon Creek flows in a similar direction just outside of the City. Other features include small and unnamed creeks which flow into the Puget Sound in the Richmond Beach, Innis Arden, and Highlands neighborhoods.

Large portions of the watersheds drained by creeks in the City have been paved or otherwise developed. This development dramatically increases the volume of water in the creeks during storm surges and reduces in-stream flows during drier periods of the year. This combination of more intense storm surges and overall lower flows causes numerous environmental problems, including: increased bank erosion, scouring and deepening of the stream channel, reduced water quality, sedimentation of gravels, damage to stream-side vegetation, and reduction or elimination of habitat for wildlife, fish, and the insects that fish feed on.

McAleer Creek and Thornton Creek and an area of Puget Sound adjacent to Richmond Beach are currently on the Washington State list of water features that do not meet water quality standards due to high levels of fecal coliform, and in some locations for dissolved oxygen and temperature. It is believed that Boeing Creek does not meet State standards for sediment. Creeks continue to be damaged as a result of large quantities of stormwater as well as by pollutants it may contain.

Groundwater

Groundwater aquifers are used for supplying water to lakes, wetlands, and streams during the dry season and for a few private wells that supply water for irrigation and possibly drinking water in a few isolated instances. Wetlands and lakes are thought to be the main groundwater recharge areas in the City.

Water Quality and Drainage

Drainage in the City consists of nine separate drainage basins: Lyons Creek, McAleer Creek, Thornton Creek, Boeing Creek, West Lake Washington, Bitter Lake, Seattle Golf

Club and two separate areas of the Middle Puget Sound Basin (north and south). Along the west half of the City, the Boeing Creek Basin empties directly into Puget Sound. The Middle Puget Sound basins drain into Puget Sound via small creeks and surface water systems. The McAleer Creek Basin in the northeastern portion of the City drains into Echo Lake and Lake Ballinger and eventually into Lake Washington. The approximate eastern half of the City from Interstate 5 drains to Lake Washington via Thornton Creek. The Ballinger area drains to Lake Washington via Lyon Creek. Small portions of the City at the north and northeastern edges drain into Lake Washington through small creeks and surface water systems.

Drainage facilities in the City consist of a combination of conveyance pipes, ditches, and stream channels. Much of the development in the City took place in the 1940s and 1950s, prior to the implementation of stormwater mitigation regulations in the 1970s.

Many natural creek systems have been stabilized or reconstructed to repair and prevent slope erosion or bank failures. However, water quality mitigation measures have not been adequate to protect natural waterways. Consequently, the water quality of the lakes and streams in the City has been negatively impacted by the large volumes of polluted runoff that they regularly receive. Although open vegetated drainage ways are generally the preferred option from a water quality standpoint, the construction of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks may be appropriate in areas with urban densities, high vehicular traffic, schools, parks, bus stops, shopping or employment concentrations.

Surface water and wetland areas are shown on Figure LU-3 at the end of this section.

Air Quality

One of the basic characteristics of a livable city is clean air. Numerous federal, state, regional, and local agencies enact and enforce legislation to protect air quality. Good air quality in Shoreline, and in the region, requires controlling emissions from all sources, including: internal combustion engines, industrial operations, indoor and outdoor burning, and wind-borne particles from land clearing and development. In the Puget Sound region, vehicle emissions are the primary source of air pollution. Local and regional components must be integrated in a comprehensive strategy designed to improve air quality through transportation system improvements, vehicle emissions reductions, and demand management strategies.

Air quality is measured by the concentration of chemical compounds and particulate matter in the air outside of buildings. Air that contains carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter can degrade the health of humans, animals, and plants. Human health risks from poor air quality range in severity from headaches and dizziness to cancer, respiratory disease, and other serious illnesses, to premature death. Potential ecological impacts include damage to trees and other types of vegetation. Quality of life concerns include degradation of visibility and deposition of soot and other particulate matter on homes and other property.

The City seeks long-term strategies to address air quality problems, not only on the local level, but in the context of the entire Puget Sound Basin with coordination and major direction from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Sustainability

What other information should we include for sustainability? We probably don't want to overload with background information, but it is appropriate to discuss our recent and upcoming efforts, such as:

- Cleanscapes programs
- Indicator Tracking website
- City Hall
- Backyard Habitat certification
- Uses of funds from EECBG
- Tree canopy study



Shoreline Sustainability Strategy: Existing Guidance and Potential Framework Goals and Objectives for Discussion

Summary of Initial Observations

The City has an impressive list of programs that address aspects of sustainability, but lacks a coordinated strategy. The first steps in developing a sustainability strategy are to define the area of concern, identify existing policy guidance and suggest where additional guidance may be needed to provide a framework to guide this effort. The existing comprehensive plan provides policy direction that touches on many of the aspects of sustainability. A preliminary analysis of how the existing comprehensive plan policies address sustainability is attached to this summary.

While existing adopted policies address many aspects of sustainability, they do not:

- **Define the concept of sustainability and the need for a sustainability strategy,**
- **Identify sustainability elements to be addressed and their relationship,**
- **Establish priorities among these elements,**
- **Provide sufficient guidance for an coordinated strategy, including**
- **Guidelines for decision making and progress monitoring.**

Additional direction on sustainability program efforts and priorities is provided or implied in the adopted City Council goal “to create an environmentally sustainable community”. This includes the directive to manage natural resources and environmental assets to preserve, restore and enhance their value for future generations and a finding that “such actions complement community efforts to foster economic and social health”. The Council goal notes specific programs that the City will embark on, including this strategy. The City has also recently adopted the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, which address a range of issues and local actions that will also need to be integrated into the existing policy framework.

In addition to establishing a policy basis for the overall strategy, amending appropriate existing policies to fit within this framework, and integrating recently adopted initiatives, key substantive program gaps have been identified:

- **Establish the City as a leader in sustainability and an educational resource,**
- **Address resource use and carbon emissions in a comprehensive & accountable way,**
- **Promote healthy communities and assess the impacts of decisions on human health,**
- **Define the major elements of a green infrastructure system,**
- **Establish and implement low impact development standards,**
- **Consider social equity and community building as components of sustainability, and**
- **Identify key partnerships, relationships and responsibilities.**

Our initial analysis of policy direction provides examples of potential changes that could be made to initiate and focus the discussion, rather than an exhaustive list of recommendations. More specific implementation actions and strategies will be developed to take the framework policies closer to the ground. The development of framework goals and objectives is an iterative process that will require substantial additional input from the City and stakeholders to complete.

Components of Sustainability

In considering appropriate goals and objectives for the sustainability strategy, the various components of sustainability must first be considered. The components of sustainability are generally divided into three primary categories: ecology, economy, and community. Within these categories are components that address more specific aspects of sustainability under which specific measures and actions may be categorized. Many of these components are synergistic in nature, and therefore may fall under more than one of the primary categories.

The following “working list of sustainability elements” is provided to initiate a discussion of the various aspects of sustainability that could be addressed under the concept of sustainability. Please note that these elements are presented without prioritization. In addition, it will be useful to organize elements according to high level goals. For example: a high level goal to “become a carbon neutral city” might include a variety of specific strategies related to components such as energy use and production, transit, vegetation and non-motorized facilities.

- Energy use and production
- Carbon emissions
- Resource use and waste reduction
- Transit
- Non-motorized facilities
- Water use and quality
- Stormwater run-off
- Air quality
- Toxics
- Land use and development
- Vegetation and habitat
- Open space and parks
- Economic vitality
- Public health and safety
- Community building
- Public awareness and stewardship
- Social equity and environmental justice

The City must make some key choices early on in the development of the sustainability strategy. In identifying the priorities and emphasis of the sustainability strategy and the kind of leadership role the City wants to take, the following questions should be considered:

- Which of these items does the City have the capacity to address?
- Are some of these items beyond the scope of this effort?
- Does the City want to focus on City actions, decisions and leadership?
- How much can the City afford to or want to be involved in measuring and influencing personal behavior?
- Which components should the City seek another public or private organization to lead? To implement?

- Are there items on this list that do not make sense to address for one reason or another?

Policy Direction

The existing comprehensive plan provides policy direction that touches on many of the aspects of sustainability. A matrix that analyzes how the existing comprehensive plan policies address sustainability is attached to this memo. The Comprehensive Plan currently addresses the following concepts at some level:

- protection and enhancement of environmentally sensitive areas,
- protection and enhancement of habitat and vegetation,
- encouraging a mix of land uses near transit,
- promoting non-motorized transportation and transit,
- encouraging reduced energy and material use,
- promoting waste reduction and recycling,
- improving water quality,
- promoting public awareness and stewardship, and
- encouraging local economic vitality.

While the City of Shoreline Comprehensive Plan makes mention of many key aspects of sustainability, there is a need to strengthen existing language to make it more direct and allow for more measurable outcomes. There are key aspects of sustainability that are not currently addressed in Shoreline's Comprehensive plan. Each of these components has many potential policy implications (sub-bullets), some of which would have the City playing a peripheral role, while others may fall beyond the City's sphere of influence. Specific gaps include the need for policy direction that:

- Specifically addresses the concept of sustainability
- Establishes a basis for a city-wide sustainability program and its major elements
- Provides decision criteria and performance measurements that address sustainability
- Addresses energy use and carbon emissions in a measurable and accountable way
 - reducing vehicle miles traveled (beyond TDM policies)
 - reducing use of small engines in park maintenance
 - considering machinery and vehicle use in capital facility projects and maintenance operations
 - green building – energy efficiency
 - renewable energy
- Defines and identifies the elements of green infrastructure
 - Integration of low impact design into new road and utility projects
 - Encouraging landscaping that serves an ecological function
- Identifies partners in achieving sustainability
- Identifies priorities for City actions or at least a process for identifying priorities
- Identifies interventions that improve public health
 - encouraging active lifestyles
 - eliminating use of toxic substances in maintenance operations
 - encouraging use of non-hazardous materials

- access to healthy food
- Addresses social equity
 - meeting human needs fairly and efficiently
 - access to healthy food
 - participatory planning (decentralized)
 - affordable housing
 - equitable provision of infrastructure and facilities
- Promotes local and/or regional food production/consumption
 - farmer's markets
 - p-patch program
 - public awareness campaigns
 - farm to school programs
- Integrates community building efforts into the discussion of sustainability
 - Public spaces
 - Art and culture

The Role of the Sustainability Strategy

The Sustainability Work Group should consider the level of detail it wishes to see in the Comprehensive Plan and the exact nature of the relationship between this document and the Sustainability Strategy. As part of the sustainability strategy, the City should establish a policy framework for sustainability in its comprehensive plan. As with other aspects of the City's planning framework, the Comprehensive Plan should identify the vision for a sustainable Shoreline, broad sustainability goals, and limited specific direction related to key objectives, outcomes, priorities, and future efforts. The inclusion of sustainability in the Comprehensive Plan will provide a legal basis to incorporate the concept of sustainability in the cities codes, regulatory decisions, capital improvements and other key decisions. However, as with other aspects of City policy making, from neighborhood plans to transportation improvements, the Comprehensive Plan requires other documents to effectively establish and prioritize specific programs, priorities and desired future outcomes.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy will provide the vehicle to establish both the broader policy direction and many of the specific actions that will make up the strategic plan. For example, while framework policies (that will also be included in the Comprehensive Plan) might direct the City to establish measurable goals for waste reduction, fleet conversion or transit ridership, or to develop decision tools for procurement, the actual numeric goals, measurement standards and decision matrix would be identified in the Environmental Strategy or another implementation vehicle that is specific in the Strategy.

The Sustainability Strategy will thus serve as both a stand alone plan for easy reference and a document that references other written policy and program direction where elements of sustainability are or will be incorporated. We recommend that in addition to the broader 20 year Comprehensive Plan time horizon, framework goals and objectives related to sustainability be explicitly developed for the immediate (e.g. within 1 year), near term (e.g. within 3 years), and medium term (e.g. 6 years or concurrency time frame) time horizons.

Some examples (non-exhaustive) of potential sustainability goals and policies to initiate group discussion are included below:

Comprehensive Plan Framework Goal: Shoreline strives to be a sustainable community. The City of Shoreline will promote a sustainable future that meets today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. We will consider the relationship between the decisions that we make and their long-term impacts before committing to them. We accept responsibility to:

- *Support a stable, diverse and equitable economy*
- *Improve the livability, safety and health of our community*
- *Protect the quality of the air, water, land and other natural resources*
- *Minimize human impacts on ecosystems*
- *Reduce energy and resource consumption*
- *Conserve and restore native vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat*
- *Maintain an open and fair decision making process that promotes our commitment to social equity*

Example Comprehensive Plan Framework Policies:

Establish and maintain a City-wide Environmental Sustainability Strategy that includes:

1. *Criteria for environmentally sustainable decision making;*
2. *The defined existing and potential green infrastructure system for the City;*
3. *An assessment of how the City is doing so far and suggestions for improvement;*
4. *Measures for tracking progress toward environmental sustainability, and a*
5. *Capacity assessment for implementation.*

Encourage and develop connections between environmental quality and economic vitality. Promote development that reduces adverse effects on ecology and the natural resource capital base and supports employment opportunities for our citizens.

Develop and use criteria so that the impact of City decisions, including land use, capital facilities, procurement and other efforts, on sustainability goals and objectives can be properly considered before resources are committed.

Develop, maintain and report on indicators to track the City's progress towards achieving identified sustainability goals and objectives.

The City recognizes that the decisions it makes have impacts on human health. The City will establish and implement tools to address the human health impacts of City decisions, including land use plans and private development permits.

Support and implement the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and other multi-jurisdictional efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses and address climate change (more specific policies can be created based on this agreement or the measures could be summarized in bullets).

Ensure the City's commitment to equity so environmental impacts and the costs of protecting the environment do not unfairly burden any one geographic or socioeconomic sector of the City.

Consider long term environmental and life cycle operating costs in purchasing decisions and seek mechanisms to integrate environmental and social costs in the fees the City charges for goods and services..

Work with stakeholders to define and prioritize the components of the City's existing and proposed green infrastructure system: an interconnected network of protective and restored lands, water and vegetation that maintains or mimics natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, supports native species, provides human connections and contributes to the health and quality of life of the community. Incorporate green infrastructure plans into the Capital Facilities Plan.

Finally, in addition to framework goals and policies that can be included in the Comprehensive Plan, more specific goals objectives can be identified primarily within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy document (which may or may not be incorporated by reference into the Comprehensive Plan). **Appropriate specific objectives could include, but are not limited to, such things as:**

- **Specific ecological measurement systems**
- **Waste reduction and recycling targets**
- **Carbon emission reduction targets**
- **Stream and restoration goals expressed in acreage and lineal feet**
- **Green Infrastructure system development benchmarks**
- **Basin-wide hydrology goals**
- **Canopy coverage targets**
- **Low Impact development expressed in acres**
- **City green buildings**
- **City low impact development capital projects**
- **Integrated pest management benchmarks**
- **City fleet conversion goals and benchmarks**
- **Commitments to specific toxic reduction goals and zero use implementation and monitoring**
- **Health Impact Assessment implementation benchmarks**
- **Other more specific objectives that are closely related to the criteria and indicators and are too specific and detailed for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan**

The following table summarizes some initial analysis on existing comprehensive plan policies, how they address applicable elements of sustainability, and how they might be modified as previously described. This is a working list for discussion and is not an exhaustive analysis. We encourage Sustainability Working Group members to add comments to this form as a way to offer comments on this ongoing analysis.



City of Shoreline: Working Matrix of Existing Core Comprehensive Plan Policy Guidance on Sustainability 7/17/06

The following table contains some initial analysis of the applicability of existing comprehensive plan goals and policies to elements of environmental sustainability. Some gaps and/or potential modifications have been noted. This is a “working list” that will be added to as the analysis proceeds. We encourage Sustainability Working Group Members to provide comments on other existing policies that may have been omitted, perceived gaps, modifications and potential new policies and email the document with your input to Gabe Snedeker at gsnedeker@ahbl.com.

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
Land Use			
Goal LU XIII	Through leadership, policy, and regulation, the City shall strive to minimize impacts on the natural environment. The City shall lead and support efforts to protect and improve the natural environment, protect and preserve environmentally critical areas, and minimize pollution and the waste of energy and materials.	Environmentally sensitive areas Energy use Resource use and waste reduction	Address “sustainability”, include economic vitality, social equity in any broader goal that is developed to address sustainability.
Goal LU XV	Protect, enhance and restore habitat of sufficient diversity and abundance to sustain existing indigenous fish and wildlife populations. Balance the conditional right of private property owners to develop and alter land with the protection of native vegetation and critical areas.	Vegetation and habitat	
Goal LU XVI	Ensure clean air for present and future generations through the promotion of efficient and effective solutions to transportation issues, clean industries, and development.	Air quality	Relate the need for clean air to community sustainability. Consider additional policy language to address the human health impacts of development.

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
Goal LU XVII	Manage the storm and surface water system through a combination of engineered solutions and the preservation of natural systems in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide for public safety <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent property damage <input type="checkbox"/> Protect water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and critical areas <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain a hydrologic balance 	Water quality Vegetation and habitat	This goal could be tied more directly to Green Streets or complete streets concepts
Goal LUXVIII	Preserve, protect, and, where feasible, restore wetlands , shorelines, surface water, and ground water for wildlife, appropriate human use, and the maintenance of hydrological and ecological processes.	Water quality Vegetation and Habitat	
Goal LU XIX	Use education as a tool to increase protection of critical areas and understanding of environmental values.	Public Awareness and Stewardship	Review educational policies and broaden to include references beyond critical areas
Policies			
LU10	Review and update infill standards for single-family houses that promote quality development and reflect the character of the existing neighborhood. These standards shall address at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> design and siting in accordance with natural environment <input type="checkbox"/> building height <input type="checkbox"/> bulk and scale <input type="checkbox"/> type and number of accessory buildings <input type="checkbox"/> pervious and impervious surface coverage <input type="checkbox"/> lot coverage by buildings <input type="checkbox"/> setbacks for front, back and side yards <input type="checkbox"/> storm water runoff <input type="checkbox"/> provision of public sewers and water <input type="checkbox"/> limits on outside storage of more than one 	Water quality Vegetation and habitat	Integrate green building techniques into site development standards, energy efficiency, green infrastructure

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	inoperative vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> landscaping <input type="checkbox"/> privacy and defensible space <input type="checkbox"/> attractive street frontage <input type="checkbox"/> screening of on site storage of recreational vehicles and boats <input type="checkbox"/> compatibility with neighborhood character		
LU 15	Periodically review new multifamily residential development and redevelopment standards adopted by the City to ensure that the standards: <input type="checkbox"/> preserve and/or enhances existing vegetation, including trees; <input type="checkbox"/> includes architectural/design features, such as building modulation, porches, balconies, window treatment, to enhance the existing community character and improve street frontage; <input type="checkbox"/> address siting that protects the natural environment (e.g. habitat areas, site terrain, wetlands); <input type="checkbox"/> respect adjacent development by providing setbacks, height reductions and/or buffers for lesser densities; <input type="checkbox"/> provide an attractive street frontage; <input type="checkbox"/> cluster on site to provide the maximum open space, including recreation and/or play areas and other amenities available to residents; <input type="checkbox"/> provide for privacy between units; <input type="checkbox"/> provide for ground orientation and/or usage for all units; <input type="checkbox"/> provide for on-site, screened parking for vehicles which is not located in front yard setback areas; <input type="checkbox"/> screen any onsite storage for recreational	Vegetation and habitat Environmentally sensitive areas Open space Non-motorized transportation	Integrate green building techniques into site development standards Address impervious surface coverage Landscaping-green infrastructure Proximity to transit Reduced parking

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	vehicles; <input type="checkbox"/> do not allow for outside storage of more than one inoperative vehicle; <input type="checkbox"/> provide pedestrian connections within project and to adjacent uses such as bike lanes and walking trails; and <input type="checkbox"/> screen loading and unloading areas.		
LU20	Provide public investment and priority services to specified neighborhood and community business areas to increase their overall economic health through methods such as: <input type="checkbox"/> organizational development of merchants association <input type="checkbox"/> coordinated permit review for new development <input type="checkbox"/> coordinated land use planning and subarea planning for business and neighborhood areas <input type="checkbox"/> Metro King County transit improvements <input type="checkbox"/> transportation and traffic improvements <input type="checkbox"/> pedestrian and bicycle improvements <input type="checkbox"/> aesthetic improvements such as street trees and street furniture <input type="checkbox"/> enhanced business area image <input type="checkbox"/> community-building through events and celebrations <input type="checkbox"/> an area-specific planned action environmental review <input type="checkbox"/> a “Main Street Program” approach, if suitable	Economic vitality Non-motorized transportation Community building Environmentally sensitive areas	Programs that support local business, consider tying economic health more directly to community health and sustainability
LU22	Provide incentives such as increased height and bulk up to 30% of allowed floor area ratio if a development provides at least three of the following... : landscaping which exceeds requirements by	Vegetation and habitat Air quality Water quality	Expand definition of landscaping to include green infrastructure function and provide “Seattle green factor” type flexibility for urban sites that emphasizes visible landscaping that has green

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	30% or more		infrastructure function and helps create public places.
LU58	Ensure that newly annexed areas provide resources to preserve and/or improve environmental quality , where appropriate, through identification and protection of watersheds, open space corridors, preservation of environmentally critical areas , water quality , dedication and construction of trail and parks systems, if necessary, and maintenance of existing flora and fauna.	Water quality Open space Environmentally sensitive areas Vegetation and habitat	
LU61	Require large commercial or residential projects to include transit stop improvements such as bus pullouts or shelters when supported by the transit agency. Transit agencies should be notified of major developments and have the opportunity to suggest improvements that will improve transit operations or attractiveness.	Transit	
LU72	Ensure that the design of these [Essential Public] facilities will mitigate impacts to the project site and to the affected community through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of aesthetically compatible buffers (e.g. fences, landscaping and similar means) to separate the Essential Public Facility from surrounding uses. ○ Open space as part of the development plan. Where feasible and appropriate, this open space should be accessible to the public. 	Vegetation and habitat Open space	Green infrastructure, low impact development
LU83	Lead and support regulatory efforts, incentives, and projects to protect and improve the natural environment and preserve environmentally critical areas consistent with federal and state	Environmentally sensitive areas	

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	requirements. Where different state and federal requirements exist, the more stringent of the two shall be applied.		
LU85	Conduct all City operations in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts . The City should reduce its consumption and waste of energy and materials , minimize its use of toxic and polluting substances , reuse and recycle, and dispose of all waste in a safe and responsible manner. The City should give preference to recycled products, and alternative energy sources, whenever feasible.	Energy use Resource use and waste reduction	Tie policy directly to sustainability. Need stronger language and “teeth” to set real goals and provide accountability for waste reduction, toxic reduction and use of recycled products.
LU86	Support, promote, and lead public education and involvement programs to raise public awareness about environmental issues , advocate respect for the environment, encourage individual and community efforts to protect the environment , and provide opportunities for the community and visitors to respect and enjoy Shoreline’s unique environmental features.	Public Awareness and Stewardship	Work with school district to involve students in local sustainability programs, i.e. track waste reduction, energy use, public outreach efforts, etc. Policy can be tied more directly to sustainability and along with policy above could be modified to provide key direction.
LU87	Provide incentives for site development that will minimize environmental impacts. Incentives may include density bonuses for cluster development and a transfer of development rights (TDR) program.		Rather than, or in addition to “minimize”, provide incentives for projects that “enhance” or “restore”. Consider tying this policy into work by the Cascade Land Conservancy, and broader regional initiatives.
LU92	Develop, actively participate in, and help publicize, local and regional programs to conserve open space and protect environmentally critical areas , including future transfer of development rights (TDR) programs, conservation efforts of the Land Conservancy of Seattle and King County, and King County’s Public Benefit Rating System.	Open space Environmentally sensitive areas	See Cascade Land Conservancy Development incentives (LU87)

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
LU96	<p>Encourage the use of “green” building methods and materials (such as LEED, Built Green, etc.) that may reduce impacts on the built and natural environment, such as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce stormwater impacts to protect local watersheds and salmon, <input type="checkbox"/> Conserve energy and water, <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent air and water pollution and conserve natural resources, <input type="checkbox"/> Improve indoor air quality, and <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance building durability. 	<p>Energy use Resource use and waste reduction Water quality Air quality</p>	<p>Integrate green building techniques into site development standards. Provide incentives to encourage. E.g. offer height, density or other incentives for recycled content and other “green” material use</p>
LU97	<p>Mitigate drainage, erosion, siltation, and landslide impacts while encouraging native vegetation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> utilizing geotechnical engineering, <input type="checkbox"/> clustering development to avoid hazards, <input type="checkbox"/> decreasing development intensity, building site coverage and impervious surfaces, and <input type="checkbox"/> limiting vegetation removal that would increase hazards. <p>Development regulations and required mitigation shall fit the specific type and level of potential impact.</p>	<p>Water quality Vegetation and habitat</p>	
LU103	<p>Promote educational efforts to inform landowners about site development, drainage, and yard maintenance practices which impact slope stability.</p>	<p>Public awareness and stewardship</p>	<p>Create or reference a more specific stewardship program</p>
LU 107	<p>Develop educational materials, incentives, policies, and regulations to conserve native vegetation on public and private land for wildlife habitat and human enjoyment. The city shall establish regulations to protect mature trees and other native vegetation from the negative impacts of residential and commercial development, including short-plat development.</p>	<p>Public awareness and stewardship Vegetation and habitat Land Use and Development</p>	<p>Initiate stewardship program such as Audubon habitat certification, tie into more specific canopy coverage goals</p>

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
LU112	Identify and protect wildlife corridors prior to and during land development through public education, incentives, regulation, and code enforcement.	Public awareness and stewardship Vegetation and habitat Land Use and Development	Sustainability program should address how the idea of wildlife corridor protection could be implemented. Specific mechanisms are needed.
LU120	Achieve a level of no net loss of wetlands function and value within each drainage basin over the long term. Shoreline should seek to maintain total wetlands acreage over the long term.	Environmentally sensitive areas	
LU139	Restrict the water runoff rate to predevelopment levels and restore water quality to predevelopment levels for all new development and redevelopment.	Environmentally sensitive areas Water quality	Need to consider what “predevelopment” means in terms of moving towards a greater level of protection
LU142	Support enhanced water quality and the percolation of water at natural rates near its source to limit soil instability or damage to roadways or other improvements. Measures may include appropriate landscaping, swales, “Green Street” improvements, natural retention facilities, pollution control devices, and improved storm water facilities.	Water quality Land Use and Development	Establish ad definition for complete streets/.green streets and how this relates to the concept of green infrastructure. Establish implementation strategies to implement low impact development standards
LU143	Protect water quality through the continuation and possible expansion of the street sweeping program.	Water quality	Need additional policies that address water quality impacts of public works activities and management
LU146	Maintain and enhance natural drainage systems, to protect water quality, reduce public costs, protect property, and prevent environmental degradation.	Water quality Economic vitality	Integrate green infrastructure into developed areas, restore natural systems in developed areas
LU 156	Reduce the amount of air-borne particulates through continuation and possible expansion of the street-sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, and other methods to address	Air quality Public Health	Relate this policy to human health sustainability element

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	particulate sources.		
Housing			
H15	Ensure that a proportion of housing created through an increase in permitted density is priced to accommodate low and moderate income households.	Social equity	Equate housing goal with overall community health
Transportation			
T7	Designate "Green Streets" on select arterials and neighborhood collectors that connect schools, parks, neighborhood centers and other key destinations. Compile design standards for each "Green Street" type.	Non-motorized transportation Land Use and Development	Adopt complete streets ordinance or resolution
T10	Implement the Transportation Master Plan that integrates "Green Streets", bicycle routes, curb ramps, major sidewalk routes, street classification, bus routes and transit access, street lighting and roadside storm drainage improvements. Promote adequate capacity on the roadways and intersections to provide access to homes and businesses.	Transit Non-motorized transportation	Adopt complete streets ordinance or resolution
T11	Coordinate transportation infrastructure design and placement to serve multiple public functions when possible, i.e. integrate storm water management, parks development and transportation facility design.	Water quality Open space Transit	
T14	The City of Shoreline shall pursue the development of a multi-modal measure for Level of Service that takes into account not only vehicular travel and delay, but transit service and other modes of travel.	Transit Non-motorized transportation	Need policy language that addresses the human health impacts of transportation choices and new development.
T20	Establish a pavement management system		Eliminate use of toxic weed-control chemicals
T27	Place high priority on sidewalk projects that abut or provide connections to schools, parks, transit, shopping, or large places of employment.	Non-motorized transportation Public Health	

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
T36	Develop an off-street trail system that serves a recreational and transportation function. Preserve rights-of-way for future non-motorized trail connections, and utilize utility easements for trails when feasible.	Non-motorized transportation Open space Public health	
T42	Accommodate bicycles in future roadway or intersection improvement projects.	Non-motorized transportation Public health	Adopt complete streets ordinance or resolution
Parks and Recreation			
PR2	Preserve, protect and enhance areas with critical or unique natural features -- such as stream corridors, wildlife habitats, shorelines and wetlands -- especially if endangered by development, and educate the public on the importance of stewardship through a variety of mechanisms.	Environmentally sensitive areas Vegetation and habitat Open space Public awareness and Stewardship	
PR7	Utilize sound maintenance practices and design and development guidelines to ensure the careful stewardship of natural resources and habitat in the park system.	Vegetation and habitat Resource use and waste reduction	Integrate life-cycle analysis into project development and maintenance, eliminate use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers
PR9	Develop and distribute multi-use neighborhood, community and regional park facilities throughout the City to satisfy varying levels of citizen needs.	Social equity	
PR17	Develop alliances with other public and private agencies and organizations in order to avoid duplication and reduce costs through joint planning and development of facilities and programs.	Open space Economic vitality Resource use and waste reduction Land Use and Development	Development incentives for open space
PR21	Identify opportunities to develop pedestrian and bicycle connections in and around the City to expand connectivity of community amenities with a specific focus on linking neighborhoods	Non-motorized transportation Public health Open Space	Conduct a non-motorized audit and develop/update plan

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	with parks.		
PR22	Develop trail systems within parks and in the Interurban right-of-way focusing on linking these systems with existing, planned and future local and regional trails through coordination with Planning and Public Works and where possible enhancing historic watersheds.	Non-motorized transportation Public health Open space	
Capital Facilities			
CF17	Give highest funding priority to capital facility improvements that protect the public health and safety .	Public Health	Minimize impact on environment, serve multiple functions
CF21	Evaluate proposed public capital facility projects to identify net costs and benefits, including impacts on transportation, surface water, parks, and other public services. For those projects where it is possible to increase the community benefit of the project and it is cost effective, assign greater funding priority to those projects that provide a higher net benefit and provide multiple functions to the community over projects that provide single or fewer functions.		Introduce life cycle costs criteria into evaluation process
CF26	Promote the collocation of capital facilities (if viable) to enhance the efficient use of land, reduce public costs, and minimize disruption to the community.	Economic vitality Land Use and Development Community building	
CF27	Through site selection and design seek opportunities to minimize the impact of capital facilities on the environment, and if possible, include enhancements to the natural environment.	Environmentally sensitive areas Land Use and Development	Adopt low impact development standards
CF35	Investigate water reuse and water conservation opportunities that: <input type="checkbox"/> diminish impacts on water, wastewater, and	Resource Use and waste reduction Water Quality	"Pursue" rather than investigate

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	surface water systems, <input type="checkbox"/> promote the conservation or improvement of natural systems.		
CF36	Encourage the use of ecologically sound site design in ways that enhance the provision of utility services through measures such as: <input type="checkbox"/> using drought tolerant vegetation in landscaping to reduce water consumption, <input type="checkbox"/> using native vegetation in places such as natural or buffer areas to reduce surface water or wetland impacts, <input type="checkbox"/> promoting solar orientation on site to reduce energy consumption, <input type="checkbox"/> reducing impervious surfaces or excessive run-off to maintain natural drainage systems, and <input type="checkbox"/> encouraging tree retention to prevent erosion and provide wildlife habitat, etc.	Resource use and waste reduction Vegetation and habitat Water quality Energy use	“require” rather than encourage
Utilities			
U6	Encourage the design, siting, construction, operation, and relocation or closure of all utility systems in a manner that: <input type="checkbox"/> is cost effective , <input type="checkbox"/> minimizes and mitigates impacts on adjacent land uses, <input type="checkbox"/> is environmentally sensitive , and <input type="checkbox"/> is appropriate to the location and need.	Environmentally sensitive areas Resource use and waste reduction Economic vitality	benefits the community through by serving multiple functions
U8	Encourage utilities to consider the replacement of outdated equipment with technologically updated or advanced alternatives, providing that the cost of the updated equipment is fiscally reasonable.		Add renewable energy technology
U10	Support recycling efforts throughout the community	Resource use and waste reduction	Strengthen - Require recycling, support reuse of materials, encourage non-

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
			hazardous material use
U11	Where found to be safe and appropriate, promote recreational use of utility corridors, such as trails, sport courts, and similar facilities.	Non-motorized transportation Public Health	
Economic Development			
ED1	Improve economic vitality by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging existing businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting new businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging economic services for the community <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperating with businesses to create strategies and action plans <input type="checkbox"/> Assuring increased housing density around commercial districts <input type="checkbox"/> Developing design guidelines to enhance commercial areas 	Economic vitality	“economic gardening” – providing resources and other support to local business (Tacoma)
ED5	Encourage land uses which increase the City’s tax base		Should emphasize living wages and not undermining local small business
ED9	Emphasize attracting living wage jobs to the community	Economic vitality Social equity	
ED15	Support and retain small businesses for their jobs and services that they provide to the community.	Economic vitality Community building	Participate in programs/campaigns that promote small businesses
ED20	Direct capital improvements to key areas to promote the City’s image, create a sense of place , and to grow and attract businesses.	Economic vitality Community building	See ED38
ED37	Ensure that infrastructure can meet the needs of existing and planned future commercial development including utilities, communication, transportation, and high-technology facilities.	Economic vitality Land use and Development	
ED 38	Encourage and promote business districts by creating physical plans to improve the	Economic vitality	

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	appearance and function of their streets, sidewalks, utilities, access, lighting, buildings, signage, landscaping, etc		
Community Design			
CD6	Encourage development to provide public amenities, such as public and pedestrian access , pedestrian-oriented building design, mid-block connections, public spaces , activities, openness, sunlight, and view preservation.	Non-motorized transportation Community building Open space	
CD18	City projects and those on City owned property should use native, drought tolerant plantings and natural pesticides and fertilizers where appropriate.	Resource use and waste reduction Vegetation and habitat Water quality	Promote “pesticide-free” landscapes and native plantings through signage and other outreach efforts
CD19	Encourage the use of appropriate landscape design in commercial and residential settings.	Vegetation and habitat	Encourage development of green infrastructure, natural drainage,
CD20	Encourage large scale, residential and commercial development to consolidate onsite landscape areas, especially when site frontage can be enhanced.	Vegetation and habitat	Encourage development of green infrastructure, natural drainage,
CD24	Preserve, encourage, and enhance open space as a significant element of the community’s character through parks, trails, water features, and other significant properties (such as cemeteries) that provide public benefit.	Open space	
CD36	Where appropriate, provide sidewalks, walkways, and trails with lighting, seating, landscaping, street trees, public art, bike racks, railings, newspaper boxes, trash receptacles, etc. These improvements should be compatible with safe pedestrian circulation .	Non-motorized transportation Public health	
CD37	Develop “Green Street” standards to be applied as an overlay to existing street design standards. The “Green Street” standards shall	Vegetation and habitat Non-motorized	

Goal/Policy	Content	Applicability	Gap/Potential Modification
	provide guidelines for an enhanced streetscape, including street trees, landscaping, lighting, pathways, crosswalks, bicycle facilities, decorative paving, signs, seasonal displays, and public art. The “Green Street” standards shall vary consistent with the underlying street classification.	transportation Open space	
CD38	Develop a program to implement “Green Street” improvements that prioritizes connections to schools, parks, neighborhood centers and other key destinations.	Non-motorized transportation	
CD44	Encourage site and building designs that support and connect with existing or planned transit facilities in the vicinity.	Transit	“Require” rather than “encourage”
CD53	Preserve the natural character of neighborhoods by minimizing the removal of existing vegetation, especially mature trees, when improving streets or developing property.	Vegetation and habitat	Relate this policy to specific sustainability goals and objectives

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PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Study Session on Draft Amendments to Title 20 related to Floodplain Management ordinance update

DEPARTMENT: Planning & Community Development

PRESENTED BY: Juniper Nammi, Associate Planner
Brian Landau, Surface Water Manager

Public Hearing
 Discussion

Study Session
 Update

Recommendation Only
 Other

INTRODUCTION

In response to direction from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a proposed Floodplain Management ordinance (FMO) is currently being drafted to replace our current Chapter 16.12 SMC Flood Damage Prevention. The proposed FMO will be located in Chapter 13.12 and Chapter 16.12 will be deleted. The FMO will bring the City's regulations into compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and maintain the community's eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Replacement of this chapter requires associated changes to the Title 20 SMC Development Code.

The purpose of this study session is to:

- Briefly review proposed Development Code amendments associated with the FMO;
- Respond to questions regarding the proposed amendments;
- Gather public comment;
- Deliberate and, if necessary, ask further questions of staff; and
- Develop a recommended set of Development Code Amendments for the public hearing.

BACKGROUND

The City's current Floodplain Management regulations are located in Chapter 16.12 SMC Flood Damage Prevention and Chapter 20.80 SMC Critical Areas, Subchapter 5. Flood Hazard Areas. Chapter 16.12 was adopted in 1997 and has not been updated. Chapter 20.80, Subchapter 5. Flood Hazard Areas was adopted as part of the Critical Areas Ordinance in 2000, with minor updates in 2003 and 2006. This section is required to meet the Growth Management Act minimum requirements to address Frequently Flooded Areas as a type of critical area.

The City of Shoreline received communication from FEMA in July 2010 and August 2011 directing us to update our floodplain management regulations to bring them into compliance with the ESA.

Approved By:

Project Manager *JN*

Planning Director *PM*

Three options were given for complying with the performance standards of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) outlined in the September 22, 2008 Biological Opinion for the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in the Puget Sound Region:

1. Adopting the ESA compliant model ordinance.
2. Use the FEMA provided Biological Opinion checklist to demonstrate that current or proposed ordinances, policies and procedures meet or exceed the RPA performance standards.
3. Review projects for compliance with the ESA on a permit by permit basis.

As an interim measure the permit by permit option (3) was selected, with the intention of amending our local ordinances (option 1) by June of 2012.

In order to update and consolidate the floodplain management regulations, revisions to at least two portions of the SMC – Chapter 16.12 and Title 20, together with administrative procedures for permit review, are necessary. Chapter 16.12 will be deleted and replaced with a new Chapter 13.12.

The proposed FMO is the responsibility of the Public Works Department Surface Water Division. Staff from Public Works is working closely with P&CD staff to draft revisions to the FEMA Floodplain Management model ordinance, *Floodplain Management and the Endangered Species Act: A Model Ordinance, January 2012, FEMA Region 10*, scheduled for consideration and adoption by the City Council in June this year, included as **Attachment D**.

The specific amendments that are the responsibility of the Planning Commission, to review and provide recommendations to Council, are revisions to Title 20, SMC Development Code. The development code sections identified as requiring amendment in light of the proposed FMO includes three components:

- Critical Areas - Modify Chapter 20.80 for consistency with the proposed new FMO, Chapter 13.12, including:
 1. Clarification of Critical Areas purpose statement; and
 2. Modify Flood Hazard Areas provisions.
- Definitions – Modify one definition and delete 14 duplicate or obsolete definitions related to Flood Hazard Areas and Floodplain regulations to be consistent with the proposed FMO, including:
 1. Delete the following terms (some of which will be replaced in the proposed FMO): Base Flood, Base Flood Elevation, Coastal High Hazard Area, Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) Floodway, Flood, Flood Fringe, Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Flood Insurance Study for King County, Flood Protection Elevation, Floodplain, Floodproofing, Floodway, Floodway (zero-rise), and Substantial Improvement; and
 2. Modify the following definition: Flood Hazard Area.

- Administrative Changes - Modify miscellaneous administrative/procedural development regulations in Chapter 20.30, including:
 1. Add Floodplain Development Permit and Floodplain Variance to table of Ministerial decisions – Type A;
 2. Specify that the Critical Area Special Use Permit and Critical Area Reasonable Use Permit processes do not apply to Flood Hazard Areas;
 3. Add provision for compliance with Chapter 13.12 under Environmental review criteria for preliminary subdivision review; and
 4. Add provision for declaration of violations of Chapter 13.12 as public nuisance.

Additional work plan items that do not directly affect the Commission, but are enumerated for clarity include:

- A new Floodplain Management code to replace the existing Chapter 16.12 SMC Flood Damage Prevention. This code will be based on the Model Ordinance provided by FEMA (**Attachment D**) to be adopted as Chapter 13.12. It includes most of the provisions currently in Chapter 16.12, updates the definition of the regulatory floodplain and applicable regulatory data, clarifies the requirements for a Floodplain Development Permit or Variance, updates the protection of structures standards, and adds standards for development and habitat protection which will replace the standards previously located in Chapter 20.80 SMC Critical Areas, Subchapter 5. Flood Hazard Areas.
- Development of administrative procedures for the required Floodplain Development Permit and Floodplain Variance.
- Update of critical area map data used for identification of properties overlain by Flood Hazard Areas based on updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps. These areas include the Puget Sound shoreline, portions of Boeing Creek and Thornton Creek, including Ronald Bog.
- Review of Chapter 15.05 and the adopted construction and building codes to ensure consistency between those codes and the proposed standards for protection of structures in the FMO.

This is the first time Commission has been asked to consider these particular revisions. Staff will present the changes and supporting rationale at the study session for Commission review and comment. A public hearing on these amendments is currently scheduled for May 3, 2012.

The proposed modifications are attached in legislative format (with underlining and strikeouts) in **Attachments A, B & C**. In most cases, staff has included a written summary of the background and thinking for the requested changes below.

PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS

The Floodplain Management ordinance is proposed in order to bring the City's floodplain regulations into compliance with the ESA. This proposal will accomplish a number of changes:

- It updates the terms and concepts as well as the data used to define and delineate the regulatory floodplain.

- New habitat protection standards are added.
- Administration of the regulations will be transferred from the Planning & Community Development Director to the Public Works Director.
- The permit and development requirements for proposals within the regulatory floodplain are laid out more clearly. Including the explicit requirement for a Floodplain Development Permit or Floodplain Variance, where these standards were previously reviewed under the building or site development permit applications.

Associated development code updates are needed in order to ensure the existing definitions, critical area standards, and administrative procedures/criteria are consistent with the proposed FMO and to eliminate redundancy or conflicting codes.

❖ **Critical Areas**

The amendments to Chapter 20.80 SMC Critical Areas are the result of new or conflicting code provisions proposed to be located in the Floodplain Management regulations. The proposed FMO is based on the Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management specifically developed for FEMA Region 10 and is based on the September 22, 2008, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion. The NMFS Biological Opinion includes specific criteria for development in the regulatory floodplain in compliance with the ESA. This Biological Opinion is the current best available science for floodplain development and thus flood hazard areas in FEMA Region 10.

Flood hazard areas are a required type of critical area that must be addressed in our Critical Areas regulations per WAC 365-190, Minimum guidelines to classify agriculture, forest, mineral lands, and critical areas. Staff recommends that most of the specific regulations to be applied to flood hazard areas should be referred to the proposed Chapter 13.12, rather than retaining duplicate or conflicting standards in Chapter 20.80.

20.80.010 Purpose – The general purpose statement for the Critical Areas chapter identifies meeting the requirements of the NFIP and maintaining the City's eligibility for Federal flood insurance benefits as one purpose of this chapter. This purpose is now the primary purview of the FMO. Staff recommends deleting this statement from the general Critical Area purpose, but leaving it in the subsequent purpose statement for Flood Hazard Areas in 20.80.360 as well as in the Floodplain Management regulations.

Subchapter 5, 20.80.360 Description and purpose – Flood hazard areas were previously defined as including floodplain, flood fringe, zero-rise floodway and the FEMA floodway. These terms are either obsolete or have been redefined. Staff recommends changing the description of flood hazard area proposed for consistency with the new FMO.

20.80.360(C) – Addresses the possibility of designation, by State or Federal government, of tsunami hazard areas. These areas, if they were ever to be

designated, are not the subject of the City's regulations so there is no regulatory requirement or basis for this statement. Staff recommends deleting this statement.

20.80.370 Classification – The data and definitions related to identification and classification of flood hazard areas, otherwise known as the Regulatory Floodplain comprised of the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the Protected Areas as defined in the new FMO, are currently defined in both Chapter 16.12 Flood Damage Prevention and the Flood Hazard Areas section of Chapter 20.80. Staff recommends simplifying the Flood Hazard Areas explanation of how flood hazard areas are determined and classified and adding reference to the more detailed regulations proposed for Chapter 13.12.

Existing sections 20.80.380 through 20.80.410 – Staff recommends deleting these sections as the proposed FMO replaces these standards to be ESA compliant and consistent with best available science.

New section 20.80.380 – Staff recommends adding a new section on Development Limitations to accomplish the following:

- Refer to Chapter 13.12 for development standards and requirements that would apply in flood hazard areas and exempt flood hazard areas from the rest of the regulations in 20.80 unless explicitly identified as applicable in the proposed FMO.

❖ **Definitions**

Staff recommends modifying or deleting a number of definitions in Chapter 20.20 related to Flood Hazard Areas and Floodplain regulations for consistency with the proposed FMO, including:

- Delete the following terms which will be replaced in the new FMO: Base Flood, Base Flood Elevation, Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) Floodway, Flood, Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Flood Insurance Study for King County, Flood Protection Elevation, Floodplain, Floodproofing, Floodway, and Substantial Improvement;
- Deleting the following terms which are no longer applicable to flood hazard areas and floodplain management: Coastal High Hazard Area, Flood Fringe, and Floodway (zero-rise); and
- Modify the following definition for consistency with the revised description in 20.80.360: Flood Hazard Area.

More specific rationale for the proposed definition changes are included as comments in Attachment A, together with a comparison of the Chapter 20.20 definitions to the related Existing 16.12 and Proposed 13.12 Definitions.

❖ **Administrative Changes**

These are changes to the administrative section of Title 20 Development Code, to facilitate the new requirements of the FMO and the proposed changes to Chapter 20.80 Critical Areas.

20.30.040 Ministerial decisions – Type A – Staff recommends identifying the new Floodplain Development Permit and Floodplain Variance as Type A decisions by adding them to Table 20.30.040.

20.30.333 Critical Area special use permit and 20.30.334 Critical area reasonable use permit – The proposed FMO identifies the Floodplain Development Permit and Floodplain Variance as the applicable processes for reviewing development proposals in the Regulatory Floodplain and therefore within Flood Hazard Areas. It would be redundant and not allowable to require the same review under a Critical Area special use or reasonable use permit. Staff recommends adding statement that these permits are not applicable to flood hazard areas.

20.30.410 Preliminary subdivision review procedures and criteria, A. Environmental – Provisions that apply to subdivisions are proposed in the new FMO. Staff recommends adding compliance with the new Chapter 13.12 to the Environmental review criteria for preliminary subdivisions.

20.30.740 Declaration of public nuisance, enforcement – Staff recommends added violations of the new Chapter 13.12 to the list of violations subject to the provisions of Subchapter 9. Code Enforcement.

TIMING AND SCHEDULE

City staff will complete work on the draft FMO in early April. A copy of the draft ordinance should be available for Planning Commission information prior the scheduled public hearing on these related development code amendments.

No SEPA notice or determination has been made. The SEPA checklist and determination are currently being developed and will be publicized (and sent to applicable agencies and parties of record) together with the notice of public hearing for the tentatively scheduled a Planning Commission public hearing on May 3, 2012. This public hearing would address only the proposed Development Code amendments.

Notice will be made to the Department of Commerce for the proposed Development Code amendments in late April.

The proposed FMO together with the associated Development Code amendments and Commissions recommendations will be brought to City Council in June for study, public hearing and adoption. A second public hearing is required because the Planning Commission public hearing will only address the proposed Development Code Amendments. The final Council meeting for adoption is tentatively scheduled at the end of June.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission discuss the proposed development amendments related to the proposed Floodplain Management ordinance and provide direction for the public hearing on May 3.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – 20.80 Critical Areas proposed code changes

Attachment B – 20.20 Definitions proposed code changes

Attachment C – Miscellaneous SMC Title 20 code changes related to administration of proposed FMO

Attachment D – *Floodplain Management and the Endangered Species Act: A Model Ordinance, January 2012, FEMA Region 10.*

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20.80.010 Purpose.

A. The purpose of this chapter is to establish supplemental standards for the protection of critical areas in compliance with the provisions of the Washington Growth Management Act of 1990 (Chapter 36.70A RCW) and consistent with the goals and policies of the Shoreline Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the procedures of Chapter 20.30 SMC.

B. By identifying and regulating development and alterations to critical areas and their buffers, it is the intent of this chapter to:

1. Protect the public from injury, loss of life, property damage or financial losses due to flooding, erosion, landslide, seismic events, soils subsidence or steep slope failure;
2. Protect unique, fragile and valuable elements of the environment;
3. Reduce cumulative adverse environmental impacts to water quality, wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources, fish and wildlife habitat, steep slopes and geologically unstable features;
- ~~4. Meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and maintain the City of Shoreline as an eligible community for Federal flood insurance benefits;~~
- ~~5~~4. Ensure the long-term protection of ground and surface water quality;
- ~~6~~5. Alert members of the public, including appraisers, assessors, owners, potential buyers, or lessees, to the development limitations of critical areas and their required buffers;
- ~~7~~6. Serve as a basis for exercise of the City's substantive authority under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the City's Environmental Procedures (Chapter 20.30 SMC, Subchapter 8); and comply with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) and its implementing rules;
- ~~8~~7. Establish standards and procedures that are intended to protect environmentally critical areas while accommodating the rights of property owners to use their property in a reasonable manner; and
- ~~9~~8. Provide for the management of critical areas to maintain their functions and values and to restore degraded ecosystems. (Ord. 398 § 1, 2006; Ord. 324 § 1, 2003; Ord. 238 Ch. VIII § 1(A), 2000).

Subchapter 5. Flood Hazard Areas

20.80.360 Description and purpose.

A. A flood hazard area consists of the following components: floodplain; flood fringe; zero-rise floodway; and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodway. Special Flood Hazard Areas and Protected Areas as defined in SMC Chapter 13.12, which comprise the Regulatory Floodplain.

B. It is the purpose of these regulations to ensure that the City of Shoreline meets the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and maintains the City as an eligible community for Federal flood insurance benefits.

~~C. A tsunami hazard area may be designated as a flood hazard area by the Federal or State government. (Ord. 398 § 1, 2006; Ord. 238 Ch. VIII § 6(A), 2000).~~

20.80.370 Classification.

Flood hazard areas shall be determined pursuant to the requirements of the Floodplain Management regulations, SMC 13.12, which include, at a minimum, all lands identified on the 100-year floodplain designations of the current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance as identified in SMC 13.12.XXX. ~~after obtaining, reviewing and utilizing base flood elevations and available floodway data for a flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, often referred to as the "100-year flood." The base flood is determined for existing conditions, and is shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps for King County (FIRM) and incorporated areas, current version; or mapped on the King County Sensitive Areas Folio, unless a more complete basin plan including projected flows under future developed conditions has been completed and adopted by the City of Shoreline, in which case these future flow projections shall be used. In areas where the flood insurance study for the City includes detailed base flood calculations, those calculations may be used. (Ord. 398 § 1, 2006; Ord. 238 Ch. VIII § 6(B), 2000).~~

20.80.380 Development Limitations.

A. All development within designated flood hazard areas shall comply with Chapter 13.12 SMC, Floodplain Management, as now or hereafter amended, and are not subject to the regulations of this chapter.

~~20.80.380 Flood fringe — Development standards and permitted alterations.~~

~~A. Development proposals shall not reduce the effective base flood storage volume of the floodplain. Grading or other activity which would reduce the effective storage volume shall be mitigated by creating compensatory storage on the site or off the site if legal arrangements can be made to assure that the effective compensatory storage volume will be preserved over time.~~

~~B.— No structure shall be allowed which would be at risk due to stream bank destabilization including, but not limited to, that associated with channel relocation or meandering.~~

~~C.— All elevated construction shall be designed and certified by a professional structural engineer licensed by the State of Washington and the design shall be approved by the City prior to construction.~~

~~D.— Subdivisions, short subdivisions, lot line adjustments and binding site plans shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~1.— New building lots shall contain no less than 5,000 square feet of buildable land outside the zero-rise floodway, and building setback areas shall be shown on the face of the plat to restrict permanent structures to this buildable area;~~

~~2.— All utilities and facilities such as stormwater facilities, sewer, gas, electrical and water systems shall be located and constructed consistent with the standards and requirements of this section;~~

~~3.— Base flood data and flood hazard notes shall be shown on the face of the recorded subdivision, short subdivision, lot line adjustment or binding site plan including, but not limited to, the base flood elevation, required flood protection elevations and the boundaries of the floodplain and the zero-rise floodway, if determined; and~~

~~4.— The following notice shall also be shown on the face of the recorded subdivision, short subdivision, lot line adjustment or binding site plan for all affected lots:~~

~~—NOTICE~~

~~—Lots and structures located within Flood Hazard Areas may be inaccessible by emergency vehicles during flood events. Residents and property owners should take appropriate advance precautions.~~

~~E.— New residential structures and improvements that include the creation of new impervious surfaces associated with existing residential structures shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~1.— The lowest floor shall be elevated to the flood protection elevation;~~

~~2.— Portions of a structure which are below the lowest floor area shall not be fully enclosed. The areas and rooms below the lowest floor shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic and hydrodynamic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for satisfying this requirement shall meet or exceed the following requirements:~~

~~a.— A minimum of two openings on opposite walls having a total open area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided;~~

~~b.— The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade; and~~

~~c.— Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers or other coverings or devices if they permit the unrestricted entry and exit of floodwaters;~~

~~3.— Materials and methods which are resistant to and minimize flood damage shall be used; and~~

~~4.— All electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment and other utility and service facilities shall be floodproofed to or elevated above the flood protection elevation.~~

~~F.— New nonresidential structures and substantial improvements of existing nonresidential structures shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~1.— Elevation.~~

~~a.— Requirements for residential structures contained in subsection (E)(1) of this section shall be met; or~~

~~b.— The structure shall be floodproofed to the flood protection elevation and shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~i.— The applicant shall provide certification by a professional civil or structural engineer licensed by the State of Washington that the floodproofing methods are adequate to withstand the flood depths, pressures, velocities, impacts, uplift forces and other factors associated with the base flood. After construction, the engineer shall certify that the permitted work conforms with the approved plans and specifications; and~~

~~ii.— Approved building permits for floodproofed nonresidential structures shall contain a statement notifying applicants that flood insurance premiums shall be based upon rates for structures which are one foot below the floodproofed level;~~

~~2.— Materials and methods which are resistant to and minimize flood damage shall be used; and~~

~~3.— All electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment and other utility and service facilities shall be floodproofed to or elevated above the flood protection elevation.~~

~~G.— All new construction shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure.~~

~~H.— Utilities shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~1.— New and replacement utilities including, but not limited to, sewage treatment facilities shall be floodproofed to or elevated above the flood protection elevation;~~

~~2.— Aboveground utility transmission lines, other than electric transmission lines, shall only be allowed for the transport of nonhazardous substances; and~~

~~3.— Buried utility transmission lines transporting hazardous substances shall be installed at a minimum depth of four feet below the maximum depth of scour for the base flood, as predicted by a professional civil engineer licensed by the State of Washington, and shall achieve sufficient negative buoyancy so that any potential for flotation or upward migration is eliminated.~~

~~I.— Critical facilities may be allowed within the flood fringe of the floodplain, but only when no feasible alternative site is available. Critical facilities shall be evaluated through the conditional or special use permit process. Critical facilities constructed within the flood fringe shall have the lowest floor elevated to three or more feet above the base flood elevation. Floodproofing and sealing measures shall be taken to ensure that hazardous substances will not be displaced by or released into floodwaters. Access routes elevated to or above the base flood elevation shall be provided to all critical facilities from the nearest maintained public street or roadway.~~

~~J.— Prior to approving any permit for alterations in the flood fringe, the City shall determine that all permits required by State or Federal law have been obtained. (Ord. 398 § 1, 2006; Ord. 238 Ch. VIII § 6(C), 2000).~~

~~20.80.390 Zero-rise floodway—Development standards and permitted alterations.~~

~~A.— The requirements which apply to the flood fringe shall also apply to the zero-rise floodway. The more restrictive requirements shall apply where there is a conflict.~~

~~B.— A development proposal including, but not limited to, new or reconstructed structures shall not cause any increase in the base flood elevation unless the following requirements are met:~~

~~1.— Amendments to the flood insurance rate map are adopted by FEMA, in accordance with 44 CFR 70, to incorporate the increase in the base flood elevation; and~~

~~2.— Appropriate legal documents are prepared in which all property owners affected by the increased flood elevations consent to the impacts on their property. These documents shall be filed with the title of record for the affected properties.~~

~~C.— The following are presumed to produce no increase in base flood elevation and shall not require a special study to establish this fact:~~

~~1.— New residential structures outside the FEMA floodway on lots in existence before November 27, 1990, which contain less than 5,000 square feet of buildable land outside the zero-rise floodway and which have a total building footprint of all proposed structures on the lot of less than 2,000 square feet;~~

~~2.— Substantial improvements of existing residential structures in the zero-rise floodway, but outside the FEMA floodway, where the footprint is not increased; or~~

~~3. Substantial improvements of existing residential structures meeting the requirements for new residential structures in this title.~~

~~D. Post or piling construction techniques which permit water flow beneath a structure shall be used.~~

~~E. All temporary structures or substances hazardous to public health, safety and welfare, except for hazardous household substances or consumer products containing hazardous substances, shall be removed from the zero-rise floodway during the flood season from September 30th to May 1st.~~

~~F. New residential structures or any structure accessory to a residential use shall meet the following requirements:~~

~~1. The structures shall be outside the FEMA floodway; or~~

~~2. The structures shall be on lots in existence before November 27, 1990, which contain less than 5,000 square feet of buildable land outside the zero-rise floodway. Structures shall be designed and situated to minimize encroachment into the zero-rise floodway.~~

~~G. Utilities may be allowed within the zero-rise floodway if the City determines that no feasible alternative site is available, subject to the requirements of this section. Construction of sewage treatment facilities shall be prohibited.~~

~~H. Critical facilities shall not be allowed within the zero-rise floodway except as provided in subsection (I) of this section.~~

~~I. Structures and installations which are dependent upon the floodway may be located in the floodway if the development proposal is approved by all agencies with jurisdiction. Such structures include, but are not limited to:~~

~~1. Dams or diversions for water supply, flood control, or fisheries enhancement;~~

~~2. Flood damage reduction facilities, such as levees and pumping stations;~~

~~3. Stream bank stabilization structures where no feasible alternative exists for protecting public or private property;~~

~~4. Stormwater conveyance facilities subject to the development standards for streams and wetlands and the surface water design manual;~~

~~5. Boat launches and related recreation structures;~~

~~6. Bridge piers and abutments; and~~

~~7. Other fisheries enhancement or stream restoration projects. (Ord. 398 § 1, 2006; Ord. 238 Ch. VIII § 6(D), 2000).~~

~~**20.80.400 FEMA floodway – Development standards and permitted alterations.**~~

~~A. The requirements which apply to the zero rise floodway shall also apply to the FEMA floodway. The more restrictive requirements shall apply where there is a conflict.~~

~~B. A development proposal including, but not limited to, new or reconstructed structures shall not cause any increase in the base flood elevation.~~

~~C. New residential or nonresidential structures shall be prohibited within the FEMA floodway.~~

~~D. Substantial improvements of existing residential structures in the FEMA floodway, meeting the requirements of WAC 173-158-070, as amended, are presumed to produce no increase in base flood elevation and shall not require a special study to establish this fact. (Ord. 398 § 1, 2006; Ord. 238 Ch. VIII § 6(E), 2000).~~

~~**20.80.410 Flood hazard areas – Certification by engineer or surveyor.**~~

~~A. For all new structures or substantial improvements in a flood hazard area, the applicant shall provide certification by a professional civil engineer or land surveyor licensed by the State of Washington of:~~

~~1. The actual as-built elevation of the lowest floor, including basement; and~~

~~2. The actual as-built elevation to which the structure is floodproofed, if applicable.~~

~~B. The engineer or surveyor shall indicate if the structure has a basement.~~

~~C. The City shall maintain the certifications required by this section for public inspection. (Ord. 398 § 1, 2006; Ord. 238 Ch. VIII § 6(F), 2000).~~

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Chapter 20.20 Development Code definition revisions based on Floodplain Management ordinance

Existing 20.20 definitions proposed changes

Base Flood The flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also referred to as the "100-year flood."

Existing 16.12.040/Proposed 13.12.XXX Definitions.

Existing

4. "Base flood" means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also referred to as the "100-year flood." Designation on maps always includes the letters A or V.

Proposed

Base Flood: the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also referred to as the "100-year flood"). The area subject to the base flood is the Special Flood Hazard Area designated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps as Zones "A" or "V" including AE, AO, AH, A1-99 and VE.

Base Flood Elevation The water surface elevation of the base flood in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.

Existing

[None]

Proposed

Base Flood Elevation: the elevation of the base flood above the datum of the effective FIRM.

Coastal High Hazard Area An area of special flood hazard extending from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources. The area is designated on the FIRM as zone V1-V30, VE, or V.

Existing

8. "Coastal high hazard area" means an area of special flood hazard extending from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources. The area is designated on the FIRM as zone V1-V30, VE, or V.

Proposed

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA): the land subject to inundation by the base flood. Special Flood Hazard Areas are designated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps with the letters "A" or "V" including AE, AO, AH, A1-99 and VE. The Special Flood Hazard Area is also referred to as the area of special flood hazard or SFHA.

Comment [jn1]: Coastal High Hazard Areas are now one of the Special Flood Hazard Areas in the proposed Floodplain Management Ordinance.

Chapter 20.20 Development Code definition revisions based on Floodplain Management ordinance

Existing 20.20 definitions proposed changes (continued)

~~Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)~~

~~**Floodway** The channel of the stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain which is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without increasing the base flood elevation more than one foot.~~

Existing 16.12.040/Proposed 13.12.XXX Definitions. (continued)

Existing
[FEMA-None]

17. "Floodway" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.

Proposed
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): the agency responsible for administering the National Flood Insurance Program.

Floodway: the channel of a stream or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot at any point.

~~**Flood** The temporary overflowing of water onto land that is usually devoid of surface water.~~

Existing
14. "Flood" or "flooding" means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
a. The overflow of inland or tidal waters; and/or
b. The unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

Proposed
Flood or Flooding: a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
a. The overflow of inland or tidal waters, and/or
b. The unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

Chapter 20.20 Development Code definition revisions based on Floodplain Management ordinance

Existing 20.20 definitions proposed changes (continued)

Existing 16.12.040/Proposed 13.12.XXX Definitions. (continued)

~~**Flood Fringe** That portion of the floodplain outside of the zero-rise floodway which is covered by floodwaters during the base flood, generally associated with standing water rather than rapidly flowing water.~~

Existing
[None]

Proposed
[None]

Existing

Flood Hazard Areas Those areas in the City of Shoreline subject to inundation by the base flood including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, wetlands and closed depressions.

Existing
[None]

Proposed

Flood Hazard Areas Those areas in the City of Shoreline subject to inundation by the base flood including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, wetlands and closed depressions identified as Special Flood Hazard Areas and Protected Areas as defined in SMC Chapter 13.12, which comprise the Regulatory Floodplain.

Proposed
[None]

~~**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)** The official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated some areas of flood hazard.~~

Existing

15. "Flood insurance rate map (FIRM)" means the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Proposed

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM): the official map on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Comment [jn3]: The flood fringe is a concept defined and addressed in the development code critical areas code. The new FEMA model ordinance no longer utilizes this concept and instead defines the regulatory floodplain as including the floodway and protected areas including special flood hazard areas, riparian habitat zones and channel migration zones.

Comment [jn2]: Flood hazard areas will still be a type of critical area, but definition proposed to be changed to fit with new FMO.

Chapter 20.20 Development Code definition revisions based on Floodplain Management ordinance

Existing 20.20 definitions proposed changes (continued)

~~**Flood Insurance Study for King County** The official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration which includes flood profiles and the flood insurance rate map.~~

Existing 16.12.040/Proposed 13.12.XXX Definitions. (continued)

Existing

16. "Flood insurance study" means the official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration that includes flood profiles, the flood boundary-floodway map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood

Proposed

Flood Insurance Study: the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that includes flood profiles, the Flood Insurance Rate Map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

~~**Flood Protection Elevation** An elevation which is one foot above the base flood elevation.~~

Existing

[None]

Proposed

Flood Protection Elevation (FPE): the elevation above the datum of the effective FIRM to which new and substantially improved structures must be protected from flood damage.

~~**Floodplain** The total area subject to inundation by the base flood.~~

Existing

[None]

Proposed

Regulatory Floodplain: the area of the Special Flood Hazard Area plus the Protected Area, as defined in Section 3. The term also includes newly designated areas that are delineated pursuant to Section 3.5.

Chapter 20.20 Development Code definition revisions based on Floodplain Management ordinance

Existing 20.20 definitions proposed changes (continued)

Floodproofing Adaptations which will make a structure that is below the flood protection elevation substantially impermeable to the passage of water and resistant to hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads including the impacts of buoyancy.

Existing 16.12.040/Proposed 13.12.XXX Definitions. (continued)

Existing
[None]

Proposed
Dry Floodproofing: any combination of structural and non-structural measures that prevent flood waters from entering a structure.

Floodway The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.

Existing
17. "Floodway" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.

Proposed
Floodway: the channel of a stream or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot at any point.

Floodway, Zero-rise The channel of a stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain which is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without any measurable increase in flood height. A measurable increase in base flood height means a calculated upward rise in the base flood elevation, equal to or greater than 0.01 foot, resulting from a comparison of existing conditions and changed conditions directly attributable to development in the floodplain. This definition is broader than the FEMA floodway, but always contains the FEMA floodway.

Existing
[None]

Proposed
[None]

Comment [jn4]: The zero-rise floodway is a concept defined and addressed in the development code critical areas code. The new FEMA model ordinance no longer utilizes this concept and instead defines the regulatory floodplain as including the floodway and protected areas including special flood hazard areas, riparian habitat zones and channel migration zones.

Chapter 20.20 Development Code definition revisions based on Floodplain Management ordinance

Existing 20.20 definitions proposed changes (continued)

~~**Substantial Improvement** Any maintenance, repair, structural modification, addition or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either before the maintenance, repair, modification or addition is started or before the damage occurred, if the structure has been damaged and is being restored.~~

Existing 16.12.040/Proposed 13.12.XXX Definitions. (continued)

Existing

27. "Substantial improvement" means any repair, reconstruction or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either:

- a. i. Before the improvement or repair is started; or
- ii. If the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. For the purposes of this definition "substantial improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure
- b. The term "substantial improvement" does not, however, include either:
 - i. Any project for improvement of a structure to comply with existing state or local health, sanitary or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
 - ii. Any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a State Inventory of Historic Places

Proposed

Substantial Improvement: any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, replacement, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage," regardless of the actual repair work performed.

20.30.040 Ministerial decisions – Type A.

These decisions are based on compliance with specific, nondiscretionary and/or technical standards that are clearly enumerated. These decisions are made by the Director and are exempt from notice requirements.

However, permit applications, including certain categories of building permits, and permits for projects that require a SEPA threshold determination, are subject to public notice requirements specified in Table 20.30.050 for SEPA threshold determination.

All permit review procedures and all applicable regulations and standards apply to all Type A actions. The decisions made by the Director under Type A actions shall be final. The Director's decision shall be based upon findings that the application conforms (or does not conform) to all applicable regulations and standards.

Table 20.30.040 – Summary of Type A Actions and Target Time Limits for Decision, and Appeal Authority

Action Type	Target Time Limits for Decision (Calendar Days)	Section
Type A:		
1. Accessory Dwelling Unit	30 days	20.40.120, 20.40.210
2. Lot Line Adjustment including Lot Merger	30 days	20.30.400
3. Building Permit	120 days	All applicable standards
4. Final Short Plat	30 days	20.30.450
5. Home Occupation, Bed and Breakfast, Boarding House	120 days	20.40.120, 20.40.250, 20.40.260, 20.40.400
6. Interpretation of Development Code	15 days	20.10.050, 20.10.060, 20.30.020
7. Right-of-Way Use	30 days	12.15.010 – 12.15.180
8. Shoreline Exemption Permit	15 days	Shoreline Master Program
9. Sign Permit	30 days	20.50.530 – 20.50.610
10. Site Development Permit	60 days	20.20.046, 20.30.315, 20.30.430
11. Deviation from Engineering Standards	30 days	20.30.290
12. Temporary Use Permit	15 days	20.40.100

13. Clearing and Grading Permit	60 days	20.50.290 – 20.50.370
14. Planned Action Determination	28 days	20.90.025
15. Administrative Design Review	28 days	20.30.297
13. Floodplain Development Permit	30 days	13.12.XXX
17. Floodplain Variance	30 days	13.12.XXX

20.30.333 Critical area special use permit (Type C action).

A. **Purpose.** The purpose of the critical areas special use permit is to allow development by a public agency or utility when the strict application of the critical areas standards would otherwise unreasonably prohibit the provision of public services. This type of permit does not apply to flood hazard areas.

20.30.336 Critical areas reasonable use permit (Type C action).

A. **Purpose.** The purpose of the critical areas reasonable use permit is to allow development and use of private property when the strict application of the critical area standards would otherwise deny all reasonable use of a property. This type of permit does not apply to flood hazard areas.

20.30.410 Preliminary subdivision review procedures and criteria.

The short subdivision may be referred to as a short plat – Type B action.

The formal subdivision may be referred to as long plat – Type C action.

Time limit: A final short plat or final long plat meeting all of the requirements of this chapter and Chapter 58.17 RCW shall be submitted for approval within the timeframe specified in RCW 58.17.140.

Review criteria: The following criteria shall be used to review proposed subdivisions:

A. **Environmental.**

1. Where environmental resources exist, such as trees, streams, ravines or wildlife habitats, the proposal shall be designed to fully implement the goals, policies, procedures and standards of the critical areas chapter, Chapter 20.80 SMC, Critical Areas, and the tree conservation, land clearing and site grading standards sections.
2. The proposal shall be designed to minimize grading by using shared driveways and by relating street, house site and lot placement to the existing topography.
3. Where conditions exist which could be hazardous to the future residents of the land to be divided, or to nearby residents or property, such as flood plains, steep slopes or unstable soil or

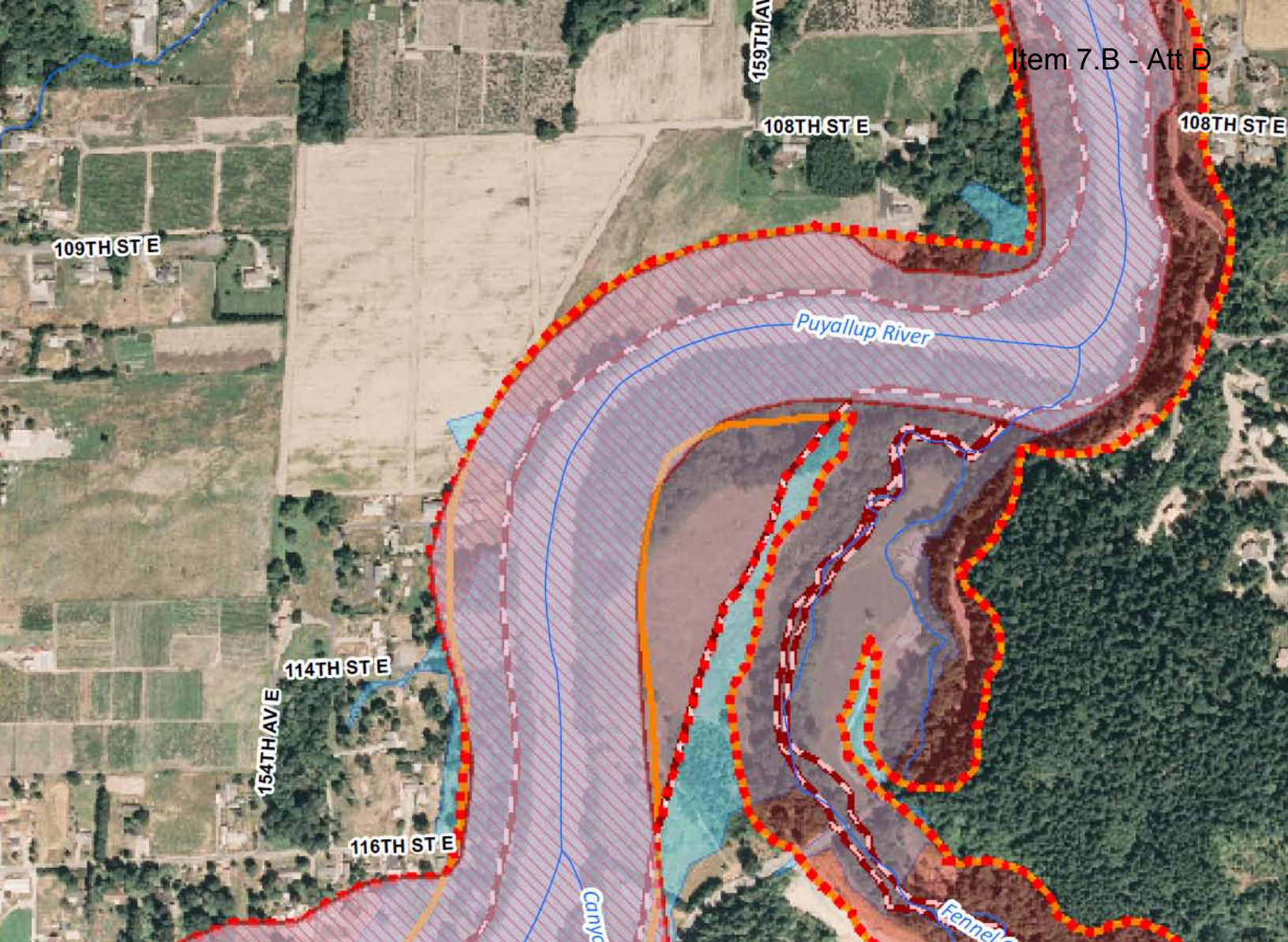
geologic conditions, a subdivision of the hazardous land shall be denied unless the condition can be permanently corrected, consistent with subsections (A)(1) and (2) of this section and Chapter 13.12 Floodplain Management.

20.30.740 Declaration of public nuisance, enforcement.

A. A Code Violation, as used in this subchapter, is declared to be a public nuisance and includes violations of the following:

1. Any City land use and development ordinances or public health ordinances;
2. Any public nuisance as set forth in Chapters 7.48 and 9.66 RCW;
3. Violation of any of the Codes adopted in Chapter 15.05 SMC;
4. Violation of provisions of Chapter 12.15 SMC, Use of Right-of-Way;
5. Any accumulation of refuse, except as provided in Chapter 13.14 SMC, Solid Waste Code;
6. Nuisance vegetation;
7. Discarding or dumping of any material onto the public right-of-way, waterway, or other public property; ~~and~~
8. Violation of any of the provisions of Chapter 13.10 SMC, Surface Water Management Code; and-
9. Violations of any of the provisions of Chapter 13.12 SMC, Floodplain Management.

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Floodplain Management and the Endangered Species Act

A Model Ordinance

January 2012



FEMA Region 10

Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management
under the
National Flood Insurance Program
and the
Endangered Species Act

Produced by FEMA - Region 10
January 2012



FEMA
Region 10

For additional information or copies of this guidance:

Federal Emergency Management Agency
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Federal Regional Center, Region 10
130 228th St. SW
Bothell, WA 98021-9796
(425) 487-4600
www.fema.gov/regionx/nfipesa.shtm

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Background	1
The Model Ordinance.....	2
The Biological Opinion.....	2
Organization	3
Model Ordinance	7
Section 1. General.....	7
1.1. Statutory Authorization	7
1.2. Findings of Fact.....	7
1.3. Purpose	8
1.4. Lands to Which This Ordinance Applies	9
1.5. Approach	9
1.6. Penalties for Noncompliance.....	10
1.7. Interpretation	10
1.8. Abrogation and Greater Restrictions	11
1.9. Warning and Disclaimer of Liability.....	11
1.10. Severability.....	11
Section 2. Definitions.....	12
Section 3. Regulatory Data	20
3.1. Regulatory Floodplain	20
3.2. Special Flood Hazard Area.....	20
3.3. Flood Hazard Data.....	21
3.4. Protected Area	22
3.5. New Regulatory Data	24
Section 4. Administration	27
4.1. Establishment of Floodplain Development Permit.....	27
4.2. Floodplain Development Permit Application.....	27
4.3. Floodplain Development Permit Expiration.....	30
4.4. Designation of the (<i>Floodplain Administrator</i>).....	30
4.5. Duties of the (<i>Floodplain Administrator</i>).....	30
4.6. Records	31
4.7. Certificate of Occupancy	32
4.8. Board of Appeals.....	32
4.9. Variance Criteria	33
Section 5. General Development Standards.....	36
5.1. Subdivisions	36
5.2. Site Design	37
5.3. Hazardous Materials.....	38
5.4. Critical Facilities	39
5.5. Sand Dunes.....	39

Section 6. Standards for Protection of Structures 40

 6.1. Applicability 40

 6.2. Flood Protection Standards 40

 6.3. Nonresidential Construction 42

 6.4. Manufactured Homes 43

 6.5. Recreational Vehicles 43

 6.6. Small Structures 44

 6.7. Utilities 44

Section 7. Standards for Habitat Protection 46

 7.1. Non-Development Activities 47

 7.2. Activities Allowed With a Floodplain Permit 48

 7.3. Other Activities 48

 7.4. Native Vegetation 49

 7.5. Floodway Standards 49

 7.6. Compensatory Storage 51

 7.7. Habitat Impact Assessment 51

 7.8. Habitat Mitigation Plan 52

 7.9. Alteration of Watercourses 53

Appendix A. References A – 1

 References on the National Flood Insurance Program A – 1

 References on Habitat Protection A – 1

 References on Higher Regulatory Standards A – 2

 References on Low Impact Development A – 2

 Legal References A – 3

Appendix B. The Community Rating System B – 1

Appendix C. Floodplain Development and Habitat C – 1

 Aquatic and Riparian Habitat C – 1

 Habitat Conservation Areas C – 2

 Alteration of Habitat C – 2

 Natural Alteration C – 3

 Human Alteration C – 3

 Example: Chinook Salmon Habitat C – 5

Appendix D. The Biological Opinion D – 1

Appendix E. Insurance Rating Table, Unnumbered A Zones E – 1

Appendix F. State Floodway Standards F – 1

Acknowledgements

This guidance document was developed by Region X of the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to improve floodplain management practices and assist communities in meeting the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

It was prepared with the advice and assistance of a special advisory committee that included representatives from:

- City of Auburn
- City of Carnation
- City of Everett
- Jefferson County
- King County
- City of Lacey
- Lummi Nation
- City of Monroe
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Pierce County
- San Juan County
- Snohomish County
- City of Tukwila
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Whatcom County

While some comments were not incorporated, the reviews of each agency in a common endeavor to make this a useful regulatory tool are appreciated.

This document was drafted by French & Associates, Ltd., Steilacoom, ESA Adolfson, Seattle, and PBS&J, Seattle, through an arrangement with the Insurance Services Office and the Community Rating System. This document was reviewed and commented upon by Edward A. Thomas Esq., of Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

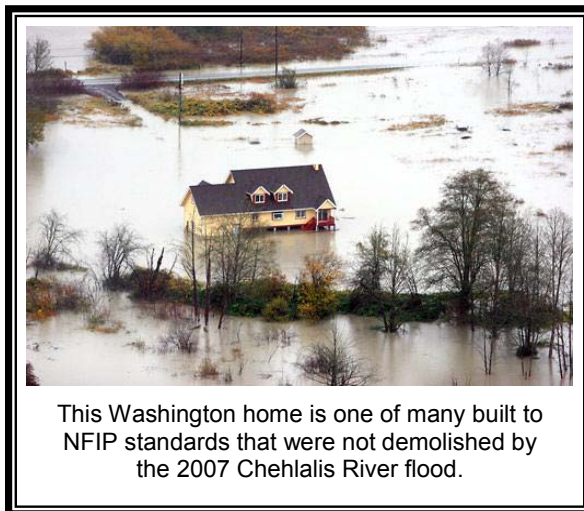
Introduction

Background

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created in 1968 as a way to offer an alternative to disaster assistance for properties subject to flood damage. In return for Federally supported flood insurance, local governments had to agree to regulate development in their floodplains in accordance with the Program's criteria. Since 1979, the program has been administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The NFIP has proven very effective as a way to shift the cost of flood damage from taxpayers to insurance policy holders. It has also steered development away from floodplains and set construction standards for development that is allowed.

As an insurance driven program, the NFIP is funded by insurance premiums, not tax dollars. The program is focused on protecting all new and substantially improved buildings. It sets minimum floodplain management standards that protect new buildings. As a result, buildings in the floodplain that meet the NFIP standards suffer 80% less flood damage than buildings constructed before the requirements went into effect. Under the floodway concept, the NFIP prevents development from substantially increasing flood damage on other properties.



This Washington home is one of many built to NFIP standards that were not demolished by the 2007 Chehalis River flood.

However, while the minimum requirements of the NFIP protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community by protecting buildings from the 100-year, or 1% chance flood, the program was not intended to address other floodplain management concerns, such as riparian habitat. Local ordinances that only address protecting insurable buildings may not protect natural and beneficial floodplain functions. Regulations that just meet the minimum NFIP requirements do not protect property from greater than 100-year floods and floods that occur outside the mapped Special Flood Hazard Area.

While buildings can be built to minimize 100-year flood damage, people may still be exposed to flood hazards, especially residents of floodprone homes who cannot get out in time (see box). Accordingly, it is a good practice (and FEMA recommends) that communities consider the NFIP as a starting point, and adopt higher regulatory standards that better meet local needs.

In 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a Biological Opinion. That opinion noted that continued implementation of the NFIP in the Puget Sound adversely affects the habitat of certain threatened and endangered species.


River rescue: In 1988, a home was constructed in the floodplain fringe of the Carbon River. It met all of the construction standards of the NFIP. When the Carbon River started to flood in 2007, the family tried to drive to high ground. Their van got stuck in waters that were too fast and deep for the Sheriff Department's river rescue team. A Coast Guard helicopter had to come to the rescue, hovering over the van and winching each person up, one at a time. In order to prevent such situations from occurring, Pierce County amended its floodway mapping standard to account for deep and fast moving water a standard that exceeds the NFIP minimum requirement adopted to protect lives and reduce public expenses.

The Model Ordinance

This Model Ordinance has been developed to provide example regulatory language to address the requirements spelled out in the Biological Opinion and example higher regulatory standards. It provides a set of rules to protect human development from flooding and to minimize the impact of new developments and redevelopment on public safety, public health, property, water quality, and aquatic and riparian habitat. It was prepared with advice and assistance from local officials, engineers, natural resources scientists, and planners from the Puget Sound area.

This Model Ordinance has four types of provisions. They are noted differently in the commentary in the column to the right of the model language:

1. The requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, as specified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 44 CFR parts 59 and 60. NFIP requirements are noted with the CFR reference in the commentary.
2. Washington State laws for floodplain management are specified in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) titles 173 and 365. The commentary identifies the WAC section for State requirements that exceed the NFIP requirements.
3. Some provisions are needed to meet the requirements of the Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (see next page). These provisions are noted in the commentary as “ESA requirement” with a reference to the relevant section in the Biological Opinion.
4. Some provisions are strongly recommended because they go beyond protecting buildings from the 1% chance flood as mapped by FEMA. They address the need for higher regulatory standards where the hazard is greater and to include higher standards for public safety, public health, the properties of others, water quality, and habitat. More information on the rationale and need for efforts to not harm others can be found in the No Adverse Impact program of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=349&firstlevelmenuID=187&siteID=1>).

Most of the voluntary provisions are eligible for credit under the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS icon –  – identifies where provisions above the minimum requirements of the NFIP can receive CRS credit. The CRS is explained further in Appendix B and *CRS Credit for Habitat Protection*.

The Biological Opinion

A background on how floodplain development can affect habitat is included in Appendix C. On September 22, 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion that required changes to the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program in order to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the Puget Sound watershed. FEMA offers two ways to meet this ESA requirement:

1. Prohibit all development in the floodway and other areas as specified by the RPA.

“Sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas”

“So use your own property that you do not injure another’s property.”

Courts have followed this maxim, which characterizes overall landowner rights and duties pursuant to common law nuisance, trespass, strict liability, negligence, riparian rights, surface water law rights and duties, and statutory liability. At common law, no landowner (public or private) has a right to use his or her land in a manner that substantially increases flood or erosion damages on adjacent lands except in a dwindling number of jurisdictions applying the “common enemy” doctrine to diffused surface or flood waters. From *No Adverse Impact and The Courts: Protecting the Property Rights of All*

2. Enact regulations that allow development that meet the criteria specified in the Biological Opinion by either:
 - a. Adopting this Model Ordinance, or
 - b. Enforcing the same requirements in other ordinances, such as the growth management, zoning, or critical areas regulations.

If a community chooses not to enact regulations under the two options described above, then a third option of showing compliance with ESA on a permit by permit basis will be required. This will typically involve requiring applicants for floodplain development permits to develop in the Special Flood Hazard Area to submit permit applications to the National Marine Fisheries Service. If option 3 is chosen, NFIP communities must ensure that permit applicants have demonstrated compliance with ESA before issuing a floodplain development permit.

Option 2 is generally preferred by most communities. Option 2.b. may be an easier route for those cities and counties that have critical area and shoreline management regulations. For those communities, the Biological Opinion Checklist can be used to identify if they need to amend their existing regulations to meet the Biological Opinion's criteria. If the checklist shows that additional regulations need to be adopted, language from the noted section in the Model Ordinance can be used.

It should be noted that the NFIP regulations (44 CFR 60.3(a) (2)) require participating communities "to assure that all necessary permits have been received from those governmental agencies from which approval is required by Federal or State law." Under options 2.a. and b, NFIP communities must ensure that permit applicants meet the criteria established in the Biological Opinion. If option 3 is chosen, NFIP communities must ensure that permit applicants have consulted with NMFS and received approval before issuing a floodplain development permit.

Organization

This Model Ordinance does not prevent development. It requires that new development projects be reviewed to ensure that they do not adversely affect life safety, public health, other properties, water quality, and aquatic and riparian habitat. Here's how it works:

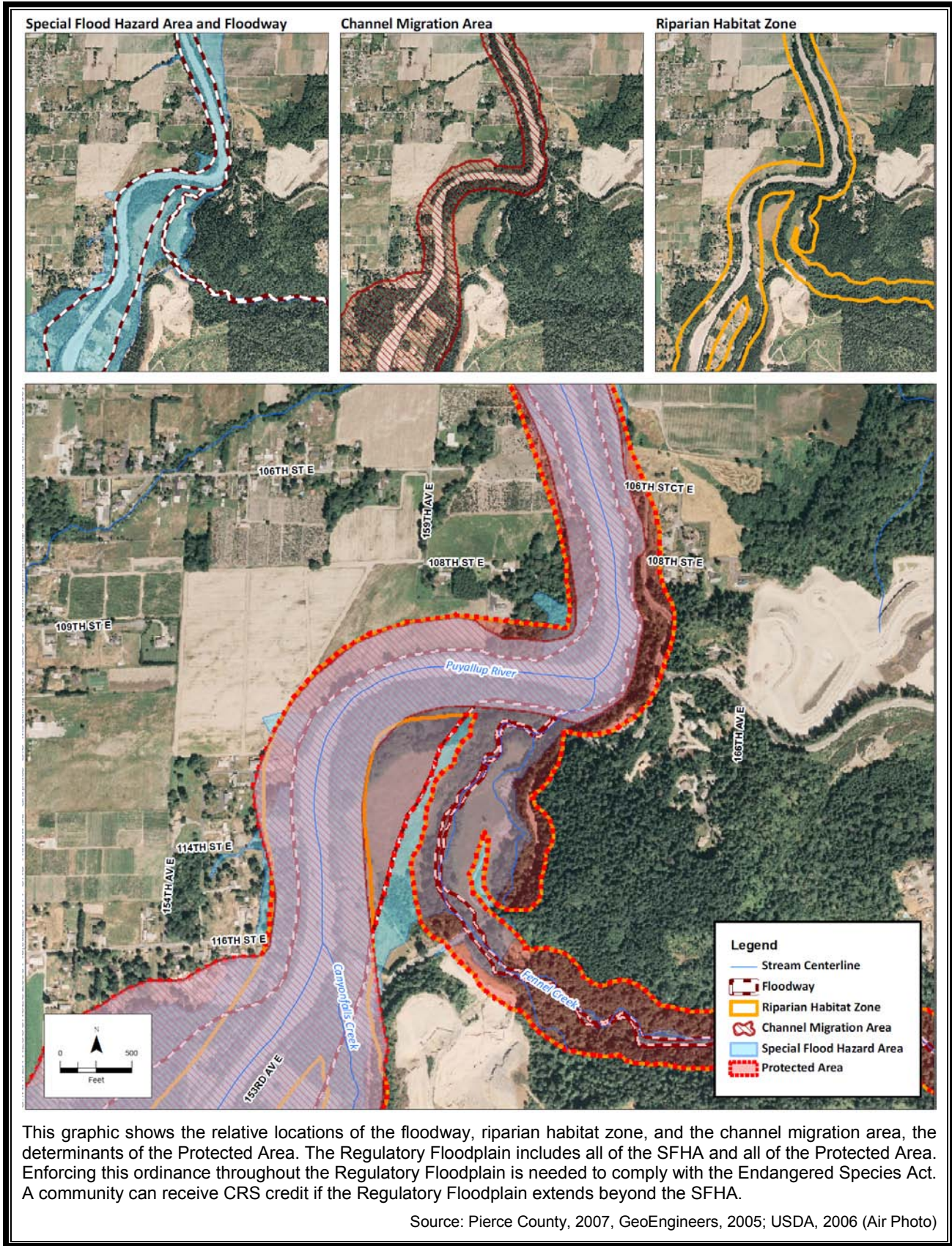
- Section 1 has the legal provisions needed for any regulatory program, such as the penalties clause.
- Section 2 defines the technical terms used in the ordinance.
- Section 3 defines the data needed for the flood and habitat protection requirements. The ordinance regulates development in the Regulatory Floodplain. The Regulatory Floodplain, as used in this model, is comprised of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map plus those parts of the Protected Area that extend outside the SFHA.
- The Protected Area determines where special habitat protection requirements must be met. It includes the floodway plus any riparian habitat areas and channel migration areas. A typical map of the Regulatory Floodplain and the Protected Area components is on the next page.
- Section 4 establishes procedures for permits and record keeping. All "development" in the Regulatory Floodplain must obtain a permit from the community (Section 4.1).

- General development standards that apply to all new development and redevelopment in the Regulatory Floodplain are listed in Section 5.
- Projects that involve construction, repairs, or improvements to buildings must meet certain standards for protection from flood damage (Section 6)
- Section 7 establishes the habitat protection criteria. Certain types of projects that have minimal risk of flood damage or impact on others are automatically allowed (Sections 7.1 – 7.2).
- Applications for projects that might increase flood hazards to other properties must include an engineering study to determine if flood heights would be impacted (Section 7.5)
- Applications for projects that might adversely affect habitat for threatened or endangered species must conduct an assessment to determine the impact (Section 7.7). If the assessment concludes that the project will adversely affect habitat, then either the permit is denied or the project is revised so that the adverse affect is mitigated (Section 7.8). Conducting the assessment and preparing a habitat mitigation plan are explained in more detail in *Regional Guidance for Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation* (see Appendix A). The mitigation plan must be implemented in order for the project to receive a certificate of occupancy (Section 4.7).

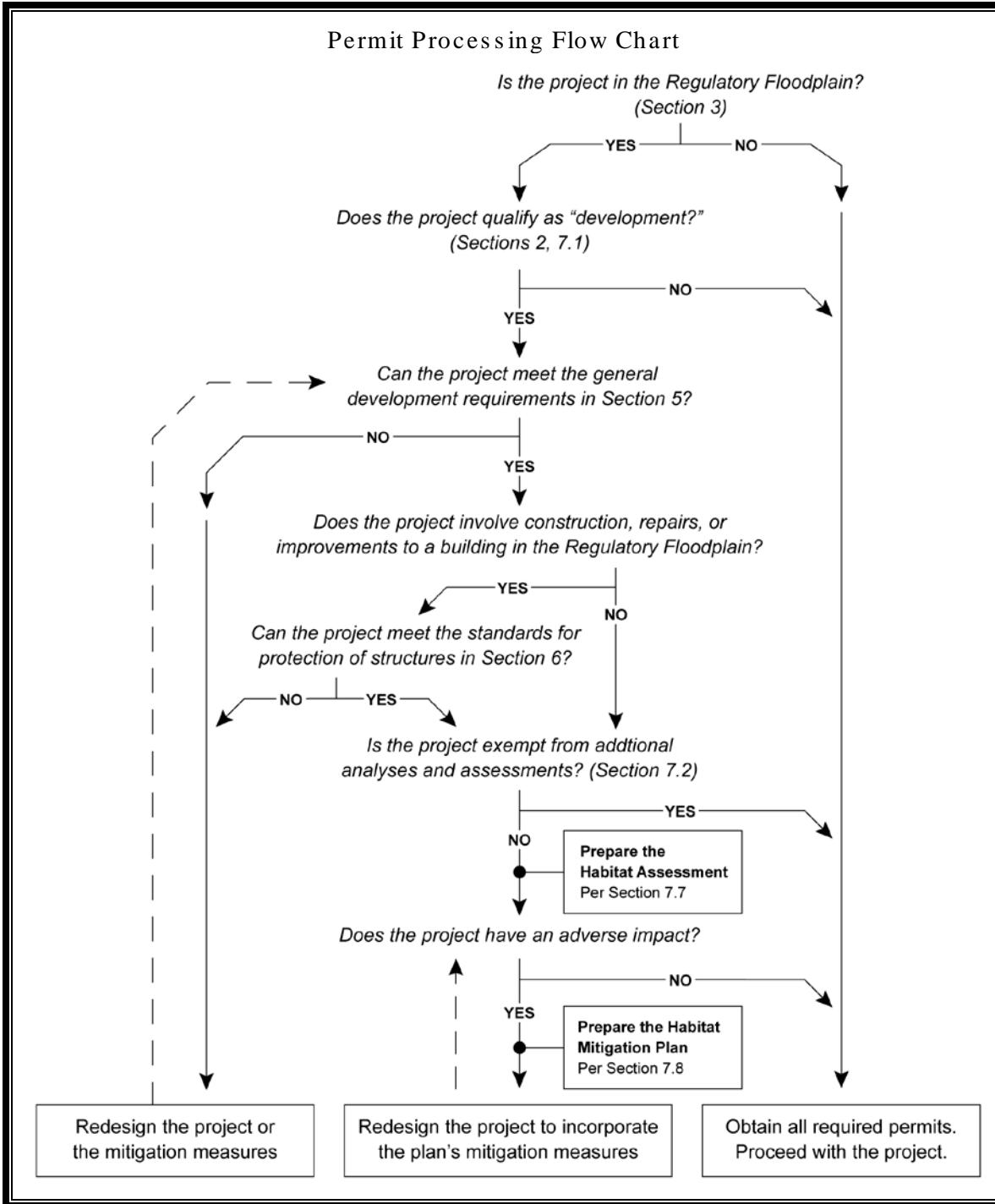
This process is shown graphically on page vi.

It is recommended that communities:

- Send their draft ordinance to the FEMA Region X office and the Washington Department of Ecology before it is adopted to ensure that it meets all Federal and State requirements.
- Keep this publication after the ordinance is adopted. The Commentary can prove helpful.
- Take advantage of training programs to become more familiar with the floodplain and habitat protection regulations presented here.




This graphic shows the relative locations of the floodway, riparian habitat zone, and the channel migration area, the determinants of the Protected Area. The Regulatory Floodplain includes all of the SFHA and all of the Protected Area. Enforcing this ordinance throughout the Regulatory Floodplain is needed to comply with the Endangered Species Act. A community can receive CRS credit if the Regulatory Floodplain extends beyond the SFHA.



Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Model Ordinance</p> <p>An Ordinance to Manage Floodplain Development So As To Protect People, Property, and Habitat</p> <p>Section 1. General</p> <p>1.1. Statutory Authorization</p> <p>The Legislature of the State of Washington has delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry. Therefore, the <i>(community name)</i> does ordain as follows:</p> <p>1.2. Findings of Fact</p> <p>A. Areas of <i>(community name)</i> are subject to periodic inundation and channel migration which results in loss of life and property, health, and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for protection and relief from flooding and channel migration, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.</p> <p>B. When floodplains and watersheds are developed without taking appropriate care and precautions, flood heights, frequencies, and velocities increase, causing a greater threat to humans, damage to property, destruction of natural floodplain functions, and adverse impacts to water quality and habitat.</p> <p>C. Rivers, streams, lakes, estuarine and marine areas and their floodplains are major elements of healthy aquatic and riparian habitats and conveyance of flood waters. If watersheds, rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries, floodplains and other systems are not viewed holistically as biological and geomorphologic units, it can lead to serious degradation of habitat and increased flood hazards to people and human development.</p> <p>D. Over the years, natural processes have evolved that manage flood waters and channel flows in the most effective and efficient manner. Disruption of these processes by altering land cover, stream channels, wetlands, and other water bodies leads to increased flood hazards, loss of life and property, threats to public health, and loss of habitat.</p>	<p>All language is optional, unless noted in the commentary as an NFIP requirement (“44 CFR....”), an ESA requirement (“ESA requirement (RPA....”) or Washington state law (“WAC....”).</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>1.3. Purpose</p> <p>It is the purpose of this ordinance to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare by managing development in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Protect human life, health and property from the dangers of flooding; B. Minimize the need for publicly funded and hazardous rescue efforts to save those who are isolated by flood waters; C. Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood damage repair and flood control projects; D. Minimize disruption of commerce and governmental services; E. Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets, and bridges located in the floodplain; F. Maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use of floodprone areas so as to minimize future flood blight areas; G. Encourage that those who occupy areas subject to flooding and channel migration assume responsibility for their actions; H. Qualify the (<i>community name</i>) for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, thereby giving citizens and businesses the opportunity to purchase flood insurance; I. Maintain the quality of water in rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries, and marine areas and their floodplains so as to protect public water supplies, areas of the Public Trust, and wildlife habitat protected by the Endangered Species Act; J. Retain the natural channel, shoreline, and floodplain creation processes and other natural floodplain functions that protect, create, and maintain habitat for threatened and endangered species. 	<p>ESA requirement. By including retention of natural floodplain functions in the Statement of Purpose, the ordinance protects threatened and endangered species and their habitat and habitat forming processes.</p>



Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>K. Prevent or minimize loss of hydraulic, geomorphic, and ecological functions of floodplains and stream channels.</p>	<p>ESA requirement. Protecting hydraulic, geomorphic, and ecological functions are essential to critical habitat for ESA protected species. Protecting hydraulic and geomorphic functions also protects life and property.</p>
<p>1.4. Lands to Which This Ordinance Applies</p> <p>This ordinance shall apply to the Regulatory Floodplain, which is comprised of the Special Flood Hazard Area and all Protected Areas within the jurisdiction of (<i>community name</i>), as defined in Section 3.</p>	<p>As noted in the graphic on page iv, there may be locations where part of the Protected Area lies outside the SFHA. The ordinance needs to be enforced in such areas in order to comply with the Endangered Species Act. To simplify terminology, “Regulatory Floodplain” is used to define both areas.</p> <p> CRS credit is provided where floodplain management regulations are extended beyond the SFHA shown on the FIRM under Section 411.a.</p>
<p>1.5. Approach</p> <p>In order to achieve the listed purposes, this ordinance:</p> <p>A. Defines and clarifies the terms and phrases used in this ordinance in Section 2.</p> <p>B. Identifies in Section 3 the Regulatory Floodplain, the Special Flood Hazard Area, and the Protected Area and the supporting technical data needed to delineate those areas.</p> <p>C. Establishes a permit requirement in Section 4 so that all human development that may affect flood hazards, water quality, and habitat are reviewed before it is constructed.</p> <p>D. Sets minimum protection standards in Section 5 for all development to ensure that the development will not increase the potential for flood damage or adversely affect natural floodplain functions.</p>	

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>E. Sets minimum standards to protect new and substantially improved structures from flood damage in Section 6.</p> <p>F. Specifies additional habitat protection criteria in Section 7. Some small projects do not need a permit. For all other development projects, the applicant must assess their impact on those factors that contribute to increased flood hazard and degradation of habitat. If the assessment concludes that the project will cause an adverse effect outside the Protected Area, the permit will be denied unless the project impacts are mitigated (avoid, rectified or compensated).</p>	
<p>1.6. Penalties for Noncompliance</p> <p>No development shall be undertaken or placed in the areas regulated by this ordinance without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations of (<i>community name</i>). Violations of the provisions of this ordinance by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions), shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$1,000 for each violation, and in addition shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the (<i>community name</i>) from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation. Each violation or each day of continued unlawful activity shall constitute a separate violation.</p>	<p>The community's legal counsel should review this and the following sections and ensure that they are consistent with similar provisions in the building code and zoning ordinance. This section may be omitted if the community already has a penalty provision that applies to these regulations.</p> <p>Communities may want to set higher penalties after consulting with their legal counsel.</p>
<p>1.7. Interpretation</p> <p>In the interpretation and application of this ordinance, all provisions shall be:</p> <p>A. Considered as minimum requirements;</p> <p>B. Liberally construed in favor of the (<i>community name</i>); and,</p> <p>C. Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.</p>	


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>1.8. Abrogation and Greater Restrictions</p> <p>This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, deed restrictions, codes or ordinances. However, where this ordinance and another code, ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.</p> <p>1.9. Warning and Disclaimer of Liability</p> <p>The degree of property and habitat protection required by this ordinance is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods and movement of channels outside of mapped channel migration areas can and will occur on rare occasions. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This ordinance does not imply that land outside the regulated areas or development permitted within such areas will be free from flood or erosion damage. This ordinance shall not create liability on the part of (<i>community name</i>) or any officer or employee thereof for any damage to property or habitat that result from reliance on this ordinance or any administrative decision lawfully made hereunder.</p> <p>1.10. Severability</p> <p>The provisions and sections of this ordinance shall be deemed separable and the invalidity of any portion of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of the remainder.</p>	

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Section 2. Definitions</p> <p>Unless specifically defined below, terms or phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this ordinance its most reasonable application.</p> <p>Adversely affect/Adverse effect: effects that are a direct or indirect result of the proposed action or its interrelated or interdependent actions and the effect is not discountable, insignificant or beneficial. Discountable effects are extremely unlikely to occur. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where a take occurs. Based on best judgment, a person would not: (1) be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects; or (2) expect discountable effects to occur. Beneficial effects are contemporaneous positive effects without any adverse effects. In the event that the overall effect of the proposed action is beneficial, but is also likely to cause some adverse effects, then the proposed action is considered to result in an adverse effect.</p> <p>Appurtenant structure: A structure which is on the same parcel of property as the principle structure to be insured and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principle structure.</p> <p>Base Flood: the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also referred to as the “100-year flood”). The area subject to the base flood is the Special Flood Hazard Area designated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps as Zones “A” or “V” including AE, AO, AH, A1-99 and VE.</p> <p>Base Flood Elevation: the elevation of the base flood above the datum of the effective FIRM.</p> <p>Basement: any area of the structure having its floor sub-grade (below ground level) on all sides.</p> <p>Channel Migration Zone: the area within the lateral extent of likely stream channel movement due to stream bank destabilization and erosion, rapid stream incision, aggradation, avulsions, and shifts in location of stream channels.</p>	<p>Most of the definitions in this section are taken from 44 CFR 59.1</p> <p>This definition is taken from the USFWS/NMFS ESA Section 7 Consultation Handbook, March 1998. The term “take” is discussed further in the Handbook.</p> <p>44 CFR 59.1 definition</p> <p>See also the definitions under “Zone.”</p> <p>ESA requirement. See Section 3.4.D on channel migration area mapping and <i>Regional Guidance for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies</i> (see Appendix A).</p>



Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Critical Facility: a facility necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare during a flood. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire and emergency operations installations, water and wastewater treatment plants, electric power stations, and installations which produce, use, or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste (other than consumer products containing hazardous substances or hazardous waste intended for household use).</p>	<p> CRS credit is provided for setting higher protection standards for critical facilities (Section 5.4).</p>
<p>Development: any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate in the Regulatory Floodplain, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, subdivision of land, removal of more than 5% of the native vegetation on the property, or alteration of natural site characteristics.</p>	<p>The last two phrases are an ESA requirement to ensure that any action that might harm habitat is subject to the ordinance (Biological Opinion Appendix 4, footnote 23).</p>
<p>Dry Floodproofing: any combination of structural and non-structural measures that prevent flood waters from entering a structure.</p>	
<p>Elevation Certificate: the official form (FEMA Form 81-31) used to provide elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with provisions of this ordinance and determine the proper flood insurance premium rate.</p>	<p>Optional language to help residents obtain flood insurance and facilitate Community Rating System credit</p>
<p>FEMA: the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the agency responsible for administering the National Flood Insurance Program.</p>	
<p>Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area: lands needed to maintain species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. These areas are designated by the (<i>community name</i>) pursuant to the Washington State Growth Management Act (WAC 365-190-080).</p>	<p>Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are designated by local governments pursuant to the Growth Management Act. They should include waters of the state (i.e., Type S streams and shorelines), habitats for species that are endangered, threatened, or of local importance, and natural area preserves. The community should have a list of designated habitat conservation areas and/or criteria for designating them.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Flood or Flooding: a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:</p> <p>A. The overflow of inland or tidal waters, and/or</p> <p>B. The unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.</p>	
<p>Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM): the official map on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.</p>	<p>A Digital FIRM or “DFIRM” is considered a FIRM.</p>
<p>Flood Protection Elevation (FPE): the elevation above the datum of the effective FIRM to which new and substantially improved structures must be protected from flood damage.</p>	<p>“Freeboard” is the term for requiring additional protection above the base flood elevation. The community establishes how much freeboard it wants when it sets the FPE in Section 3.3.D</p> <p> CRS credit is provided for freeboard under Section 431.a.</p>
<p>Flood Insurance Study: the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that includes flood profiles, the Flood Insurance Rate Map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.</p>	
<p>Floodway: the channel of a stream or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than <i>_(optional desired freeboard amount)_</i>___ foot at any point.</p>	<p>See Sections 3.3.E and 3.5.D on mapping floodways.</p> <p> See page 3-17 in <i>Floodplain Management Requirements</i>, FEMA 480, for more information on floodway mapping. The NFIP standard is a one foot allowable surcharge, but the community may opt for a more restrictive standard. CRS credit is provided if a floodway is mapped based on a water surface elevation increase of less than one foot under Section 411.d. Some communities base their floodway delineation on flood depths, flood velocities, and/or channel migration zones.</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Functionally Dependant Use: a use that must be located or carried out close to water, e.g. docking or port facilities necessary for the unloading of cargo or passengers or shipbuilding and ship repair.</p>	
<p>Historic Structure: a structure that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Washington Heritage Register, or the Washington Heritage Barn Register, or B. Has been certified to contribute to the historical significance of a registered historic district. 	<p>If the community has an historic preservation program that has been certified by the Washington Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, then the following can be added at the end of section A “or the (<i>community name</i>)’s [name of the local program’s list of historic sites].” Section B can be omitted if the community has no registered historic districts.</p>
<p>Hyporheic Zone: a saturated layer of rock or sediment beneath and/or adjacent to a stream channel that contains some proportion of channel water or that has been altered by channel water infiltration.</p>	<p>For more information, see Bolton and Shellberg, <i>Ecological Issues in Floodplains and Riparian Corridors</i> (see Appendix A).</p>
<p>Impervious Surface: a hard surface area which causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from the flow present under natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots or storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, gravel roads, packed earthen materials, and oiled, macadam or other surfaces which similarly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater.</p>	<p>ESA requirement (Biological Opinion Appendix 4, footnote 24). This definition is taken from the Department of Ecology’s <i>Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington</i>.</p>
<p>Lowest Floor: the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement or crawlspace). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a structure’s lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is compliant with Section 6.2.F, (i.e. provided there are adequate openings to allow floodwaters into the area).</p>	<p>Note that a below-grade crawlspace floor may be considered a basement floor. See FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01, <i>Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas</i>.</p>
<p>Manufactured Home: a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term “manufactured home” does not include a “recreational vehicle.”</p>	
<p>Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision: a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.</p>	

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Native Vegetation: plant species that are indigenous to the community's area and that reasonably could be expected to naturally occur on the site.</p>	
<p>Natural Floodplain Functions: the contribution that a flood-plain makes to support habitat, including, but not limited to providing flood storage and conveyance, reducing flood velocities, reducing sedimentation, filtering nutrients and impurities from runoff, processing organic wastes, moderating temperature fluctuations, and providing breeding and feeding grounds, shelter, and refugia, for aquatic or riparian species</p>	
<p>New Construction: structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of this ordinance.</p>	
<p>Protected Area: the lands that lie within the boundaries of the floodway, the riparian habitat zone, and the channel migration area. Because of the impact that development can have on flood heights and velocities and habitat, special rules apply in the Protected Area.</p>	<p>See the explanation in the Introduction and the definitions for these three areas. The Protected Area includes all three areas. It would facilitate administration of this ordinance if each of the three component areas were plotted on a map (see Sections 3.3.E, 3.3.F, and 3.4).</p> <p> There may be places where portions of the Protected Area are outside the SFHA. Enforcing this ordinance in those places is needed to comply with the Endangered Species Act and is eligible for CRS credit under Section 411.a.</p>
<p>Recreational Vehicle: a vehicle,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Built on a single chassis; and B. 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; and C. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by an automobile or light duty truck; and D. Designed primarily for use as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use, not as a permanent dwelling. 	




Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Regulatory Floodplain: the area of the Special Flood Hazard Area plus the Protected Area, as defined in Section 3. The term also includes newly designated areas that are delineated pursuant to Section 3.5.</p>	<p>Note that there may be portions of the Protected Area, outside the SFHA, that are subject to the requirements of this ordinance.</p>
<p>Riparian: Of, adjacent to, or living on, the bank of a river, lake, pond, ocean, sound, or other water body.</p>	
<p>Riparian Habitat Zone: the water body and adjacent land areas that are likely to support aquatic and riparian habitat as detailed in Section 3.4.C of this ordinance.</p>	<p>The term “riparian habitat zone” is used in this ordinance to differentiate the regulated area from a “riparian buffer zone,” which has a specific meaning under Washington state law.</p>
<p>SFHA: Special Flood Hazard Area.</p>	
<p>Special Flood Hazard Area: the land subject to inundation by the base flood. Special Flood Hazard Areas are designated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps with the letters “A” or “V” including AE, AO, AH, A1-99 and VE. The Special Flood Hazard Area is also referred to as the area of special flood hazard or SFHA.</p>	
<p>Start of Construction: includes substantial improvement, and means the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement that occurred before the permit’s expiration date. The actual start is either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation.</p>	
<p>Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory structures not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.</p>	


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Structure: a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground.</p> <p>Substantial Damage: damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.</p> <p>Substantial damage also means flood-related damage sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a 10-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each such flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.</p> <p>Substantial Improvement: any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, replacement, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred “substantial damage,” regardless of the actual repair work performed.</p> <p>The term does not include any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of State or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions.</p> <p>Variance: a grant of relief from the requirements of this ordinance which permits construction in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this ordinance.</p>	<p>This ordinance sets protection standards for structures in Section 6. Other facilities, such as bridges, decks, and docks, are not subject to Section 6, but are still considered “development” and need floodplain development permits.</p> <p> This second paragraph is optional to help trigger Increased Cost of Compliance claim payments for repetitively flooded properties and can receive CRS credit under Section 431.c. This is explained more in <i>CRS Credit for Higher Regulatory Standards</i>.</p> <p> Some communities count improvements cumulatively by inserting the word “cumulative” before “cost.” They can receive CRS credit under Section 431.c. This is explained more in <i>CRS Credit for Higher Regulatory Standards</i>.</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Water Typing: a system for classifying water bodies according to their size and fish habitat characteristics. The Washington Department of Natural Resources' Forest Practices Water Typing classification system is hereby adopted by reference. The system defines four water types:</p> <p>A. Type "S" = Shoreline: Streams that are designated "shorelines of the State," including marine shorelines</p> <p>B. Type "F" = Fish: Streams that are known to be used by fish or meet the physical criteria to be potentially used by fish.</p> <p>C. Type "Np" = Non-Fish Perennial streams</p> <p>D. Type "Ns" = Non-Fish Seasonal streams</p> <p>Zone: one or more areas delineated on the FIRM. The following zones may be used on the adopted FIRM. The Special Flood Hazard Area is comprised of the A and V Zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A: SFHA where no base flood elevation is provided. — A#: numbered A Zones (e.g., A7 or A14), SFHA with a base flood elevation. — AE: SFHA with a base flood elevation. — AO: SFHA subject to inundation by shallow flooding usually resulting from sheet flow on sloping terrain, with average depths between one and three feet. Average flood depths are shown. — AH: SFHA subject to inundation by shallow flooding (usually areas of ponding) with average depths between one and three feet. Base flood elevations are shown. — B: the area between the SFHA and the 500-year flood of the primary source of flooding. It may also be an area with a local, shallow flooding problem or an area protected by a levee. — C: an area of minimal flood hazard, as above the 500-year flood level of the primary source of flooding. B and C Zones may have flooding that does not meet the criteria to be mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area, especially ponding and local drainage problems. — D: area of undetermined but possible flood hazard. — V: the SFHA subject to coastal high hazard flooding including waves of 3' or greater in height. There are three types of V Zones: V, V#, and VE, and they correspond to the A Zone designations. — X: the area outside the mapped SFHA. — Shaded X: the same as a Zone B, above. 	<p>For more information on water typing and a map that designates the types of the major streams of the State, see www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticesApplications/Pages/fp_watertyping.aspx</p> <p>A#, V#, B, and C Zones were used on earlier FIRMs. More recent FIRMs show AE, VE, X, and shaded X Zones. The zones not shown on the community's FIRM may be omitted from this definition.</p>



Ordinance Language	Commentary
Section 3. Regulatory Data	
<p>3.1. Regulatory Floodplain</p>	
<p>The Regulatory Floodplain is comprised of the Special Flood Hazard Area and all Protected Areas within the jurisdiction of (<i>community name</i>). The term also includes areas delineated pursuant to Section 3.5.</p>	<p>As noted in the graphic on page iv, there may be locations where part of the Protected Area lies outside the SFHA. The ordinance needs to be enforced in such areas in order to comply with the Endangered Species Act.</p>
	<p> CRS credit is provided under Section 411.a where floodplain management regulations are extended beyond the SFHA shown on the FIRM and where new regulatory studies (see Section 3.5) exceed FEMA's mapping criteria.</p>
<p>3.2. Special Flood Hazard Area</p>	
<p>A. The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is the area subject to flooding by the base flood and subject to the provisions of this ordinance. It is identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in a scientific and engineering report entitled "Flood Insurance Study for (<i>community or county name</i>)" dated (<i>___</i>), (<i>20___</i>), and any revisions thereto, with an accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for (<i>community or county name</i>) " dated (<i>___</i>), (<i>20___</i>), and any revisions thereto, are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance. The Flood Insurance Study and the FIRM are on file at (<i>community address</i>).</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(1)(d)(2)</p> <p>The phrase "and any revisions thereto" is optional. The community's legal counsel should advise if it can be used to automatically adopt Letters of Map Change and other future revisions of the FIRM and Flood Insurance Study. If the phrase is not included, the ordinance may have to be amended every time the FIRM is revised or every time a Letter of Map Change is issued by FEMA. The Washington State Attorney General has approved language that allows automatic adoption of map revisions.</p>
<p>B. Upon receipt of a floodplain development permit application, the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall compare the elevation of the site to the base flood elevation. A development project is not subject to the requirements of this ordinance if it is located on land that can be shown to be</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outside the Protected Area and 2. Higher than the base flood elevation. 	<p>Applicants should keep in mind that though this is outside FEMA's authority, there still could be adverse effects to listed species that should be addressed.</p>
<p>The (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall inform the applicant that the project may still be subject to the flood insurance purchase requirements unless the owner receives a Letter of</p>	<p>See Sections 4.1 and 4.2 on floodplain development permit applications and Sections 4.4 and 4.5 on the "floodplain administrator."</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Map Amendment from FEMA.</p> <p>C. The (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall make interpretations where needed, as to the exact location of the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodplain, the SFHA and the Protected Area (e.g., where there appears to be a conflict between the mapped SFHA boundary and actual field conditions as determined by the base flood elevation and ground elevations). The applicant may appeal the (<i>floodplain administrator's</i>) interpretation of the location of the boundary to (<i>name of appeals board</i>).</p> <p>3.3. Flood Hazard Data</p> <p>A. The base flood elevation for the SFHAs of (<i>community name</i>) shall be as delineated on the 100-year flood profiles in the Flood Insurance Study for (<i>community or county name</i>).</p> <p>B. The base flood elevation for each SFHA delineated as a "Zone AH" or "Zone AO" shall be that elevation (or depth) delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map. Where base flood depths are not available in Zone AO, the base flood elevation shall be considered to be two feet above the highest grade adjacent to the structure.</p> <p>C. The base flood elevation for all other SFHAs shall be as defined in Sections 3.3.F and 3.5.C.</p>	<p>The Protected Area is defined by horizontal measurements and the SFHA is defined by the base flood elevation. To be exempt from <i>all</i> aspects of this ordinance, a project in the Regulatory Floodplain must be beyond the horizontal measurements (outside the Protected Area) <i>and</i> higher than the base flood elevation. A project in the Regulatory Floodplain on a site that is above the base flood elevation, but in the Protected Area, must still meet the ESA requirements of the ordinance.</p> <p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(7)</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>D. The Flood Protection Elevation (FPE) shall be the base flood elevation plus one foot.</p>	<p>“Plus one foot” is optional, but highly recommended. FEMA standards require the lowest floor to be elevated “to or above” the base flood elevation; however, adding an additional one or two feet of free-board increases safety and may reduce insurance premiums by up to 60% . See also www.mass.gov/czm/stormmart/regulations/freeboard.htm</p> <p> CRS credit for freeboard can be as high as 300 points for three feet or more, provided under Section 431.a.</p>
<p>E. The floodway shall be as delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map or in accordance with Sections 3.3.F and 3.5.D.</p>	<p>Communities with older Flood Boundary Floodway Maps still in effect need to adopt their Flood Boundary Floodway Maps, not the FIRM.</p>
<p>F. Where base flood elevation and floodway data have not been provided in Special Flood Hazard Areas, the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(4). Note that data in a draft or preliminary FIRM may be used as explained in FEMA’s Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98 <i>Use Of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data As Available Data</i>.</p> <p> CRS credit is provided for adopting regulatory data, such as base flood elevations and floodway delineations in areas where they are not shown on the FIRM under Section 411.a.</p>
<p>3.4. Protected Area</p>	
<p>A. The Protected Area is comprised of those lands that lie within the boundaries of the floodway, the riparian habitat zone, and the channel migration area.</p> <p>B. In riverine areas, where a floodway has not been designated in accordance with Sections 3.3.E, 3.3.F, or 3.5.D, the Protected Area is comprised of those lands that lie within the boundaries of the riparian habitat zone, the channel migration area, and the SFHA.</p>	<p> There may be places where portions of the Protected Area are outside the SFHA. Enforcing this ordinance in those places would ensure some level of compliance with the Endangered Species Act and is eligible for CRS credit under Section 411.a.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>C. Riparian habitat zone: The riparian habitat zone includes those watercourses within the SFHA and adjacent land areas that are likely to support aquatic and riparian habitat.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The size and location of the riparian habitat zone is dependent on the type of water body. The riparian habitat zone includes the water body and adjacent lands, measured perpendicularly from ordinary high water on both sides of the water body: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Type S streams that are designated “shorelines of the State:” 250 feet (b) Type F streams (fish bearing) streams greater than 5 feet wide and marine shorelines: 200 feet (c) Type F streams less than 5 feet wide and lakes: 150 feet (d) Type N (nonsalmonid-bearing) perennial and seasonal streams with unstable slopes: 225 feet (e) All other Type N (nonsalmonid-bearing) perennial and seasonal streams: 150 feet 2. The riparian habitat zone shall be delineated on the site plan by the applicant at the time of application for subdivision approval or floodplain development permit for all development proposals within 300 feet of any stream or shoreline. 	<p>ESA requirement (Biological Opinion Appendix 4, Section 1 and RPA.3.A). The Biological Opinion uses “riparian buffer zone,” but in this ordinance the zone designates an area where certain limited activities can occur. Generally it is an area that must be kept as open space.</p> <p>The dimensions were set by the Biological Opinion and came from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Areas with unstable slopes or mass wasting are more likely to have slumping or landslides, so a larger overbank area needs to be protected. For more information, see <i>Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Habitats – Riparian</i> at http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ripsum.htm</p> <p>See also Section 4.2.A on the requirements for a site plan with the permit application.</p>
<p>D. Channel Migration Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The channel migration area shall be the channel migration zone as delineated on <i>(name of map that has been adopted for local regulatory purposes) plus 50 feet.</i> 2. Where more than one channel migration zone has been delineated, the <i>(floodplain administrator)</i> shall use the delineation that has been adopted for other local regulatory purposes. 3. Where a channel migration zone has not yet been mapped, the provisions of Section 3.5.E shall apply at the time of permit application. 	<p>If there is no channel migration zone map that has been adopted by <i>(community name)</i> for regulatory purposes, channel migration zones need to be mapped and regulated in accordance with the Washington State Shorelines Management Program and this section</p> <p>See also the riparian management core zone criteria of the Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices rules at the WDNR website (http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/ForestPractices/Pages/Home.aspx).</p> <p> There is CRS credit for mapping and regulating channel migra-</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>3.5. New Regulatory Data</p> <p>A. All requests to revise or change the flood hazard data, including requests for a Letter of Map Revision and a Conditional Letter of Map Revision shall be reviewed by the <i>(floodplain administrator)</i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <i>(floodplain administrator)</i> shall not sign the Community Acknowledgement Form for any requests based on filling or other development, unless the applicant for the letter documents that such filling or development is in compliance with this ordinance. 2. The <i>(floodplain administrator)</i> shall not approve a request to revise or change a floodway delineation until FEMA has issued a Conditional Letter of Map Revision that approves the change. <p>B. If an applicant disagrees with the regulatory data prescribed by this ordinance, he/she may submit a detailed technical study needed to replace existing data with better data in accordance with FEMA mapping guidelines or <i>Regional Guidance for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies in Support of the Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Endangered Species Act</i> FEMA Region X, 2010. If the data in question are shown on the published FIRM, the submittal must also include a request to FEMA for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision.</p> <p>C. Where base flood elevation data are not available in accordance with Section 3.3, applicants for approval of new subdivisions and other proposed developments (including proposals for manufactured home parks and subdivisions) greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is the lesser, shall</p>	<p>tion areas. For more information, see <i>CRS Credit for Mapping and Managing Channel Migration Areas</i>.</p> <p>If there is more than one channel migration zone map or if the available map shows more than one zone (e.g., a low, medium, and high hazard), this ordinance should be consistent with the delineation used for other regulations. See also <i>Regional Guidance for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies</i> for further guidance.</p> <p>The community has an obligation to not approve a map revision if it is based on an illegal activity. Putting the requirement in the ordinance helps support the floodplain administrator when a LOMR or CLOMR should be denied.</p> <p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(3)</p> <p> The following alternative language is optional. It requires</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>include such data with their permit applications.</p>	<p>every permit applicant, not just developers of larger projects, to provide the regulatory data. Therefore, CRS credit is provided for the following language under Section 411.a: “Where base flood elevation data are not available in accordance with Section 3.3, applicants for approval of new subdivisions and other proposed developments shall include such data with their permit applications.”</p>
<p>D. Where floodway delineation is not available in accordance with Section 3.3, the floodway will be designated to be one-half the distance of the mapped 100 year floodplain at any point, and the prohibition on floodway development adheres, unless a floodway study indicates otherwise. This provision applies to any floodplain development permit, including those for substantial improvements.</p>	<p> This provision can receive CRS credit under Section 411.a, as the NFIP only requires developers to provide base flood elevations, where they are not available.</p> <p> The NFIP’s floodway mapping standard allows the water surface elevation to increase up to one foot. CRS credit is provided if increases in the base flood elevation are kept to a smaller amount. This credit is provided under the more restrictive floodway credit found in Section 411.d.</p>
<p>E. Where channel migration zone data are not available in accordance with Section 3.4.D, the permit applicant shall either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate the entire SFHA as the channel migration zone or <p>F. Identify the channel migration area in accordance with <i>Regional Guidance for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies in Support of the Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Endangered Species Act</i>, FEMA Region X, 2012.</p>	



Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>G. All new hydrologic and hydraulic flood studies conducted pursuant to this Section 3.5 shall consider future conditions and the cumulative effects from anticipated future land use changes in accordance with <i>Regional Guidance for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies in Support of the Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Endangered Species Act</i>, FEMA Region X, 2012.</p>	<p>ESA requirement (RPA 2.C).</p> <p> Regulatory flood studies that include future conditions can receive CRS credit under Section 411.c.</p>
<p>H. The floodplain administrator shall use the most restrictive data available for the channel migration zone, floodways, future conditions, and riparian habitat areas.</p>	<p>ESA Requirement (Appendix 4, 3.12)</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
Section 4. Administration	
<p>4.1. Establishment of Floodplain Development Permit</p>	
<p>A floodplain development permit shall be obtained before construction or development begins within the Regulatory Floodplain. The permit shall be for all development as set forth in Section 2. Definitions.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(1) requires a permit for all development in the SFHA. There may be locations where part of a Protected Area lies outside the SFHA. The ordinance needs to be enforced in such areas in order to comply with the Endangered Species Act.</p>
	<p>The community does not need to adopt those parts of Section 4 that duplicate other ordinances' existing administrative provisions.</p>
<p>4.2. Floodplain Development Permit Application</p>	
<p>Application for a floodplain development permit shall be made on forms furnished by the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) and shall include, but not be limited to,</p>	<p>Example permits are available from FEMA or DOE and in Section 7 of <i>NFIP Floodplain Management Requirements</i>, FEMA 480.</p>
<p>A. One or more site plans, drawn to scale, showing:</p>	
<p>1. The nature, location, dimensions, and elevations of the property in question,</p>	<p>See also Sections 5.1 and 5.2. on subdivision and site design requirements.</p>
<p>2. Names and location of all lakes, water bodies, waterways and drainage facilities within 300 feet of the site,</p>	<p>The site plan needs to show all riparian habitat zones that affect the site, including those measured from water bodies outside the property.</p>
<p>3. The elevations of the 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year floods, where the data are available,</p>	<p>ESA requirement (Biological Opinion Appendix 4, Section 3.4), where such data are available, such as a Flood Insurance Study profile.</p>
<p>4. The boundaries of the Regulatory Floodplain, SFHA, floodway, riparian habitat zone, and channel migration area, delineated in accordance with Section 3,</p>	
<p>5. The proposed drainage system including, but not limited to storm sewers, overland flow paths, detention facilities and roads,</p>	
<p>6. Existing and proposed structures, fill, pavement and other impervious surfaces, and sites for storage of materials,</p>	

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>7. All wetlands,</p> <p>8. Designated fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, and habitat areas identified for conservation or protection under state or federal or local laws or regulations (e.g: Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Growth Management Act, Shorelines Management Act, Priority Habitat and Species List,</p> <p>9. Existing native vegetation and proposed revegetation.</p>	<p>Wetlands are subject to other local, State and Federal regulations and are not addressed directly in this ordinance. However, it is important to know where these regulated areas are when reviewing the site plan.</p> <p>See the definition of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The community may want to add other designated sensitive areas.</p> <p>The percentage of native vegetation land coverage for the site may also be stated.</p>
<p>B. If the proposed project involves grading, excavation, or filling, the site plan shall include proposed post-development terrain at one foot contour intervals.</p>	
<p>C. If the proposed project includes a new structure, substantial improvement, or repairs to a substantially damaged structure that will be elevated, the application shall include the Flood Protection Elevation for the building site and the proposed elevations of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The top of bottom floor (including basement, crawl-space, or enclosure floor) 2. The top of the next higher floor 3. The bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member (in V Zones only) 4. The top of the slab of an attached garage 5. The lowest elevation of machinery or equipment servicing the structure 6. The lowest adjacent (finished) grade next to structure 7. The highest adjacent (finished) grade next to structure 8. The lowest adjacent grade at the lowest elevation of a deck or stairs, including structural support 	<p>Item 3) is only required in coastal high hazard areas and may be omitted in communities with no V Zones.</p> <p>This list is the same information required for a FEMA Elevation Certificate. The instructions and diagrams on the Certificate can help clarify where these elevations are to be shot.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>D. If the proposed project includes a new structure, substantial improvement, or repairs to a substantially damaged nonresidential structure that will be dry floodproofed, the application shall include the FPE for the building site and the elevation in relation to the datum of the effective FIRM to which the structure will be dry floodproofed and a certification by a registered professional engineer or licensed architect that the dry floodproofing methods meet the floodproofing criteria in Section 6.3.</p>	
<p>E. The proposed project must be designed and located so that new structural flood protection is not needed</p>	<p>ESA requirement (RPA 3.A.3.b, Appendix 4, Section 3.8).</p>
<p>F. The application shall include a description of the extent to which a stream, lake, or other water body, including its shoreline, will be altered or relocated as a result of the proposed development.</p>	<p>Bank stabilization measures along salmonid-bearing streams, channel migration zones, and along estuarine and marine shorelines must be minimized to the maximum extent possible. If bank stabilization measures are necessary, bioengineered armoring of streambanks and shorelines must be used (per the Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines 2003 (for riverine shorelines) or the State Shorelines Guidelines on bank stabilization (2003) (for estuarine and marine shorelines). ESA requirement (RPA 3.A.3.b, Appendix 4, Section 3).</p>
<p>G. The application shall include documentation that the applicant will apply for all necessary permits required by Federal, State, or local law. The application shall include written acknowledgment that the applicant understands that the final certification of use or certificate of occupancy will be issued only if the applicant provides copies of the required Federal, State, and local permits or letters stating that a permit is not required. The floodplain permit is not valid if those other permits and approvals are not obtained prior to any ground disturbing work or structural improvements.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(2)</p> <p>See also Section 4.7.A.3. Many communities have developed their own checklists showing what permits are required for different areas and different types of projects. Help doing this may be available from the Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance (www.ora.wa.gov).</p>
<p>H. The application shall include acknowledgment by the applicant that representatives of any Federal, State or local unit of government with regulatory authority over the project are authorized to enter upon the property to inspect the development.</p>	

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>4.3. Floodplain Development Permit Expiration</p>	
<p>If there has been no start of construction, a floodplain development permit shall expire 180 days after the date of issuance. Where the applicant documents a need for an extension beyond this period due to conditions beyond the applicant's control, the <i>(floodplain administrator)</i> may authorize one or more extensions.</p>	<p>See also the definition of “start of construction.”</p>
<p>4.4. Designation of the <i>(Floodplain Administrator)</i></p>	<p>44 CFR 59.22(b)(1)</p>
<p>The <i>(floodplain administrator)</i> is hereby appointed to administer and implement this ordinance by granting or denying floodplain development permit applications in accordance with its provisions.</p>	<p>The “floodplain administrator” can be an agency, a full time staff person, a part time staff assignment, or a contractor to the community.</p> <p> CRS Credit is provided under Section 431.n if the floodplain administrator is trained and/or a Certified Floodplain Manager. For more information about the CFM[®] program, see www.floods.org.</p>
<p>4.5. Duties of the <i>(Floodplain Administrator)</i></p>	
<p>Duties of the <i>(floodplain administrator)</i> shall include, but not be limited to:</p>	
<p>A. Review all floodplain development permits to determine that the permit requirements of this ordinance have been satisfied.</p>	
<p>B. Review all floodplain development permits to determine that all necessary permits have been obtained from those Federal, State, or local governmental agencies from which prior approval is required, including those local, State or Federal permits that may be required to assure compliance with the Endangered Species Act and/or other appropriate State or Federal laws.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(2)</p>
<p>C. Review all floodplain development permits to determine if the proposed development is located in the Protected Area. If located in the Protected Area, ensure that the provisions of Section 7 are met.</p>	<p>See also Section 4.2.F.</p>
<p>D. Ensure that all development activities within the Regulatory Floodplain of the jurisdiction of the <i>(community name)</i> meet the requirements of this ordinance.</p>	


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>E. Inspect all development projects before, during and after construction to ensure compliance with all provisions of this ordinance, including proper elevation of the structure.</p> <p>F. Maintain for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of this ordinance.</p> <p>G. Submit reports as required for the National Flood Insurance Program.</p> <p>H. Notify FEMA of any proposed amendments to this ordinance.</p> <p>I. Cooperate with State and Federal agencies to improve flood and other technical data and notify FEMA of any new data that would revise the FIRM.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(5)(iii) and ESA requirement (Biological Opinion Appendix 4, Section 4)</p>
<p>4.6. Records</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(5)(i) and (iii)</p>
<p>A. Where base flood elevation data have been obtained pursuant to Sections 3.3 and 3.5, the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall obtain, record, and maintain the actual “finished construction” elevations for the locations listed in Section 4.2.C. This information shall be recorded on a current FEMA Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31), signed and sealed by a professional land surveyor, currently licensed in the State of Washington.</p>	<p>See also Section 4.7.A.1.</p> <p> Use of the FEMA Elevation Certificate form is optional, except for CRS communities. It is a very useful form that helps ensure full compliance with the ordinance and it is needed for the owner to obtain a flood insurance policy.</p>
<p>B. For all new or substantially improved dry floodproofed nonresidential structures, where base flood elevation data has been obtained pursuant to Sections 3.3 and 3.5, the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall obtain, record and maintain the elevation (in relation to the datum of the effective FIRM) to which the structure was floodproofed. This information shall be recorded on a current FEMA Floodproofing Certificate (FEMA Form 81-65), professional engineer, currently licensed in the State of Washington</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(5)(ii) and (iii).</p> <p>See also Sections 4.2.D, 4.7.A.1, and 6.3.D.</p> <p> Use of the FEMA Floodproofing Certificate is optional, except for CRS communities. It is a very useful form that helps ensure full compliance with the ordinance and it is needed for the owner to obtain a flood insurance policy.</p>




Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>4.7. Certificate of Occupancy</p> <p>A. A certification of use for the property or a certificate of occupancy for a new or substantially improved structure or an addition shall not be issued until:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The permit applicant provides a properly completed, signed and sealed Elevation or Floodproofing Certificate showing finished construction data as required by Section 4.6; 2. If a mitigation plan is required by Sections 7.7 and 7.8, all work identified in the plan has been completed according to the plan's schedule; 3. The applicant provides copies of all required Federal, State, and local permits noted in the permit application per Section 4.2.F ; 4. All other provisions of this ordinance have been met. <p>B. The (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) may accept a performance bond or other security that will ensure that unfinished portions of the project will be completed after the certification of use or certificate of occupancy has been issued.</p> <p>4.8. Board of Appeals</p> <p>A. The __(board of appeal/hearings examiner/ etc...)___ as established by __(board of appeal/hearings examiner/ etc...)___ shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from the requirements of this ordinance.</p> <p>B. The __(board of appeal/hearings examiner/ etc...)___ shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) in the enforcement or administration of this ordinance.</p>	<p>It is a good practice to hold on to the certificate of use or occupancy until all the required paperwork is supplied by the builder. If the certificate of use or occupancy is issued by another office, procedures would be needed to make sure the floodplain administrator is contacted before one is issued. Some communities call this step a sign off on the final inspection. The terms used in this ordinance should be consistent with the rest of the community's development regulations.</p> <p>Obtaining an "as built" or finished construction Elevation Certificate or Floodproofing Certificate is a requirement for CRS communities.</p> <p>There may be parts of the project that cannot be finished, even though the property is ready for use. An example would be the monitoring and maintenance of vegetation or restoration projects.</p> <p>This section is not needed if the community already has a board, commission, or hearing examiner to review appeals and variances applicable to this ordinance.</p>




Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>C. Those aggrieved by the decision of the __ (board of appeal/hearings examiner/ etc...) ___ may appeal such decision to the __ (board of appeal/hearings examiner/ etc...) ___.</p> <p>D. Upon consideration of the factors of Section 4.9 and the purposes of this ordinance, the __ (board of appeal/hearings examiner/ etc...) ___ may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purposes of this ordinance.</p> <p>E. The <i>(floodplain administrator)</i> shall maintain the records of all appeal actions and report any variances to the Federal Emergency Management Agency upon request.</p>	
<p>4.9. Variance Criteria</p>	
<p>A. In reviewing applications for a variance , the __ (board of appeal/hearings examiner/ etc...) ___ shall consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, standards specified in other sections of this ordinance, and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage; 2. The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others; 3. The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles; 4. The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the flood waters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site; 5. The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood or erosion damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner; 6. The availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to flooding or channel migration and are not in designated fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; 7. The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan, growth management regulations, critical area regulations, the shoreline management program, and floodplain management program for that area; 8. The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems, and streets and bridges; 	<p>44 CFR 60.6(a)(1-7)</p> <p>Communities are encouraged to adopt standards equal to or more restrictive than 44 CFR 60.6(a)(1-7) or use existing codes that meet or exceed these standards. FEMA may review a community’s findings justifying the granting of variances, and if that review indicates a pattern inconsistent with the objectives of sound floodplain management, FEMA may take appropriate action under 44 CFR 59.24(b).</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>9. The potential of the proposed development project to destroy or adversely affect a fish and wildlife habitat conservation area or create an adverse effect to federal, state or locally protected species or habitat; and</p> <p>10. The potential of the proposed development project to affect, or be affected by, channel migration; and</p> <p>12. Is the minimum necessary to grant relief; and</p> <p>13. Must be compliant with the ESA</p> <p>B. No variance shall be granted to the requirements of this ordinance unless the applicant demonstrates that:</p> <p>1. The development project cannot be located outside the Regulatory Floodplain;</p> <p>2. An exceptional hardship would result if the variance were not granted;</p> <p>3. The relief requested is the minimum necessary;</p> <p>4. The applicant’s circumstances are unique and do not represent a problem faced by other area properties;</p> <p>5. If the project is within a designated floodway, no increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result;</p> <p>6. The project will not adversely affect features or quality of habitat supporting local, state or federally protected fish or wildlife;</p> <p>7. There will be no additional threat to public health, safety, beneficial stream or water uses and functions, or creation of a nuisance;</p> <p>8. There will be no additional public expense for flood protection, lost environmental functions, rescue or relief operations, policing, or repairs to streambeds, shorelines, banks, roads, utilities, or other public facilities; and</p> <p>9. All requirements of other permitting agencies will still be met.</p> <p>C. Variances requested in connection with restoration of a historic site, building or structure may be granted using criteria more permissive than the above requirements, provided:</p> <p>1. The repair or rehabilitation is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the site,</p>	<p>If the issue is not specific to the property, but is a problem faced by other properties, the remedy should be a revision to the ordinance rather than a variance.</p> <p>Features or quality of habitat may include but is not limited to water quality, water quantity, flood volumes, flood velocities, spawning substrate, and/or floodplain refugia</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>building or structure; and</p> <p>2. The repair or rehabilitation will not result in the site, building or structure losing its historic designation.</p> <p>D. Variances may be requested for new construction, substantial improvements, and other development necessary for the conduct of functionally dependant uses provided:</p> <p>1. There is good and sufficient cause for providing relief;</p> <p>2. The variance is the minimum necessary to provide relief;</p> <p>3. The variance does not cause a rise in the 100 year flood level within the regulatory floodway;</p> <p>4. The project will not adversely affect federal, state or locally protected fish, wildlife and their habitat.</p> <p>E. Variances to the provisions of Section 6 of this ordinance may be issued for a structure on a small or irregularly shaped lot contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the FPE, providing the other variance criteria are met. The applicant for such a variance shall be notified, in writing, that the structure (i) will be subject to increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the FPE increases risks to life and property. Such notification shall be maintained with a record of all variance actions.</p> <p>F. Variances pertain to a physical piece of property. They are not personal in nature and are not based on the inhabitants or their health, economic, or financial circumstances.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.6(a)(5)</p>



Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Section 5. General Development Standards</p> <p>The provisions of this Section 5 shall apply in the Regulatory Floodplain:</p> <p>5.1. Subdivisions</p> <p>This section applies to all subdivision proposals, short subdivisions, short plats, planned developments, and new and expansions to manufactured housing parks.</p> <p>A. All proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage.</p> <p>B. The proposed subdivision should have one or more new lots in the Regulatory Floodplain set aside for open space use through deed restriction, easement, subdivision covenant, or donation to a public agency. In the Regulatory Floodplain outside the Protected Area, zoning must maintain a low density of floodplain development. The density of the development in the portion of the development outside the Regulatory Floodplain may be increased to compensate for the amount of land in the Regulatory Floodplain preserved as open space in accordance with _____ (<i>section of the community's zoning or other development ordinance that allows PUDs and/or transfers of development rights</i>).</p> <p>C. If a parcel has a buildable site outside the Regulatory Floodplain, it shall not be subdivided to create a new lot, tract, or parcel within a binding site plan that does not have a buildable site outside the Regulatory Floodplain. This provision does not apply to lots set aside from development and preserved as open space.</p> <p>D. All proposals shall have utilities and facilities, such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.</p>	<p>There may be locations where part of a Protected Area lies outside the SFHA. The ordinance needs to be enforced in such areas in order to comply with the Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>The community needs to make sure this section is consistent with its subdivision regulations or it may want to incorporate these provisions into its subdivision ordinance.</p> <p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(4)</p> <p>ESA Requirement: RPA 4.B and Appendix 4, Section 3.11 call for preserving floodplain open space via cluster development, planned unit developments and other methods, wherever possible. Communities may want to put this language in their zoning or subdivision ordinance.</p> <p>ESA Requirement: RPA 4, Section 3.2</p> <p>  CRS credit for preserving open space is provided under Sections 421.a and 431LD.a.2.(a). The credit under 421.a is based on the amount of floodplain area set aside. More points are provided if the preserved area is habitat for threatened or endangered species. </p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>E. All proposals shall ensure that all subdivisions have at least one access road connected to land outside the Regulatory Floodplain with the surface of the road at or above the FPE wherever possible.</p> <p>F. All proposals shall have adequate drainage provided to avoid exposure to water damage.</p> <p>G. The final recorded subdivision plat shall include a notice that part of the property is in the SFHA, riparian habitat zone and/or channel migration area, as appropriate.</p>	<p> This section is optional, but recommended by FEMA. CRS credit is provided under Section 431.i.</p> <p>ESA requirement (Biological Opinion Appendix 4, Section 3.9)</p>
<p>5.2. Site Design</p>	<p> Five points of CRS credit is provided for requiring such a notice to be filed with the subdivision plat, under Section 341.c.</p>
<p>5.2. Site Design</p>	<p>This section has requirements from the ESA Biological Opinion, most of which receive CRS credit.</p>
<p>A. Structures and other development shall be located to avoid flood damage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a lot has a buildable site out of the Regulatory Floodplain, all new structures shall be located in that area, when possible. 2. If a lot does not have a buildable site out of the Regulatory Floodplain, all new structures, pavement, and other development must be sited in the location that has the least impact on habitat by locating the structures as far from the water body as possible or placing the structures on the highest land on the lot 3. A minimum setback of 15 feet from the Protected Area shall be required for all structures 4. If the proposed project does not meet the criteria of Sections 5.2.A and B, a habitat impact assessment shall be conducted pursuant to Section 7.7 and, if necessary, a habitat mitigation plan shall be prepared and implemented pursuant to Section 7.8. 	<p>ESA requirement (Appendix 4, Sections 3.1 and 3.11). Section 5.1 addresses new subdivisions, encouraging developers to avoid putting new buildable lots in the floodplain. Section 5.2 covers existing lots.</p> <p> CRS credit is provided under Section 431LD.a.2.</p>
<p>B. All new development shall be designed and located to minimize the impact on flood flows, flood storage, water quality, and habitat.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stormwater and drainage features shall incorporate low impact development techniques, if technically feasible, that mimic pre-development hydrologic conditions, such as stormwater infiltration, rain gardens, grass swales, filter strips, disconnected impervious areas, 	<p>ESA CRS recommendation (RPA 4.A)</p> <p>The objective of low impact development is to reduce the volume of</p>


Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>permeable pavement, and vegetative roof systems.</p>	<p>stormwater runoff and reduce pollutant concentrations. The full benefit of these techniques is seen when they are applied throughout the watershed, not just in the floodplain. For more information on low impact development, see Appendix A.</p>
<p>2. If the proposed project will create new impervious surfaces so that more than 10 percent of the portion of the lot in the Regulatory Floodplain is covered by impervious surface, the applicant shall demonstrate that there will be no net increase in the rate and volume of the stormwater surface runoff that leaves the site or that the adverse impact is mitigated, as provided by Sections 7.7 and 7.8.</p>	<p> CRS credit is provided under Section 451.e for LID stormwater management practices, if they are enforced throughout the community.</p> <p>ESA requirement (Appendix 4, Section 3.6).</p> <p>Often low impact development techniques will fulfill this requirement. Otherwise, the applicant may need to provide a technical study that shows there will be no net increase in runoff.</p> <p>The technical basis for the 10% threshold can be found in “Forest Cover, Impervious-Surface Area, and The Mitigation of Stormwater Impacts” (see Appendix A).</p>
<p>C. The site plan required in Section 4.2 shall account for surface drainage to ensure that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing and new buildings on the site will be protected from stormwater runoff and 2. The project will not divert or increase surface water runoff onto neighboring properties. 	<p>This provision is designed to prevent the type of problem created when a new house on fill obstructs the drainage system, redirecting runoff onto another property.</p> <p> CRS credit of up to 50 points is provided under Section 451.c for requiring all site plans (not just those in the floodplain) to account for local drainage from and onto adjoining properties and to protect new buildings from local drainage flows.</p>
<p>5.3. Hazardous Materials</p> <p>A. No new development shall create a threat to public health, public safety, or water quality. Chemicals, explosives, gasoline, propane, buoyant materials, animal wastes,</p>	<p>ESA requirement (Appendix 4, Section 1)</p> <p> CRS credit of 10 points is</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>fertilizers, flammable liquids, pollutants, or other materials that are hazardous, toxic, or a threat to water quality are prohibited from the Regulatory Floodplain. This prohibition does not apply to small quantities of these materials kept for normal household use. This prohibition does not apply to the continued operations of existing facilities and structures, reuse of existing facilities and structures, or functionally dependent facilities or structures.</p> <p>B. If the proposed project will cannot meet section 5.3(A) of this ordinance then a habitat assessment must be conducted in accordance with Sections 7.7 and 7.8.</p>	<p>provided under Section 431.g.1(a). CRS credit is reduced if the following optional language is added at the end of the section: “or to materials kept in approved containers above the FPE or in a dry floodproofed non-residential building.”</p>
<p>5.4. Critical Facilities</p> <p>A. Construction of new critical facilities shall be, to the extent possible, located outside the limits of the Regulatory Floodplain.</p> <p>B. Construction of new critical facilities in the Regulatory Floodplain shall be permissible if no feasible alternative site is available, provided</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical facilities shall have the lowest floor elevated three feet above the base flood elevation or to the height of the 500-year flood, whichever is higher. If there is no available data on the 500-year flood, the permit applicants shall develop the needed data in accordance with FEMA mapping guidelines. 2. Access to and from the critical facility shall be protected to the elevation of the 500-year flood. 	<p> CRS credit of 50 points is provided for this language under Section 431.e). Up to 100 points is provided if the community prohibits critical facilities from all or parts of the 500-year floodplain.</p> <p>Note that any filling needed to meet this requirement must also meet the requirements of Section 7.</p>
<p>5.5. Sand Dunes</p> <p>Man-made alterations of sand dunes within Zones V1-30, VE, and V which would increase potential flood damage are prohibited.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(e)(7). Communities without coastal high hazard areas may omit this section.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Section 6. Standards for Protection of Structures</p>	
<p>The provisions of this Section shall apply in the Special Flood Hazard Area. All new structures and substantial improvements shall be protected from flood damage below the Flood Protection Elevation.</p>	
<p>6.1. Applicability</p>	<p>44 CFR 59.1, 60.3(c)</p>
<p>This section’s protection requirement applies to all new structures and substantial improvements, which include:</p>	
<p>A. Construction or placement of a new structure.</p> <p>B. Reconstruction, rehabilitation, or other improvement that will result in a substantially improved building.</p> <p>C. Repairs to an existing building that has been substantially damaged.</p> <p>D. Placing a manufactured home on a site.</p> <p>E. Placing a recreational vehicle or travel trailer on a site for more than 180 days.</p>	<p>Section 6.1.D does not apply to returning an existing manufactured home to the same site it lawfully occupied before it was removed to avoid flood damages, provided it is not enlarged or altered in any way.</p>
<p>6.2. Flood Protection Standards</p>	
<p>A. All new structures and substantial improvements shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated above the FPE.</p>	<p>Section 6.2 applies to all structures. Section 6.3 provides an alternative protection measure that is only allowed for non-residential buildings.</p>
	<p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(2), (7), and (8)</p>
	<p>See also Section 3.3.D on the FPE.</p>
	<p> If “and all additions” is added after “substantial improvements,” CRS credit of 20 points is provided under Section 431.c. Under the language provided to the left, only additions that qualify as substantial improvements are subject to this section.</p>
<p>B. The structure shall be aligned parallel with the direction of flood flows where practicable.</p>	<p>ESA requirement (Appendix 4, Section 3.1)</p>
<p>C. The structure shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(3)(i)</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>D. All materials below the FPE shall be resistant to flood damage and firmly anchored to prevent flotation. Materials harmful to aquatic wildlife, such as creosote, are prohibited below the FPE.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(3)(ii-iv)</p>
<p>E. Electrical, heating, ventilation, duct work, plumbing, and air-conditioning equipment and other service facilities shall be elevated above the FPE. Water, sewage, electrical, and other utility lines below the FPE shall be constructed so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within them during conditions of flooding.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(3)(iv)</p> <p> Full CRS credit for freeboard depends on machinery, equipment and ductwork (as well as the lowest floor) to be above the freeboard level.</p>
<p>F. Fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding shall be used only for parking, storage, or building access and shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement shall either be certified by a registered professional engineer or licensed architect and/or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided. 2. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade. 3. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters. 	<p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(5)</p> <p>Note that fully enclosed areas are not allowed in V Zones (see Section 6.2.G.3).</p> <p>Insurance rates reflect an “all or nothing” standard, meaning partially ventilated crawlspaces may be subject to a higher insurance premium.</p> <p> An alternative to this language can receive CRS credit of up to 300 points for prohibiting enclosed areas below the elevated lowest floor. Such a prohibition is preferred because the enclosed areas are prone to alteration because a permit officer cannot see what is happening. For more information on this credit, including ordinance language, see <i>CRS Credit for Higher Regulatory Standards</i>.</p> <p>More details, and illustrations, on these construction standards can be found in FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01, <i>Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas</i>.</p>
<p>G. In Zones V, V1-30 and VE, new structures and substantial improvements shall be elevated on pilings or columns so that:</p>	<p>This section can be deleted for communities with no coastal high hazard area mapped as a V Zone.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
1. The bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated above the FPE.	44 CFR 60.3(e)(4)
2. The pile or column foundation and structure attached thereto is anchored to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components. Wind and water loading values shall each have a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (100-year mean recurrence interval).	44 CFR 60.3(e)(4)
3. The areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding shall be free of obstruction.	<p>44 CFR 60.3(e)(5). The NFIP regulations allow for breakaway walls to enclose the lower area, but such walls are not as dependable as keeping the area open. For more information on breakaway walls, see FEMA Technical Bulletin 9-99.</p> <p> CRS credit of 75 points is provided for this language that prohibits all enclosures in V Zones (Section 431.h.)</p>
4. The structure or improvement shall be located landward of the reach of mean high tide.	44 CFR 60.3(e)(3)
5. The use of fill for structural support of a structure or addition is prohibited.	44 CFR 60.3(e)(6)
6. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop or review the structural design, specifications and plans for the construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction to be used are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting these provisions.	44 CFR 60.3(e)(4)
<p>6.3. Nonresidential Construction</p> <p>New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall be elevated in accordance with Section 6.2. As an alternative to elevation, a new or substantial improvement to a nonresidential structure and its attendant utility and sanitary facilities, may be dry floodproofed in A Zones. The project must meet the following:</p> <p>A. The structure is not located in Zones V, V1-30, or VE; and</p> <p>B. Below the FPE the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water; and</p>	44 CFR 60.3(c)(3) and (8)

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>C. The structural components are capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy; and</p> <p>D. The plans are certified by a registered professional engineer or licensed architect that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting provisions of this subsection based on their development and/or review of the structural design, specifications and plans. Such certifications shall be provided to the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) as set forth in Sections 4.6.B and 4.7.A.1.</p>	<p>Applicants who are dry floodproofing nonresidential buildings should be notified that flood insurance premiums will be based on rates that are one foot below the floodproofed level (e.g. a building dry floodproofed to the base flood level will be rated as one foot below). Floodproofing the building an additional foot will reduce insurance premiums significantly.</p> <p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(4)</p>
<p>6.4. Manufactured Homes</p> <p>All manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved on sites shall be:</p> <p>A. Elevated on a permanent foundation in accordance with Section 6.2, and</p> <p>B. Securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not to be limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to other applicable anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(6) sets these standards, but (c)(12) allows a lower standard in existing manufactured home parks. On those sites, the structure need only be elevated three feet above grade. FEMA and the Department of Ecology encourage all manufactured homes to be protected to the known flood hazard, so this language is recommended.</p> <p> Because of the above stated NFIP standard, if the community adopts this section's language and has an existing manufactured home park where the base flood is more than three feet deep, the CRS credit is 50 points (Section 431.o).</p> <p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(8). For more detailed information, refer to FEMA-85, <i>Manufactured Home Installation in Flood Hazard Areas</i>.</p>
<p>6.5. Recreational Vehicles</p> <p>Recreational vehicles placed on sites shall:</p> <p>A. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, or</p> <p>B. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, on their wheels or jacking system, attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and have no permanently attached additions; or</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(14)</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
C. Meet the requirements of Section 6.4 above.	
<p>6.6. Appurtenant Structures</p> <p>A structure which is on the same parcel of property as the principle structure and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principle structure and is not used for human habitation may be exempt from the elevation requirement of Section 6.2.A, provided:</p> <p>A. It is used only for parking or storage;</p> <p>B. It is constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters;</p> <p>C. It is anchored to prevent flotation which may result in damage to other structures;</p> <p>D. All portions of the structure below the FPE must be constructed of flood-resistant materials;</p> <p>E. Service utilities such as electrical and heating equipment meet the standards of Sections 6.2.E and 6.7;</p> <p>F. It has openings to allow free flowage of water that meet the criteria in Section 6.2.F;</p> <p>G. The project meets all the other requirements of this ordinance, including Section 7.</p>	<p>For additional guidance, see FEMA's Technical Bulletin 7-93, <i>Wet Floodproofing Requirements</i></p>
<p>6.7. Utilities</p> <p>A. All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems;</p> <p>B. Water wells shall be located outside the floodway and shall be protected to the FPE;</p> <p>C. New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and discharges from the systems into flood waters;</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(5)</p> <p>This is a requirement under the State floodway standard adopted in WAC 173-160-171.</p> <p>44 CFR 60.3(a)(6)(i)</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
D. Onsite waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding. A habitat impact assessment shall be conducted in accordance with Section 7.7 as a condition of approval of an onsite waste disposal system to be located in the Regulatory Floodplain.	44 CFR 60.3(a)(6)(ii) The impact assessment is needed to meet an ESA requirement (Appendix 4, Section 1)




Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Section 7. Standards for Habitat Protection</p> <p>The provisions of this Section shall apply in the Regulatory Floodplain.</p>	<p>The objective of Section 7 (Standards for Habitat Protection) is to protect habitat function. The model ordinance assumes that within the protected area habitat values remain, however, in a fully developed community, the only residual function that needs to be addressed may be flood storage and storm water discharge. If a fully developed community can document to FEMA that there are no areas that would qualify as functioning habitats it may submit alternative language. A community may also submit a study that shows where functioning habitats exist and limit this section to those areas..</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>7.1. Non-Development Activities</p> <p>Activities that do not meet the definition of “development” are allowed in the Regulatory Floodplain without the need for a floodplain development permit under this ordinance, provided all other Federal, State, and local requirements are met. The following are examples of activities not considered development or “man-made changes to improved or unimproved real estate.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Routine maintenance of landscaping that does not involve grading, excavation, or filling; B. Removal of noxious weeds and hazard trees and replacement of non-native vegetation with native vegetation; C. Normal maintenance of structures, such as re-roofing and replacing siding, provided such work does not qualify as a substantial improvement; D. Normal maintenance of above ground utilities and facilities, such as replacing downed power lines and utility poles; E. Normal street and road maintenance, including filling potholes, repaving, and installing signs and traffic signals, but not including expansion of paved areas. F. Normal maintenance of a levee or other flood control facility prescribed in the operations and maintenance plan for the levee or flood control facility are allowed in the Regulatory Floodplain without need for a floodplain development permit. Normal maintenance does not include repair from flood damage, expansion of the prism, expansion of the face or toe or addition for protection on the face or toe with rock armor; and G. Plowing and other normal farm practices (other than structures or filling) on farms in the Regulatory Floodplain and in existence as of the effective date of this ordinance do not require a floodplain development permit. Clearing additional land for agriculture after the date of this ordinance will require a flood plain development permit. 	<p>ESA optional language (Appendix 4, Section 1)</p> <p>Digging up or replacing underground utilities would require a permit to determine if the project would adversely affect habitat that would be disturbed.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>7.2. Activities Allowed With a Floodplain Permit</p> <p>The following activities are allowed in the Regulatory Floodplain without the analysis required in Section 7.5 or the habitat impact assessment required under Section 7.7, providing all other requirements of this ordinance are met, including obtaining a floodplain development permit:</p> <p>A. Repairs or remodeling of an existing structure, provided that the repairs or remodeling are not a substantial improvement or a repair of substantial damage.</p> <p>B. Expansion of an existing structure that is no greater than ten percent beyond its existing footprint, provided that the repairs or remodeling are not a substantial improvement or a repair of substantial damage. This measurement is counted cumulatively from the effective date of this ordinance or September 22, 2011 whichever is earlier. If the structure is in the floodway, there shall be no change in the dimensions perpendicular to flow.</p> <p>C. Activities with the sole purpose of creating, restoring or enhancing natural functions associated with floodplains, streams, lakes, estuaries, marine areas, habitat, and riparian areas that meet Federal and State standards, provided the activities do not include structures, grading, fill, or impervious surfaces.</p> <p>D. Development of open space and recreational facilities, such as parks, trails, and hunting grounds, that do not include structures, fill, impervious surfaces or removal of more than 5% of the native vegetation on that portion of the property in the Regulatory Floodplain.</p> <p>E. Repair to onsite Septic Systems provided the ground disturbance is the minimal necessary.</p>	<p>Everything that is not listed in Section 7.1 needs a floodplain development permit. The projects listed in this Section 7.2 are only exempt from the floodway analysis and habitat impact assessment required in Sections 7.7 and 7.8. They must still meet all the other requirements of this ordinance. For example, even if an expansion to an existing house is less than 10% of the footprint, the project is still subject to the compensatory storage requirement of Section 7.6 and must be checked to see if it is a substantial improvement (Section 6.2).</p> <p>ESA requirement (RPA 3.A.4)</p>
<p>7.3. Other Activities</p> <p>All other activities not listed in Sections 7.1 or 7.2 that are allowed by _____ are allowed, provided they meet all the other requirements of this ordinance, including the analysis required in Section 7.5 and the habitat impact assessment required under Section 7.7, and a floodplain development permit is issued.</p>	<p>The local zoning and land use regulations should be cited by title and section number.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>7.4. Native Vegetation</p> <p>The site plan required in Section 4.2 shall show existing native vegetation.</p> <p>A. In the riparian habitat zone, native vegetation shall be left undisturbed, except as provided in Sections 7.1 and 7.2.C.</p> <p>B. Outside the riparian habitat zone, removal of native vegetation shall not exceed 35 percent of the surface area of the portion of the site in the Regulatory Floodplain. Native vegetation in the riparian habitat zone portion of the property can be counted toward this requirement.</p> <p>C. If the proposed project does not meet the criteria of Sections 7.4.A and B, a habitat impact assessment shall be conducted pursuant to Section 7.7 and, if necessary, a habitat mitigation plan shall be prepared and implemented pursuant to Section 7.8.</p>	<p>ESA requirement (Appendix 4, Section 3.7)</p> <p>Note that these criteria apply to new development projects. Ongoing maintenance of vegetation is covered by Section 7.1.A and B. Projects not covered by Sections 7.1 and 7.2 will also need a habitat impact assessment.</p> <p>Keeping vegetation over 65% of the property is a standard from the Biological Opinion. Previous studies in the Puget Sound basin examining the effects of native vegetation removal from areas with common soil conditions (e.g., glacial till or riverine alluvium) have identified this percentage to be the threshold needed for effective stormwater management. See “Forest Cover, Impervious-Surface Area, and the Mitigation of Stormwater Impacts” for further discussion of forest cover and stormwater impacts.</p>
<p>7.5. Floodway Standards</p> <p>A. In addition to the other requirements of this ordinance, a project to develop in the floodway as delineated pursuant to Sections 3.3.E, 3.3.F, or 3.5.D shall meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The applicant shall provide a certification by a registered professional engineer demonstrating through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed development would not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. 	<p>44 CFR 60.3(d)(3)</p> <p>This is known as a “no rise” certificate, and is required for all development in the floodway that is not exempted in Sections 7.1 or 7.2.</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>2. Construction or reconstruction of residential structures is prohibited within designated floodways, except for the following. The following exceptions must still meet all other requirements in the ordinance, including Section 7.5.A.1.</p> <p>(a) Repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to a residential structure which do not increase the ground floor area, providing the cost of which does not exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure either, (a) before the repair, or reconstruction is started, or (b) if the structure has been damaged, and is being restored, before the damage occurred. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of State or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by a local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or to an historic structure, may be excluded from the 50 percent calculations.</p> <p>(b) Repairs, replacement, reconstruction, or improvements to existing farmhouses located in designated floodways and located on designated agricultural lands that do not increase the building's total square footage of encroachment and are consistent with all requirements of WAC 173-158-075;</p> <p>(c) Repairs, replacement, reconstruction, or improvements to substantially damaged residential dwellings other than farmhouses that do not increase the building's total square footage of encroachment and are consistent with all requirements of WAC 173-158-076; or</p> <p>(d) Repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to residential structures identified as historic structures that do not increase the building's dimensions.</p>	<p>This is a requirement under the State floodway standard adopted in WAC 173-158-070.</p> <p>Note that these exceptions must still meet all the other requirements in the ordinance, including the requirement for a "no rise" certificate in Section 7.5.A.1.</p> <p>The criteria in WAC 173-159-075 are included in Appendix F.</p> <p>The criteria in WAC 173-159-076 are included in Appendix F.</p>
<p>B. In riverine Special Flood Hazard Areas where a floodway has not been delineated pursuant to Sections 3.3.E, 3.3.F, or 3.5.D, the applicant for a project to develop in the SFHA shall provide a certification by a registered professional engineer demonstrating through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed development and all other past or future similar developments would not cumulatively result in an increase of flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge by more than ____ foot.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(c)(10).</p> <p>The preferred approach is for larger developments to map the floodway, as per Section 3.5.D. In those cases, Section 7.5.A would apply. The FEMA Regional Office has guidance on how to conduct a case-by-case encroachment analysis</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
	 Doing a case-by-case encroachment analysis is only required by the NFIP regulations in SFHAs where FEMA has provided a base flood elevation, but no floodway. This model recommends extending this language to all riverine floodplains that do not have a mapped floodway, such as approximate A Zones. It receives CRS credit under Section 411.a.
<p>7.6. Compensatory Storage</p> <p>New development shall not reduce the effective flood storage volume of the Regulatory Floodplain. A development proposal shall provide compensatory storage if grading or other activity eliminates any effective flood storage volume. Compensatory storage shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Provide equivalent volume at equivalent elevations to that being displaced. For this purpose, “equivalent elevation” means having similar relationship to ordinary high water and to the best available 10-year, 50-year and 100-year water surface profiles; B. Be hydraulically connected to the source of flooding; and C. Provide compensatory storage in the same construction season as when the displacement of flood storage volume occurs and before the flood season begins. D. The newly created storage area shall be graded and vegetated to allow fish access during flood events without creating fish stranding sites. 	 The NFIP standard is a one foot allowable surcharge, but the community may opt for a more restrictive standard. CRS credit is provided if the standard is less than one foot under Section 411.d. <p>ESA requirement (RPA 3.A.3.b, Appendix 4, Section 3.5).</p> <p>Communities may modify the language to exclude marine and estuarine areas where loss of storage does not affect flood heights.</p> <p>The requirement to compensate lost floodplain storage favors construction of buildings on elevated foundations and flow-through crawlspaces rather than slab foundations on fill.</p>  CRS credit of 70 points is provided for compensatory storage under Section 431.f.2
<p>7.7. Habitat Impact Assessment</p> <p>Unless allowed under Sections 7.1 – 7.2, a permit application to develop in the Regulatory Floodplain shall include an assessment of the impact of the project on federal, state or locally protected species and habitat, water quality and aquatic</p>	<p>ESA requirement (RPA 3A.2, Appendix 4, Section 1)</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>and riparian habitat. The assessment shall be:</p> <p>A. A Biological Evaluation or Biological Assessment developed per 50 CFR 402.12 to initiate Federal Interagency consultation under Endangered Species Act section 7(a)(2); or</p> <p>B. Documentation that the activity fits within Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act; or</p> <p>C. Documentation that the activity fits within a Habitat Conservation Plan approved pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act, where any such assessment has been prepared or is otherwise made available; or</p> <p>D. An assessment prepared in accordance with <i>Regional Guidance for Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation</i>, FEMA Region X, 2010. The assessment shall determine if the project would adversely affect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Species that are Federal, state or local listed as threatened or endangered. 2. The primary constituent elements for critical habitat, when designated, 3. Essential Fish Habitat designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service, 4. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, 5. Other protected areas and elements necessary for species conservation. 	<p>Some projects require a Corps of Engineers 404 permit or may otherwise require a consultation with NMFS or the US Fish & Wildlife Service, depending on the affected species. If the appropriate agency issues a letter of concurrence, it can be considered as qualifying as a habitat impact assessment.</p> <p>For the Puget Sound Biological Opinion the following elements must be addressed: water quality, water quantity, flood volumes, flood velocities, spawning substrate, and/or floodplain refugia for listed salmonids</p>
<p>7.8. Habitat Mitigation Plan</p> <p>A. If the assessment conducted under Section 7.7 concludes the project is expected to have an adverse effect on water quality and/or aquatic or riparian habitat or habitat functions, the applicant shall provide a plan to mitigate those impacts, in accordance with <i>Regional Guidance for Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation</i>, FEMA Region X, 2010.</p>	

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>1. If the USFWS or NMFS issues a Incidental Take Permit under Section 10 ESA, Biological Opinion under Section 7, ESA; then it can be considered to qualifying as a plan to mitigate those impacts.</p> <p>2. If the project is located outside the Protected Area, the mitigation plan shall include such avoidance, minimization, restoration, or compensation measures so that indirect adverse effects of development in the floodplain (effects to storm water, riparian vegetation, bank stability, channel migration, hyporheic zones, wetlands, large woody debris, etc.) are mitigated such that equivalent or better habitat protection is provided.</p> <p>3. No new stream crossings are allowed outside the Protected Area, unless approval has been obtained as stated in Section 7.8.A.1</p> <p>4. If the project is located in the Protected Area, the mitigation plan shall stipulate avoidance measures as are needed to ensure that there is no adverse effect during any phase of the project.</p> <p>B. The plan's habitat mitigation activities shall be incorporated into the proposed project. The floodplain development permit shall be based on the redesigned project and its mitigation components.</p> <p>C. As required in Section 4.7, the (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall not issue a certification of use or a certificate of occupancy until all work identified in the Habitat Assessment and mitigation plan has been completed or the applicant has provided the necessary assurance that unfinished portions of the project will be completed, in accordance with Section 4.7.B.</p>	<p>The four mitigation approaches, avoidance, minimization, restoration, and compensation, are discussed in Step 5 of <i>Regional Guidance for Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation</i> (see Appendix A).</p> <p>ESA requirement (RPA 3A.2, Appendix 4, Section 3.10)</p> <p>There may be parts of the project that cannot be finished, even though the property is ready for use. An example would be the monitoring and maintenance of vegetation or restoration projects.</p>
<p>7.9. Alteration of Watercourses</p>	
<p>A. In addition to the other requirements in this Section 7, an applicant for a project that will alter or relocate a watercourse shall also submit a request for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR), where required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The project will not be approved unless FEMA issues the CLOMR (which requires ESA consultation) and the provisions of the letter are made part of the permit requirements.</p> <p>B. The (<i>floodplain administrator</i>) shall notify adjacent communities and the Department of Ecology prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Emergency</p>	<p>Note that an alteration of a watercourse will likely need a habitat impact assessment as well as a CLOMR. The requirements for a CLOMR and a LOMR are in 44 CFR 65.12.</p> <p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(6)</p>

Ordinance Language	Commentary
<p>Management Agency.</p> <p>C. Maintenance shall be provided within the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse so that the flood carrying capacity is not diminished. If the maintenance program does not call for cutting of native vegetation, the system shall be oversized at the time of construction to compensate for said vegetation growth or any other natural factor that may need future maintenance.</p>	<p>44 CFR 60.3(b)(7)</p> <p>Note that a channel maintenance project is subject to a permit under this ordinance. If the project involves activities that are not exempt under Sections 7.1 and 7.2, a habitat impact assessment will need to be conducted (Section 7.7).</p>

Appendix A. References

References on the National Flood Insurance Program

NFIP Floodplain Management Requirements, A Study Guide & Desk Reference for Local Officials, FEMA 480 can be downloaded from www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1443

Manufactured Home Installation in Flood Hazard Areas, FEMA-85, can be downloaded from www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1577

FEMA Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98 *Use Of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data As Available Data* can be downloaded from www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2231

The Technical Bulletin series can be found at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/techbul.shtm

FEMA Technical Bulletin 7-93, *Wet Floodproofing Requirements for Structures Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas*, can be downloaded from www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1720

FEMA Technical Bulletin 9-99, *Design and Construction Guidance for Breakaway Walls Below Elevated Coastal Buildings*, can be downloaded from www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1722

FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01, *Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas* can be downloaded from www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1724

References on Habitat Protection

Regional Guidance for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies in Support of the Model Ordinance for Floodplain Management under the National Flood Insurance Program and the Endangered Species Act, FEMA Region X, 2010, <http://www.fema.gov/about/regions/regionx/nfipesa.shtm>

Regional Guidance for Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation, FEMA Region X, 2010, <http://www.fema.gov/about/regions/regionx/nfipesa.shtm>

CRS Credit for Habitat Protection, FEMA, 2010, <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CRS/>

NFIP ESA Biological Opinion Checklist, FEMA 2011, <http://www.fema.gov/about/regions/regionx/nfipesa.shtm>

“Forest Cover, Impervious-Surface Area, and The Mitigation of Stormwater Impacts,” Booth, Derek, Hartley, David, and Jackson, Rhet, article in the *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, June, 2002, www.cems.uvm.edu/ce361/papers/booth2002.pdf

Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook, US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, 1996, <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/hcp/hcpbook.html>

The Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Water Typing System is found at www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticesApplications/Pages/fp_watertyping.aspx. The site has a link to the maps that have been prepared for counties.

Land Use Planning for Salmon, Steelhead and Trout: A land use planner's guide to salmonid habitat protection and recovery, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, October 2009, available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/habitat/plannersguide/index.html>

Ecological Issues in Floodplains and Riparian Corridors, Susan M. Bolton and Jeff Shellberg, Center for Streamside Studies, University of Washington, which can be downloaded from www.wsdot.wa.gov/research/reports/fullreports/524.1.pdf

The Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains – Reducing Flood Losses By Protecting and Restoring The Floodplain Environment, A Report for Congress by the Task Force on the Natural and Beneficial Functions of the Floodplain, FEMA 409, 2002.

Landscape Planning for Washington’s Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity of Developing Areas, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2009, found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phsrecs.htm>

References on Higher Regulatory Standards

No Adverse Impact, A Toolkit For Common Sense Floodplain Management, Association of State Floodplain Managers, 2003, found at http://www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAI_Toolkit_2003.pdf

CRS Coordinator’s Manual and CRS Credit for Higher Regulatory Standards, 2007, and available from NFIPCRS@ISO.com

CRS Credit for Mapping and Managing Channel Migration Areas, FEMA, [to be published in 2010]

Living with the River – A Guide to Understanding Western Washington Rivers and Protecting Yourself from Floods, Washington State Department of Ecology, 2007

Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, Washington Department of Ecology, 2005

Other floodplain management publications can be seen at or downloaded from www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/publications.shtm

References on Low Impact Development

Low Impact Development – Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound, 2005, Puget Sound Action Team and Washington State University Pierce County Extension, found at www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/LID/LID_manual2005.pdf

Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, Washington State Department of Ecology, 2005, found at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/index.html

A printable brochure on the subject is at www.psparchives.com/publications/our_work/stormwater/lid/lid_brochure/lid_brochure06_8.5x11.pdf

Additional information can be found at the following websites:

- Puget Sound Partnership: www.psp.wa.gov/stormwater.php
- US Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/nps/lid/>
- Low Impact Development Center: <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/> and www.lid-stormwater.net/index.html

Legal References

No Adverse Impact and The Courts: Protecting the Property Rights of All, 2007, Dr. John Kusler Esq. and Edward A. Thomas Esq., found at: www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM_NAI_Legal_Paper_1107.pdf

Mitigating Misery: Land Use and Protection of Property Rights Before the Next Big Flood. Edward A. Thomas Esq. and Sam Riley Medlock JD. *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law*, Vol. 9, 2008.

Law Review Article on the National Flood Insurance Program and the concept of No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management. Found at www.floods.org/PDF/Mitigation/ASFPM_Thomas&Medlock_FINAL.pdf

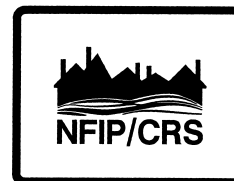
A Comparative Look at Public Liability for Hazard Mitigation, 2009, Jon Kusler, JD, PhD, ASFPM Foundation. Found at: ww.floods.org/PDF/Mitigation/ASFPM_Comparative_look_at_pub_liability_for_flood_haz_mitigation_09.pdf

“Significant Nexus” and Clean Water Act Jurisdiction, 2007, Jon Kusler Esq., PhD, Patrick Parenteau, Esq., and Edward A. Thomas Esq. Discussion paper for the Association of State Wetland Managers. Found at www.aswm.org/fwp/significant_nexus_paper_030507.pdf

Property Rights and Community Development: A Legal Framework for Managing Watershed Development, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Agency’s StormSmart Coasts Program. Found at www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAI_Legal_Framework_Watershed_Development_2007.pdf

Appendix B. The Community Rating System

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administers the Community Rating System (CRS). Under the CRS, flood insurance premiums for properties in participating communities are reduced to reflect the flood protection activities that are being implemented. This program can have a major influence on the design and implementation of floodplain management programs, so a brief summary is provided here.



General: A community receives a CRS classification based upon the credit points it receives for its activities. It can undertake any mix of activities that reduce flood losses through better mapping, regulations, public information, flood damage reduction and/or flood warning and preparedness programs.

There are ten CRS classes: class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the largest premium reduction; class 10 receives no premium reduction (see Table). A community that does not apply for the CRS or that does not obtain the minimum number of credit points is a class 10 community.

As of May 1, 2009, thirty Washington communities are participating. A list of the communities and their classes is shown below. It should be noted that King, Pierce, and Skagit Counties are the only counties in the country that are a Class 4 or better.

Class	Points	Premium Reduction	
		In Floodplain	Outside Floodplain
1	4,500+	45%	10%
2	4,000–4,499	40%	10%
3	3,500–3,999	35%	10%
4	3,000–3,499	30%	10%
5	2,500–2,999	25%	10%
6	2,000–2,499	20%	10%
7	1,500–1,999	15%	5%
8	1,000–1,499	10%	5%
9	500– 999	5%	5%
10	0 – 499	0	0

Community	Class	Community	Class	Community	Class
Auburn	5	King County	2	Skagit County	4
Bellevue	5	La Conner	8	Snohomish County	5
Burlington	5	Lewis County	7	Snoqualmie	5
Centralia	5	Lower Elwha	7	Sultan	7
Chehalis	6	Monroe	5	Sumas	7
Clark County	5	Mount Vernon	7	Thurston County	5
Ephrata	8	North Bend	6	Westport	6
Everson	7	Orting	6	Wahkiakum County	8
Fife	5	Pierce County	3	Whatcom County	6
Index	6	Renton	6	Yakima County	8
Issaquah	5				

As of October 1, 2009

Benefits of CRS participation: There is a direct dollar benefit to the communities and their policy holders for participation in the CRS. For example, more than half a million dollars stays in unincorporated King County in terms of the premiums saved by residents each year.

However, the direct financial reward for participating in the Community Rating System should not be the only reason for joining. As FEMA staff often say, “if you are only interested in saving premium dollars, you’re in the CRS for the wrong reason.”

The other benefits that are more difficult to measure include:

1. The activities credited by the CRS provide direct benefits to residents, including:
 - Enhanced public safety;
 - A reduction in damage to property and public infrastructure;
 - Avoidance of economic disruption and losses;
 - Reduction of human suffering; and
 - Protection of the environment.
2. A community's flood programs will be better organized and more formal. Ad hoc activities, such as responding to drainage complaints rather than an inspection program, will be conducted on a sounder, more equitable basis.
3. A community can evaluate the effectiveness of its flood program against a nationally recognized benchmark.
4. Technical assistance in designing and implementing a number of activities is available at no charge from the Insurance Services Office.
5. The public information activities will build a knowledgeable constituency interested in supporting and improving flood protection measures.
6. A community has an added incentive to maintain its flood programs over the years. The fact that its CRS status could be affected by the elimination of a flood-related activity or a weakening of the regulatory requirements for new developments should be taken into account by the governing board when considering such actions.
7. Every time residents pay their insurance premiums, they are reminded that the community is working to protect them from flood losses, even during dry years.

More information on the Community Rating System can be found at www.fema.gov/nfip/crs.shtm or contact Marlene Jacobs, the ISO/CRS Specialist for Washington State at 541-704-5434 or mjacobs@iso.com.

Appendix C. Floodplain Development and Habitat

Aquatic and Riparian Habitat

A “habitat” is a specific area or environment in which a particular type of plant or animal lives. Different species have developed over the years in different habitats and they cannot survive for long if their habitats are destroyed or significantly altered. While some species adapt to change and can live with human development, others cannot.

Salt and brackish waters and their adjacent floodplains host habitats that are vital to estuarine and marine animals, including fish, shellfish, waterfowl, and mammals. These habitats are dependent on the quality and temperature of the water, salinity levels, and the availability of food.

Freshwater floodplains have two major types of habitat that are not found anywhere else: aquatic and riparian habitats. Freshwater aquatic habitats include rivers, streams, ponds, lakes and reservoirs that are above the influence of tides and are relatively free of salt water.

The quality of freshwater aquatic habitats is also dependent on the quality and temperature of the water and availability of food sources. In addition, riverine habitat needs pools and riffles. These are, in turn, dependent on rock and woody debris that form the pools and riffles and the vegetation and woody debris that offer refuge for small animals and food for others.

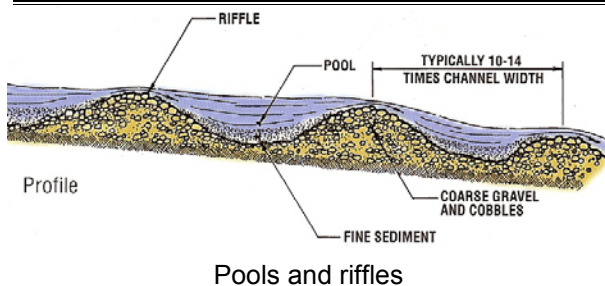
A riparian habitat area is defined by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as “the area adjacent to aquatic systems with flowing water (e.g., rivers, perennial or intermittent streams, seeps, springs) that contains elements of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems which mutually influence each other.” The Department also notes “The riparian habitat area encompasses the entire extent of vegetation adapted to wet conditions as well as adjacent upland plant communities that directly influence the stream system.” The term “riparian habitat” is interchangeable with the commonly used terms “riparian area,” “riparian ecosystem,” and “riparian corridor.”

“Floodplains may contain the only suitable environment for growth of some species of vegetation and for the breeding/spawning of many species of fish and wildlife. Riparian habitats are among the most important vegetative communities for western wildlife species.” (*The Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains*, p. 2-7)



This harbor seal is a Puget Sound resident whose marine habitat can be threatened by development.

Source: NOAA Photo Library



Washington riparian habitat

Source: Department of Ecology

There is no clear line that separates salt water, freshwater, aquatic and riparian habitats because they are interdependent. Vegetation near and along stream banks slow and filter stormwater runoff that enters the stream. Streams carry fresh water to estuaries, replenishing the supply of brackish water. Riparian trees and bushes are dependent on the water provided by the stream. They, in turn, shade the pools and eventually become the woody debris that creates them. Their roots stabilize the streambanks, reducing erosion and sedimentation. The aquatic habitats nurture flora and fauna that are eaten by the residents of the riparian habitats and the insects and other wildlife that grow on land are eaten by the fish and frogs that live in the water, which are in turn eaten by waterfowl that nest on the land.

Habitat Conservation Areas

All habitats are important to the plants and animals that live in them. However, some areas are more deserving of protection. The Federal government designates “critical habitat” as habitat important for threatened or endangered species.

In addition to areas designated for protection under Federal or State programs, the Washington State Growth Management Act (WAC 365-190-080) identifies “Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area.” This includes habitats of local importance and other areas that deserve protection. The NFIP-ESA Model Ordinance uses the State’s definition:

Lands needed to maintain species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. These areas are designated by the _____ [name of community] pursuant to the Washington State Growth Management Act (WAC 365-190-080).

Alteration of Habitat

Habitats change as rivers, shorelines, and floodplains change. The following alterations can have significant impacts on habitat:

- Relocating channels
- Destroying pools and riffles
- Disrupting the continuity of the habitat along a stream
- Removing natural debris and rock that form instream shelters
- Erecting dams or other barriers to flow and fish passage
- Constructing levees to prevent channel migration or seawalls to stop erosion
- Reducing stream flow
- Clearing banks or removing tree canopy
- Disturbing rooted plants on the banks
- Armoring banks and shorelines
- Increasing flow velocity
- Increasing sediment in the water

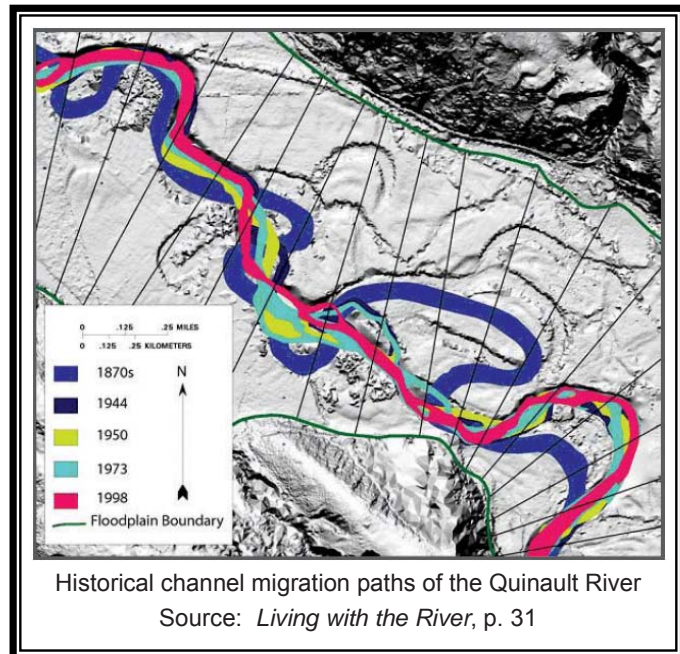
These changes can be caused by nature, such as a flood, or by people. While both forces can change habitat, there is a difference between natural and human caused alterations.

Natural Alteration

Rivers and streams build, erode, and modify the landscape. Floodplains are not static features, they are always changing (some changes are more obvious right after a flood). These changes are wrought by eroding of channel banks and bottoms by fast moving water and by depositing of rock, sediment, and debris by slower moving water. These materials come from runoff and from scouring of the banks, i.e., the riparian areas.

The results of these forces include new pools, sand bars, and undercut banks. The most impressive of these changes is channel migration, i.e., moving the channel to a new path.

Even if some features are destroyed or moved, they reappear elsewhere and new habitat emerges in the new location. Natural alterations of streams and riparian areas do not permanently destroy habitat, they just change its location as the forces of nature continue to work.



Human Alteration

Human activity, such as land development, can cause the alterations listed on the previous page. Here are some typical examples:

- Forestry has resulted in clear cut riparian areas, increased sedimentation, and reduced supplies of large woody debris needed for aquatic and riparian habitats.
- Farming causes a demand for levees and other flood control barriers to reduce flooding on productive fields. Runoff from farm fields carries sediment and chemicals into the streams.
- Roads and railroads obstruct natural drainage patterns, bridges can become dams at higher flows, and stormwater running off pavements contribute to water pollution.
- Urban development has cleared floodplains and resulted in calls for levees, dams, and channel straightening projects to protect homes and businesses.
- Shorelines and trees are cleared to gain access to the waterfront or to erect a levee, disturbing rooted plants on the banks.
- Dams are built for flood control, water storage, or power generation. These can reduce flows and upset seasonal flow conditions.

- Channels are relocated or straightened to increase their flood carrying capacity or to get them out of the way of development (see example to the right). Such projects destroy pools and riffles and remove debris and rock that form instream shelters, sometimes replacing a natural stream bottom with concrete.
- Urban development of the watershed brings impervious areas, such as rooftops and roads, and filling of wetlands and floodplains. The result is more rain water running off, fewer places to store it in, and, therefore, higher and faster flows in the channels. Another result is lower and warmer flows during the summer and early fall.
- Higher flows mean more bank erosion and scouring of streambeds.
- Urban runoff picks up sediment that is dropped in the pools and other areas of lower velocity. With the sediment comes pollutants, such as road oil and trash, that degrade water quality.
- Increased stormwater runoff means more water leaves the watershed instead of percolating into soils and recharging groundwater levels. With less groundwater, there are lower flows in streams during dry periods.
- Government regulations have often had counter productive impacts. For example, in order to remove a property from the NFIP's floodplain development regulations, property owners often fill riparian areas to raise the elevation of the ground above the regulatory flood elevation. This can kill the natural vegetation, reduce floodplain storage capacity (which increases velocities), and often change stream alignments.
- Flood protection programs commonly view debris in the channel as potential dams, so maintenance crews remove fallen trees and rootwads that are needed for aquatic habitat. Channelization projects remove the riffles so the stream will flow faster.

Compare what humans did to the Puyallup River with the map of what rivers do naturally on the previous page.

The main difference between the natural and human causes of habitat alterations is that the natural changes allow habitat to be created in another area. Human development in urban areas, on the other hand, does not offer alternatives. When a stream is straightened and leveed, it is constrained. There are no other places for pools and riffles to form or banks where trees are allowed to grow. If the floodplain is filled or urbanized, the riparian habitat is destroyed, not moved.

Example: Chinook Salmon Habitat

Chinook salmon require different habitats during different phases of their life. Adult Chinook salmon spawn in freshwater streams in the late summer and fall. Spawning habitat typically consists of gravel and cobbles in stream riffles and the edges of stream pools. This rock layer (“substrate”) provides a sheltered place for the eggs and the flowing water provides oxygen.

Chinook fry emerge in the late winter and early spring. Young Chinook grow in the lower main stem of rivers and tributaries before entering the estuaries and salt marshes. They feed and seek refuge from predators in channel, off-channel, and riparian wetland habitats which have woody debris and overhanging vegetation. Within a year, they smolt, and need to move from a freshwater to a saltwater habitat. Most Chinook spend from two to four years feeding in the North Pacific before they return to spawn. When they’re ready, they swim back to the streams they were born in and die after spawning.



Source: www.scv-habitatplan.org/

Chinook salmon has been an important commercial and sport fish. It accounted for the majority of the Columbia River harvest in the late 1800s. While overfishing contributed to its decline, that isn’t the only reason why it is protected by the Endangered Species Act.

The river habitats of the Chinook salmon have been subjected to the adverse impacts noted on the previous pages. The floodplains on the streams that drain into Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and the Pacific Ocean have been logged, farmed, and built on. The rivers have been channelized and leveed, destroying the pools, riffles, vegetation, and bank protection. Some have been dammed. Floodplains have been filled. Runoff from farms and urbanized areas brought increased sediment that settled in the gravel and cobbles, reducing oxygen and refuge for fry.

As a result, the population of the Chinook salmon has decreased dramatically over the years. In the early 1990’s NMFS listed the Chinook salmon as a threatened species in various areas on the West Coast. In 1999, it listed the Puget Sound Chinook as threatened and the Upper Columbia River Chinook salmon as endangered. In its designation, NMFS noted

Their current threatened status cannot be explained by natural cycles in ocean and weather conditions. NMFS has concluded that threatened Chinook, coho, chum, sockeye, and steelhead are at risk of extinction primarily because their populations have been reduced by human “take.” West Coast populations of these salmonids have been depleted by take resulting from harvest, past and ongoing destruction of freshwater and estuarine habitats, hydropower development, hatchery practices, and other causes....

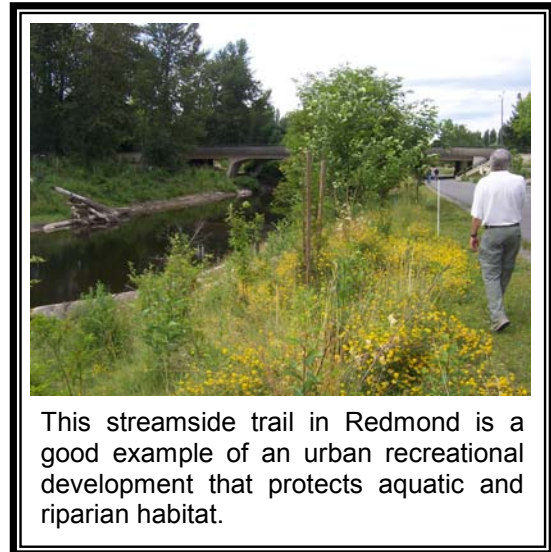
Although the primary purpose of state, local, and other programs is generally to further some activity other than conserving salmon, such as maintaining roads, controlling development, ensuring clean water or harvesting trees, some entities have adjusted one or more of these programs to protect and conserve listed salmonids. NMFS believes that with appropriate safeguards, many such activities can be specifically tailored to minimize impacts on listed threatened salmonids ... [50 CFR 223, July 10, 2000]

In its September 2008 Biological Opinion, NMFS concluded:

As the human population in the action area continues to grow, the burden on land presently used for agricultural, commercial, or residential development is also likely to grow. As land-uses shift from natural, to rural, to suburban, the watershed functions related to processing precipitation decrease. The ability of land to accept and slowly transport water to streams and aquifers decreases in the upper watershed as does the flood storage capacity in the lowlands.

The watershed functional changes mentioned above result in several of the habitat affecting processes mentioned earlier in this Opinion. The result of these process changes include induced flood damage, increased flood stages, increased volume of instream flows, increased velocity of instream flows, and erosion and sedimentation...

As the human population in the action area continues to grow, new development is likely to further reduce the habitat function in watersheds through water withdrawals, storm water quality and quantity degradation, loss of riparian functions, and encroachment in channels and floodplains. Cumulative effects of actions that destabilize fluvial systems are harmful to salmon. Channelization is an immediate and complete disruption of the riparian and aquatic communities that colonize rivers. In many cases, biological communities will reestablish themselves within channelized reaches. However, maintenance dredging, removing vegetation along channel walls, and adding riprap and concrete can completely prevent restoration of biological communities and lead to long-term or permanent disruption. *[Biological Opinion pages 142 – 143]*



This streamside trail in Redmond is a good example of an urban recreational development that protects aquatic and riparian habitat.

Appendix D. The Biological Opinion

The Biological Opinion was issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service on September 22, 2008. The document is 226 pages long. It can be viewed in its entirety at www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Habitat/ESA-Consultations/FEMA-BO.cfm. Errata letters were issued on October 23, 2008, and May 14, 2009, to correct typos and update the information and also can be found at the above site.

The transmittal letter states,

As required under the Endangered Species Act for consultations concluding with Jeopardy and Adverse Modification determinations, the National Marine Fisheries Service discussed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the availability of a reasonable and prudent alternative that the Federal Emergency Management Agency can take to avoid violation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Endangered Species Act section 7(a)(2) responsibilities (50 CFR 402.14(g)(5)). Reasonable and prudent alternatives refer to alternative actions identified during formal consultation that 1) can be implemented in a manner consistent with the intended purpose of the action, 2) that can be implemented consistent with the scope of the Federal agency's legal authority and jurisdiction, 3) that is economically and technologically feasible, and 4) that the Director believes would avoid the likelihood of jeopardizing the continued existence of listed species or resulting in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat (50 CFR 402.02) The biological opinion includes a reasonable and prudent alternative which can be implemented to avoid jeopardy and adverse modification of critical habitat, while meeting each of the other requirements listed above.

The Biological Opinion Reasonable and Prudent Alternative include the following seven elements:

RPA Element 1 – Notification of Consultation Outcome: FEMA's requirement to notify communities of this Biological Opinion. This was done via letter of October 21, 2008.

RPA Element 2 – Mapping

RPA Element 3 – Floodplain Management Criteria

RPA Element 4 – Community Rating System: Some of the items mentioned are included in the model ordinance. A separate Guidance is published on CRS credit for protecting natural floodplain functions.

RPA Element 5 – Levees: Relates only to communities with levees and FEMA mapping criteria. Not related to the model ordinance.

RPA Element 6 – Floodplain Mitigation Activities: If permitted projects are found to be contrary to the Opinion, FEMA will ensure that there is mitigation.

RPA Element 7 – Monitoring and Adaptive Management: FEMA will report each year to NMFS

This appendix includes RPA Elements 2 and 3, the ones that directly affect local regulations and that are incorporated into this model ordinance. It also includes Appendix 4 of the Biological Opinion, which expands on RPA Element 3. The errata letter corrections are included in this Appendix.

Reasonable and Prudent Alternative Element 2--Mapping. *[Starting on page 152 of the Biological Opinion]*

The FEMA shall make the following changes to the mapping program of the proposed action to achieve the habitat-based objectives stated above, to avoid jeopardy of the species and adverse modification of the

critical habitat. The FEMA shall implement the following changes to the mapping program within six months of the issuance of this Opinion, and report progress to NMFS on an annual basis on all sub-elements below.

A. The FEMA shall process Letters of Map Change caused by manmade alterations only when the proponent has factored in the effects of the alterations on channel and floodplain habitat function for listed salmon, and has demonstrated that the alteration avoids habitat functional changes, or that the proponent has mitigated for the habitat functional changes resulting from the alteration with appropriate habitat measures that benefit the affected salmonid populations. The FEMA will ensure that effects from habitat alterations that are reasonably certain to occur but might occur later in time, such as changes in storm water quantity, quality, and treatment, decreased riparian vegetation, lost large woody debris, increased bank armoring, and impaired channel migration, are also mitigated. The FEMA will report to NMFS on the results of mitigation for manmade floodplain changes that become the basis for map revision requests. During the time period subsequent to the issuance of this Opinion and prior to full implementation of this element, FEMA will engage in ESA consultation with NMFS prior to processing LOMCs related to manmade floodplain alterations.

B. The FEMA will prioritize their mapping activities based upon the presence of sensitive salmon populations as identified in Appendix 3.

C. The FEMA shall ensure that floodplain modeling incorporates on-the-ground data to increase the accuracy of maps depicting the floodplain. For multi-thread channels, FEMA shall produce and distribute a Technical Bulletin recommending the use of unsteady state hydraulic models to map the boundaries of the 100-year floodplain. In addition, FEMA will use a 2-dimensional model in estuarine floodplains and in other areas, when applicable.

The FEMA will also revise map modeling methods to consider future conditions and the cumulative effects from future land-use change, to the degree that such information is available (e.g. zoning, urban growth plans, USGS Climate study information. Future conditions considered should include changes in the watershed, its floodplain, and its hydrology; climate change, and other conditions that affect future flood risk. The FEMA shall ensure that jurisdictions use anticipated future land use changes when conducting hydrologic and hydraulic calculations to determine flood elevations.

D. The FEMA shall encourage communities to evaluate and identify the risk of flooding behind 100 year levees based on anticipated future conditions and the cumulative effects from future land-use change. Future conditions considered should include changes in the watershed, its floodplain, its hydrology, and climate change.

Taken together, these changes to the proposed mapping element of the NFIP contribute to avoiding jeopardy and adverse modification of critical habitat by increasing the accuracy of maps depicting floodplains, which are a habitat resource for salmonids. The changes also protect habitat function through the tracking of LOMRs, and requiring mitigation for LOMCs (FEMA would only issue LOMCs for man made changes when the for floodplain functional change is provided). The FEMA prioritization of mapping activities to focus on areas necessary to support VSPs means that the protection of floodplain resources for priority populations will occur earlier than in other locations. The RPA mapping element requires the use of more accurate computer models from those typically used under the proposed action,

where appropriate to map the 100-year floodplain for multiple thread channels and estuarine floodplains, providing more comprehensive and accurate mapping of these resources in complex areas.

Tracking floodplain development and analyzing effects enables better application of habitat protection and mitigation measures. Assessment and analysis in the mapping process is likely to moderate land-use changes in floodplains providing functional salmon and steelhead habitat by either avoiding or mitigating for land use changes that affect salmon habitat. The FEMA can work with affected communities to adjust previous approaches to construction in these areas in response to their analysis of effects on the existing salmonid habitat value.

Refining the modeling used to identify complex channels enables FEMA to better protect salmon and their habitat in modeled areas by more accurately identifying floodplains. Prioritizing map updates in NFIP participating communities identified by NMFS as areas particularly important to conserving PS Chinook salmon, steelhead, and chum salmon, gives those communities the most accurate information possible with which to evaluate and respond to the effects of land use change and construction on listed species. Detailed maps also help protect salmon and steelhead habitat by enabling more refined application of minimum floodplain management criteria.

The mapping RPA element meets each of the other RPA criteria (economic feasibility, intended purpose of the action, and within the agency's authority) in that the RPA element merely refines activities within the existing program to account more specifically for the effects of the mapping element on listed salmon and steelhead. The FEMA has four areas of discretion in their mapping program. These include the level of study performed in the FIS, including the designation of a regulatory floodway, review and issuance of CLOMRs, CLOMR-Fs and LOMAs, requirements associated with LOMRs and LOMR-Fs, and Map Modernization/Risk MAP. The RPA does nothing to exceed or abridge that authority. Therefore, actions described in the mapping RPA element are within the scope of FEMA's legal authority for mapping actions and meet the intended purpose of the proposed action.

Reasonable and Prudent Alternative Element 3 – Floodplain Management Criteria .

The FEMA shall modify its implementation of the NFIP minimum criteria in NFIP communities in the Puget Sound Region in order to prevent and/or minimize the degradation of channel and floodplain habitat, as described below. In addition FEMA will report progress to NMFS on an annual basis on all sub-elements below.

A. As soon as possible upon issuance of this Opinion, FEMA shall revise its implementation of the current NFIP minimum criteria so that the following measures, necessary for protecting listed salmonids, are carried out in the Puget Sound Region as described in Appendix 4 (Minimum Criteria) and summarized below:

1. Allow no development in the floodway, the, CMZ plus 50 feet (as identified according to Ecology 2003), and the riparian buffer zone (RBZ, as described by the Department of Natural Resources 2007 stream typing system and WDFW's 1997 stream buffer guidelines), and floodway (as mapped by the FIRM).

Or

2. The local jurisdiction with permitting authority must demonstrate to FEMA that any proposed development in the FEMA designated floodway, the CMZ plus 50 feet (as identified according to Ecology 2003), and the riparian buffer zone (RBZ, as described by the Department of Natural Resources 2007 stream typing system and WDFW's 1997 stream buffer guidelines) does not adversely affect water quality, water quantity, flood volumes, flood velocities, spawning substrate, and/or floodplain refugia for listed salmonids .

3. In addition to either 1 or 2 above, either:

a. Prohibit development in the 100-year floodplain,

OR

b. If development within the 100-year floodplain but outside the RBZ, is permitted, any loss of floodplain storage shall be avoided, rectified or compensated for. An example of compensation is the creation of an equivalent area and volume of floodwater storage and fish habitat through a balanced cut and fill program that provides fish refugia habitat and prevents fish stranding. Additionally, indirect adverse effects of development in the floodplain (effects to stormwater, riparian vegetation, bank stability, channel migration, hyporheic zones, wetlands, etc.) must also be mitigated such that equivalent or better salmon habitat protection is provided. (See Appendix 4 for more detail on how to comply with this criteria). Using option 3.A.3.b will require tracking the projects that occur and reporting to FEMA on a semi-annual basis (see 3.D. below).

For development within the 100 year floodplain permitted under 3.A.3.b, construction in the floodplain shall use Low Impact Development (LID) methods (generally requiring infiltration of all on-site stormwater), such as those described in the Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound (Puget Sound Action Team and WSU/Pierce County Extension 2002) to minimize or avoid stormwater effects.

4. Any improvements or repairs to existing structures that result in a greater than 10 percent increase of the structure footprint must mitigate for any adverse effects to species or their habitat as described in 3.A.3.b.

B. The FEMA shall implement RPA Element 3.A by ensuring that all participating NFIP communities in the Puget Sound region implement land-use management measures consistent with the criteria as soon as practicable, but in no event later than three years from the date of this Opinion.

1. The FEMA shall focus its implementation efforts first on communities located in areas of "Tier 1" salmon populations, secondly on communities located in areas of "Tier 2" salmon populations, and then on the remaining Puget Sound NFIP communities (see Appendix 3 for an explanation of Tier 1 and 2 populations and a list of jurisdictions where they are located). The FEMA shall demonstrate compliance with the following benchmarks:

a. Thirty-five percent of NFIP jurisdictions in the Puget Sound Region shall have implemented the criteria set forth in RPA Element 3.A within two years of this issuance of this opinion, including 100 percent of Tier I jurisdictions;

b. Seventy percent of NFIP jurisdictions in the Puget Sound Region shall have implemented the criteria set forth in RPA Element 3.A within two and a half years of the issuance of this opinion, including 100 percent of Tier 2 jurisdictions; and

c. One hundred percent of NFIP jurisdictions within the Puget Sound Region shall have implemented the criteria set forth in RPA Element 3.A within three years of the issuance of this Opinion.

2. Until all Puget Sound communities have implemented the criteria set forth in RPA Element 3.A, the FEMA shall report annually to NMFS on the status of its efforts to implement the RPA and the number of Puget Sound NFIP jurisdictions that have implemented the revised criteria.

C. Interim Actions. In the time period between the issuance of this Opinion, and the full implementation of RPA 3.A by participating communities, FEMA shall advise the Puget Sound NFIP communities that they must keep track of all floodplain permits that they issue and report this information to FEMA on an annual basis. The FEMA will provide this information to NMFS annually, highlighting any permits that allowed development affecting channel or floodplain habitat, or resulted in indirect effects to salmonid habitat from stormwater, removal of riparian vegetation, bank armoring, changes in the CMZ, large wood input, or gravel recruitment, etc. If NMFS finds that any unmitigated actions affecting listed species have occurred as a result of these permits, NMFS will advise FEMA to this effect, and FEMA will ensure that mitigation is provided prior to the next reporting period. Mitigation actions shall comport with those habitat restoration and enhancement actions consulted on in the programmatic consultation between NMFS and the COE, entitled *Washington State Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Restoration Programmatic*, NMFS Tracking No. 2008-03598.

D. Long term actions. Communities that have adopted the minimum criteria option allowing equivalent cut and fill (3.A.3.b. above), must report to FEMA on the number of projects that take place in the floodplain and the effectiveness of the mitigation. If based on FEMA's annual reporting, NMFS finds that the mitigation is not fully effective, FEMA shall ensure that further mitigation is provided for these actions through RPA Element 6 or through other means available to the community (e.g., mitigation banks) and shall reflect these actions in the next annual report. Mitigation actions shall comport with those habitat restoration and enhancement actions consulted on in the programmatic consultation between NMFS and the COE, entitled *Washington State Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Restoration Programmatic*, NMFS Tracking No. 2008-03598.

Under RPA Element 3, Floodplain Management Criteria, the performance measures for developing in the floodway, CMZ and RBZ will ensure that development within a designated riparian buffer zone (RBZ, measured from the OHW of the stream channel depending on stream type), the CMZ plus 50 feet, the mapped floodway, and the 100-year floodplain, will not result in adverse habitat effects. This will also allow activities with primarily beneficial effects to still occur within those zones. The NFIP as currently implemented allows development in the floodplain, the CMZ, and the riparian buffer, as long as it is at or above the BFE. The NMFS expects that this part of the RPA will prevent further degradation of channel function and estuarine and freshwater floodplain function in areas that would otherwise be prone to new development, thus maintaining the current value of the habitat in the RBZ and 100-year floodplain for listed salmon.

If communities choose to address impacts with equivalent cut and fill measures, development will be allowed in the floodplain with accompanying mitigation (similar area and volume of habitat and flood

storage are provided to protect listed salmon and habitat). In addition, no unmitigated effects from floodplain development are allowed arising from changes in stormwater discharge, riparian vegetation, channel migration, large wood input, gravel recruitment, the hyporheic zone, wetlands, and bank stability. The NMFS expects that this option will provide protection equivalent to the no development in the floodplain criteria in most cases, thereby maintaining the value of existing habitat in areas of new development. If NFIP and FEMA annual reporting reveals that equivalent protection is not provided, NMFS shall advise FEMA, and FEMA or the community are responsible for providing the remaining mitigation through either RPA Element 6, or other means available to the community.

For both minimum criteria options, the use of LID (Low Impact Development) methods to minimize increased volumes and decreased water quality of stormwater from development is required. As currently implemented, the NFIP does not specify any requirements for stormwater management in the floodplain, even though increased stormwater runoff from development contributes to increased streams flows that cause flood damage, and to decreased water quality during flood events. This requirement for stormwater control and treatment will minimize the effects on both water quality and quantity from new development, as LID methods will require infiltration and dispersion of stormwater runoff to duplicate the frequency, timing, duration and quality of pre-development (historic) stormwater discharges.

The RPA at element 3 also addresses re-development of existing buildings in the floodplain by addressing the effects of re-development of structures that exceed ten percent of the current footprint instead of the 50 percent of market value, which is currently allowed. The NMFS expects this will minimize the adverse effects of re-development associated with existing buildings in the floodplain, thereby further minimizing the effects on critical habitat and listed species. In addition, any re-development in the floodplain requires mitigation for all direct and indirect effects of re-development.

The FEMA must report to NMFS on their progress in meeting timelines and benchmarks for implementing the revised floodplain management criteria and ensuring communities adopt these criteria as soon as possible, and in no event later than the specified deadlines. These timeline and benchmarks are intended to ensure that protection is provided to channel and floodplain habitat and listed salmon species in a timely manner. In addition, FEMA will provide floodplain permit information to NMFS on an annual basis, until the new criteria are fully implemented, highlighting any permits that allowed development affecting channel or floodplain habitat, or resulted in indirect effects to salmonid habitat from stormwater, removal of riparian vegetation, bank armoring, etc. If NMFS finds that any unmitigated actions affecting listed species have occurred as a result of these permits, FEMA will ensure mitigation for these actions through RPA Element 6.

Also, communities will provide information to FEMA on a semi-annual basis, documenting the projects that took place in the floodplain using the mitigated equivalent cut and fill option. Communities will report on the expected effects to listed salmon habitat, the planned mitigation to compensate for the effects, and the success of the mitigation outcome. If the mitigation is found to not provide equivalent compensation for effects, the community or FEMA is responsible for providing additional mitigation to address the shortfall in habitat function. Providing this shortfall protection will ensure that development that occurs in the floodplain will provide habitat function similar to the no development in the floodplain criteria, thereby maintaining the value of existing habitat in areas of new development. This step is necessary as several scientific publications document the limited success of compensatory mitigation to date, particularly for wetlands (National Academy of Sciences 2001, Washington Department of Ecology 2001). Evaluating the results also provides an opportunity to adapt actions and/or implement alternatives

to more effectively maintain habitat function in the 100-year floodplain (e.g., increasing mitigation ratios, more monitoring, etc.).

This RPA element meets each of the other RPA criteria (intended purpose of the action, within the agency's authority, and economic feasibility) in that the RPA element merely refines activities within the existing program to account more specifically for the effects of the minimum criteria on listed salmon and steelhead. This RPA element is consistent with the intended purposes of the NFIP as these measures would constrict the extent of new development in the floodplain, achieving a decrease of property exposed to flood damage. The minimum criteria actions would limit development of the floodplain or provide equivalent mitigation for development in the floodplain (preventing more structures from being at risk of flooding and preserving salmon habitat), maintaining or minimizing stormwater runoff inputs to rivers (maintaining flood severity or frequency of floods and water quality), and maintaining currently functioning riparian corridors, CMZs, and bank stability.

According to the BE and the governing law, FEMA has discretion in establishing the minimum floodplain management criteria. The NFIA states that the purposes of the minimum criteria are to: (1) constrict the development of land which is exposed to flood damage where appropriate, (2) guide the development of proposed construction away from locations which are threatened by flood hazards, (3) assist in reducing damage caused by floods, and (4) otherwise improve the long-range land management and use of flood-prone areas. 42 U.S.C. 4102(c). Also, the statute indicates that FEMA is to revise the criteria "from time to time."²¹ Id. Therefore, actions identified in the minimum criteria element of the RPA are all within FEMA's legal authority.

[Footnote 21: FEMA's regulations provide that, when FEMA revises the criteria, communities have six months within which to revise their floodplain management regulations to meet the new criteria. 44 CFR 60.7.]

Finally, many of the measures in this RPA element have already been suggested and/or supported by FEMA's own Model Floodplain Ordinance (FEMA 2002a). As such FEMA has demonstrated its finding that they are economically feasible. Furthermore, they are addressed in other scientific and technical literature on the subject (see for example, Association of State Floodplain Managers 2007, among others). Also, many of the RPA minimum criteria elements are already carried out by NFIP participating communities such as King and Pierce counties, under their own local authorities, further demonstrating their economic feasibility.

Appendix 4: Minimum Criteria

It is the purpose of the following criteria to maintain streams and floodplains in their natural state to the maximum extent possible so they support healthy biological ecosystems, by: 1) assuring that flood loss reduction measures under the NFIP protect natural floodplain functions and riparian habitat, and the natural processes that create and maintain fish habitat, and 2) preventing or minimizing loss of hydraulic, geomorphic, and ecological functions of freshwater and estuarine floodplains and stream channels.

In all 100-year floodplain areas (SFHAs) the following criteria apply:

1. Restrict development in the Riparian Buffer Zone for all watercourses including off channel areas (areas outside this zone but within the Special Flood Hazard Area) to provide necessary protection to the RBZ. The RBZ is the greater of the following:

- 250 feet measured perpendicularly from ordinary high water for Type S (Shorelines of the State) streams, 200 feet for Type F streams (fish bearing) greater than 5 feet wide and marine shorelines, and 150 feet for Type F streams less than 5 feet wide, for lakes. For type N (nonsalmonid-bearing) perennial and seasonal streams a 150 foot or 225 foot buffer applies, depending on slope stability (the 225 foot buffer applies to unstable slopes), *[updated per the May 14, 2009, errata letter]*
- the Channel Migration Zone²² plus 50 feet; and
- the mapped Floodway.

The Riparian Buffer Zone is an overlay zone that encompasses lands as defined above on either side of all streams, and for all other watercourses including off channel areas. The RBZ is a no disturbance zone, other than for activities that will not adversely affect habitat function. Any property or portion thereof that lies within the RBZ is subject to the restrictions of the RBZ, as well as any zoning restrictions that apply to the parcel in the underlying zone.

[Footnote 22: The lateral extent of likely movement along a stream reach during the next one hundred years with evidence of active stream channel movement over the past one hundred years. Evidence of active movement can be provided from aerial photos or specific channel and valley bottom characteristics. A time frame of one hundred years was chosen because aerial photos and field evidence can be used to evaluate movement in this time frame. Also, this time span typically represents the time it takes to grow mature trees that can provide functional large woody debris to most streams. In large meandering rivers a more detailed analysis can be conducted to relate bank erosion processes and the time required to grow trees that function as stable large woody debris.

With the exception of shorelands in or meeting the criteria for the “natural” and “rural conservancy” environments, areas separated from the active channel by legally existing artificial channel constraints that limit bank erosion and channel avulsion without hydraulic connections shall not be considered within the CMZ. All areas, including areas within the “natural” and “rural conservancy” environments, separated from the natural channel by legally existing structures designed to withstand the 100-year flood shall not be considered within the CMZ. A tributary stream or other hydraulic connection allowing listed species fish passage draining through a dike or other constricting structure shall be considered part of the CMZ.]

Restrictions in this area apply to all development, per the definition of development.²³ Uses that are not permitted unless shown not to adversely affect water quality, water quantity, flood volumes, flood velocities, spawning substrate, and/or floodplain refugia for listed salmon, include the following: new buildings, including accessory buildings; new impervious surfaces; removal of native vegetation; new clearing, grading, filling, land-disturbing activity or other “development” (see definition), other than for the purpose of replacing non-native vegetation with native vegetation, and for other approved restoration work; septic tanks and drain fields, dumping of any materials, hazardous or sanitary waste landfills; receiving areas for toxic or hazardous waste or other contaminants; and, stream relocations, unless the primary function of the action is to restore natural ecological function.

[Footnote 23: Development. Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, or any other activity which results in the removal of substantial amounts of vegetation or in the alteration of natural site characteristics located within the area of special flood hazard.]

In the RBZ the following uses are allowed: [1] repair or remodel of an existing building in its existing footprint, including buildings damaged by fire or other casualties; [2] removal of noxious weeds; [3] replacement of non-native vegetation with native vegetation; [4] ongoing activities such as lawn and garden maintenance; [5] removal of hazard trees; [6] normal maintenance of public utilities and facilities;

and [7] restoration or enhancement of floodplains, riparian areas and streams that meets Federal and State standards

2. Protect fish habitat and flood storage in the remaining 100-year floodplain (outside the RBZ) by either:

- a.) Prohibiting development in the 100-year floodplain, OR
- b.) Providing compensation for any adverse effects to floodwater storage and fish habitat function within the 100-year floodplain. *[updated per the May 14, 2009, errata letter]*

Any development in the 100-year floodplain must be compensated, for example, through the creation of an equivalent area and volume of floodwater storage and fish habitat through a balanced cut and fill program. The new flood storage/habitat area must be graded and vegetated to allow fish refugia during flood events and return to the main channel as floodwaters recede without creating stranding risks. In addition, equivalent area, if not located on site, must be located in priority floodplain restoration areas identified in the ESU Recovery Plan for listed species.

3. Mitigate for all adverse indirect effects of development in the floodplain (effects to stormwater, riparian vegetation, bank stability, channel migration, hyporheic zones, wetlands, LWD, etc.) such that equivalent or better salmon habitat protection is provided. *[updated per the May 14, 2009, errata letter]*

Stormwater. Reduce flood volumes and stormwater runoff from new development by ensuring that increased volumes of stormwater reach the river at the same frequency, timing, and duration as historical runoff. Low Impact Development (LID) methods are required to treat and infiltrate runoff as described in PSAT 2002. These methods generally include various practices for infiltrating stormwater to provide water quality treatment, match historical runoff durations, and preserve base flows.

Riparian vegetation: Maintain or replace riparian function by providing equivalent area, diversity, and function of riparian vegetation as currently exists on the site (per WDFW riparian management recommendations (Knutson and Naef 1997)).

Bank Stability: Bank stabilization measures along salmonid-bearing streams, channel migration zones, and along estuarine and marine shorelines must be minimized to the maximum extent possible. If bank stabilization measures are necessary, bioengineered armoring of streambanks and shorelines must be used (per the Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines 2003 (for riverine shorelines) or the State Shorelines Guidelines on bank stabilization (2003) (for estuarine and marine shorelines)).

Channel migration. No activity is allowed that limits the natural meandering pattern of the channel migration zone, however, natural channel migration patterns may be enhanced or restored (see Rapp and Abbe 2003, for delineating channel migration zones).

Hyporheic zones. No activity is allowed that interferes with the natural exchange of flow between surface water, groundwater and the hyporheic zone, however, natural hyporheic exchange may be enhanced or restored (see Bolton and Shellberg, 2001 for hyporheic zone issues).

Wetlands. Wetland function must be maintained or replaced by providing equivalent function per Washington State Department of Ecology (McMillan 1998) regulations.

LWD. Any LWD removed from the floodplain must be replaced in kind, replicating or improving the quantity, size, and species of the existing LWD (per WDFW Aquatic Habitat guidelines).

In the 100-year floodplain outside the Riparian Buffer Zone the following apply:

- 1) For buildable lots partially in the floodplain, require structures to be located on the portion of the lot outside of the mapped floodplain. Where a buildable lot is fully in the floodplain, structures must be sited in the location that has the least impact on listed salmon, e.g., located as far from the stream or river as possible on the lot, placing structures on the highest land on the lot, orienting structures parallel to flow rather than perpendicular, and avoiding disruption of active hyporheic exchange on a site.
- 2) Require zoning to maintain a low density (e.g., 5-acre lots or greater) of floodplain development to reduce the damage potential within the floodplain to both property and habitat, and help maintain flood storage and conveyance capacity.
- 3) All structures must be set back at least 15 feet from the RBZ and shall be sited as close to the 100-year floodplain boundary as possible.
- 4) In an effort to site structures as far away from the watercourse and RBZ as possible, the applicant will be apprised of the elevations of the 10-year and 50-year floods in detailed study areas at the same time that the (city, county) provides the 100-year elevation as a part of the permit review. The applicant, in addition to plotting the 100-year elevation near the building site, will also plot the 10 and 50-year elevations on the land. The purpose is to show the applicant the significantly lower risk of placing the structure further away from the watercourse.
- 5) Structures built using post, pier, piling or stem wall construction may require less mitigation than structures built on earth fill, but must provide equivalent mitigation for lost fish habitat and indirect effects from development.
- 6) Creation of new impervious surfaces²⁴ shall not exceed 10 percent of the surface area of the portion of the lot in the floodplain unless mitigation is provided.

[Footnote 24: Any material or land alteration (i.e. clearing, grading, etc.) which reduces or prevents absorption of storm water into the ground. That hard surface area which either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil, water that had entered under natural conditions prior to development; and/or that hard surface area that causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from that present under natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to: roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots or storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, gravel roads, and packed earthen materials.]

- 7) Removal of native vegetation must leave 65 percent of the surface area of the portion of the lot in the floodplain in an undeveloped state; the 65 percent pertains to the entire portion of the lot in the floodplain, including that area in the RBZ, where removal of native vegetation is generally prohibited.
- 8) The proposed action must be designed and located so that it will not require new structural flood protection (e.g., levees).
- 9) During the floodplain permit review process, applicants shall be notified that their property contains land within the Riparian Buffer Zone and/or 100-year floodplain, and that the applicant is required to record a Notice on Title on the property before a permit may be issued. Applicants shall be further notified that development in the RBZ and 100-year floodplain can only occur according to the above criteria.

10) New road crossings over streams are prohibited.

11) Concepts of cluster development, density transfer, credits and bonuses, planned unit development, and transfer of development rights shall be employed wherever possible.

12) Any flood information that is more restrictive or detailed than the FEMA data can be used for flood loss reduction and/or fisheries habitat management purposes, including data on channel migration, more restrictive floodways, maps showing future build-out and global climate change conditions, specific maps from watershed or related studies that show riparian habitat areas, or similar maps.

In the RBZ and the floodplain the following re-development criteria apply:

1) Require that expansion to existing buildings in the floodplain be limited to no more than 10 percent of the existing footprint (i.e., when building and other structures such as garages are substantially damaged or expanded in the floodplain), unless mitigation for any adverse effects to floodplain habitat is provided, as described above .

4. Communities choosing to implement the mitigation option (2.b. above) must track the projects for which they issue floodplain development permits, including effects to flood storage, fish habitat, and all indirect direct of development. The expected development effects, the equivalent mitigation provided, and the success of the mitigation in replacing the affected fish habitat and flood storage functions shall be reported to FEMA on a semi-annual basis (according to the monitoring requirements in RPA element 3.D)

Appendix E. Insurance Rating Table, Unnumbered A Zones

Table 3C is from the October 1, 2009, *Flood Insurance Manual* for insurance agents. This table shows the rates for unnumbered A Zones, i.e., Special Flood Hazard Areas where the Flood Insurance Rate Map does not provide a base flood elevation.

The table shows how much lower flood insurance premium rates are where the community obtains or provides a base flood elevation. For example, for a 1–4 family home elevated one foot above grade, the rate for the first layer of coverage (the first \$50,000) is \$2.09 per \$100 in coverage. \$50,000 in flood insurance coverage for the building (no contents coverage) would cost \$1,045 (plus \$41 in fees).

If the community provides a base flood elevation (as per Sections 3.3.F and 3.5.C of the model ordinance), the rate for the same house elevated one foot above that base flood elevation is \$1.06 per \$100, roughly half the rate. \$50,000 in flood insurance coverage for the building would cost \$530 (plus \$41 in fees). The rates are even lower for going more than one foot above the base flood elevation and are lower still in communities in the Community Rating System.

**TABLE 3C. REGULAR PROGRAM -- POST-FIRM CONSTRUCTION RATES
ANNUAL RATES PER \$100 OF COVERAGE
(Basic/Additional)**

**UNNUMBERED ZONE A -- WITHOUT
BASEMENT/ENCLOSURE/CRAWLSPACE^{1,6}**

Elevation Difference to nearest foot	BUILDING RATES		CONTENTS RATES		TYPE OF ELEVATION CERTIFICATE
	Occupancy		Occupancy		
	1-4 Family	Other & Non-Residential	Residential ²	Non-Residential ²	
+5 or more	.35 / .10	.47 / .15	.61 / .12	.64 / .12	NO ESTIMATED BASE FLOOD ELEVATION ³
+2 to +4	1.08 / .13	.99 / .20	.86 / .17	.97 / .23	
+1	2.07 / .63	2.23 / .74	1.52 / .56	1.45 / .71	
0 or below	***	***	***	***	
+2 or more	.40 / .08	.33 / .09	.50 / .12	.48 / .12	WITH THE ESTIMATED BASE FLOOD ELEVATION ⁴
0 to +1	1.05 / .12	.90 / .18	.84 / .16	.83 / .21	
-1	3.45 / 1.29	4.37 / 1.01	2.68 / .69	2.18 / 1.01	
-2 or below	***	***	***	***	
No Elevation Certificate ⁵	4.02 / 1.41	5.45 / 1.68	3.33 / .99	3.21 / 1.34	No Elevation Certificate

- ¹ Zone A building with basement/enclosure/crawlspace/subgrade crawlspace – Submit for Rating.
- ² For elevation rated risks other than Single Family, when contents are located one floor or more above lowest floor used for rating – use .35 / .12.
- ³ Elevation difference is the measured distance between the highest adjacent grade next to the building and the lowest floor of the building.
- ⁴ Elevation difference is the measured distance between the estimated BFE provided by the community or registered professional engineer, surveyor, or architect and the lowest floor of the building.
- ⁵ For building without basement, enclosure, or crawlspace, Elevation Certificate is optional.
- ⁶ Pre-FIRM buildings with basement/enclosure/crawlspace/subgrade crawlspace may use this table if the rates are more favorable to the insured.

*** **SUBMIT FOR RATING**

Appendix F. State Floodway Standards

Note that these standards are subject to revision by the State of Washington

WAC 173-158-075 Existing Farmhouse Standards

Repairs, reconstruction, replacement, or improvements to existing farmhouse structures located in designated floodways and which are located on lands designated as agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance under RCW 36.70A.170 shall be permitted subject to the following:

- (1) The new farmhouse is a replacement for an existing farmhouse on the same farm site;
- (2) There is no potential safe building site for a replacement farmhouse on the same farm site outside the designated floodway or the location requires close proximity to other structures in the farm operation in order to maintain the integrity and operational viability of the farm; in no case shall a replacement be located into an area with higher flood hazards in terms of depths, velocities and erosion;
- (3) Repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to a farmhouse shall not increase the total square footage of encroachment of the existing farmhouse;
- (4) A replacement farmhouse shall not exceed the total square footage of encroachment of the structure it is replacing;
- (5) A farmhouse being replaced shall be removed, in its entirety, including foundation, from the floodway within ninety days after occupancy of a new farmhouse;
- (6) For substantial improvements, and replacement farmhouses, the elevation of the lowest floor of the improvement and farmhouse respectively, including basement, is a minimum one foot higher than the base flood elevation;
- (7) New and replacement water supply systems are designed to eliminate or minimize infiltration of flood waters into the system;
- (8) New and replacement sanitary sewerage systems are designed and located to eliminate or minimize infiltration of flood water into the system and discharge from the system into the flood waters; and
- (9) All other utilities and connections to public utilities are designed, constructed, and located to eliminate or minimize flood damage.

WAC 173-158-076 Substantially damaged residential dwellings other than farmhouses.

For all substantially damaged residential structures, other than farmhouses, located in a designated floodway, the department, at the request of the local government, is authorized to assess the risk of harm to life and property posed by the specific conditions of the floodway. Based upon scientific analysis of depth, velocity, flood-related erosion and debris load potential, the department may exercise best professional judgment in recommending to the local permitting authority repair, replacement or relocation of a substantially damaged structure. The property owner shall be responsible for submitting to local government any information necessary to complete the assessment required by this section when such information is not otherwise available.

(1) Recommendation to repair or replace a substantially damaged residential structure located in the regulatory floodway shall be based on the flood characteristics at the site. In areas of the floodway that are subject to shallow and low velocity flooding, low flood-related erosion potential, and adequate flood warning time to ensure evacuation, the department may recommend the replacement or repair of the damaged structure. Any substantially damaged residential structure located in the regulatory floodway in a high risk zone based on the flood characteristics will not be recommended to be repaired or replaced. Flood warning times must be twelve hours or greater, except if the local government demonstrates that it has a flood warning system and/or emergency plan in operation. For purposes of this paragraph flood characteristics must include:

(a) Flood depths can not exceed more than three feet; flood velocities cannot exceed more than three feet per second.

(b) No evidence of flood-related erosion. Flood erosion will be determined by location of the project site in relationship to channel migration boundaries adopted by the local government. Absent channel migration boundaries, flood erosion will be determined by evidence of existing overflow channels and bank erosion.

At the request of local government, the department will prepare a report of findings and recommendations for local government concurrence on repair or replacement of substantially damaged residential structures located in the regulatory floodway.

Without a recommendation from the department for the repair or replacement of a substantially damaged residential structure located in the regulatory floodway, no repair or replacement is allowed per WAC 173-158-070(1).

(2) Before the repair, replacement, or reconstruction is started, all requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, the state requirements adopted pursuant to RCW 86.16.031(8), and all applicable local regulations must be satisfied. In addition the following conditions must be met:

(a) There is no potential safe building location for the replacement residential structure on the same property outside the regulatory floodway.

(b) A replacement residential structure is a residential structure built as a substitute for a previously existing residential structure of equivalent use and size.

(c) Repairs or reconstruction or replacement of a residential structure shall not increase the total square footage of floodway encroachment.

(d) The elevation of the lowest floor of the substantially damaged or replacement residential structure is a minimum of one foot higher than the base flood elevation.

(e) New and replacement water supply systems are designed to eliminate or minimize infiltration of flood water into the system.

(f) New and replacement sanitary sewerage systems are designed and located to eliminate or minimize infiltration of flood water into the system and discharge from the system into the flood waters.

(g) All other utilities and connections to public utilities are designed, constructed, and located to eliminate or minimize flood damage.

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PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: 2012 Officer Elections		
DEPARTMENT: Planning & Community Development		
PRESENTED BY: Jessica Simulcik Smith, Planning Commission Clerk Rachael Markle, AICP, Director		
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Study Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Planning Commission Bylaws state that “the Commission shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair each year. Generally, officers shall be elected and take office annually at the first regular public meeting of the Commission in April. Such election shall take place as the first item of new business of that meeting, and elected officers shall assume their duties at the close of elections.” In accordance with the Bylaws, the election of Chair and Vice Chair will be held Thursday, April 5.

A Commissioner may serve as Chair no more than two consecutive years, and the same is true for Vice Chair. For your information, Chair Wagner has served two full terms and is not eligible to be reelected. All Commissioners are eligible for the Vice Chair position.

The Clerk will call for nominations. No one Commissioner may nominate more than one person for a given office until every member wishing to nominate a candidate has an opportunity to do so. Nominations do not require a second. The Clerk will repeat each nomination until all nominations have been made. When it appears that no one else wishes to make any further nomination, the Clerk will ask again for further nominations and if there are none, the Clerk will declare the nominations closed.

After nominations have been closed, voting for the Chair takes place in the order nominations were made. Commissioners will be asked to vote by a raise of hands. As soon as one of the nominees receives a majority vote (four votes), the Clerk will declare him/her elected. No votes will be taken on the remaining nominees. A tie vote results in a failed nomination. If none of the nominees receives a majority vote, the Clerk will call for nominations again and repeat the process until a single candidate receives a majority vote. Upon election, the Chair conducts the election for Vice Chair following the same process.

If you have any questions please contact Jessica by phone (206) 801-2514 or email jsmith@shorelinewa.gov.

Approved By:

Project Manager 

Planning Director 