CITY OF SHORELINE

Memorandum

DATE: May 21, 2009

TO: Shoreline Planning Commission

FROM: Joseph W. Tovar, FAICP, Director of Planning and Development Services
Paul Cohen, Senior Planner

RE: Tree Code Amendments – Coordination with Related Code Sections

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At your May 7th meeting staff presented summaries of comparable codes from other jurisdictions. The Commission discussed several contextual issues raised by staff about the potential for tree coverage in the city, attributes of all types of vegetation, solar access, and the importance of large, prominent trees to our community.

For next steps we suggested focusing on the issue of tree retention and replacement standards as the core to tree codes. The topics of hazardous trees, landmark trees, violations, protection during construction, etc. would follow to support or enhance this core. To provide background for future deliberations, Vice-chair Wagner recommended that the staff discuss the overall intent or purposes of the tree code as well as other code sections of lot coverage and setbacks, clearing and grading, landscaping, and critical areas. The meeting is to coordinate a more holistic view of environmental health and draft language for the tree code's purpose before discussing actual code language.

At your May 21st meeting, Paul Cohen will discuss the intent and purposes of these related code sections (attached). If you have any questions prior to the meeting, contact Paul at (206) 801-2551 or at pcohen@shorelinewa.gov.