



## **Memorandum**

**DATE:** August 13, 2009

**TO:** Shoreline Planning Commission

**FROM:** Miranda Redinger, Associate Planner

**SUBJECT:** Shoreline Master Program Update

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### **INTRODUCTION**

At your next meeting, staff will update you on the progress of the Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) Update. Staff and our consultant will host an Open House to explain the current status of the update beginning at 6 PM (It will begin 30 minutes earlier than Mr. Cohn stated at your last meeting). Following the Open House, staff and our consultant will update the Commission on the current status of the SMP, respond to your questions and provide a general timeline of our next steps.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2003 the Department of Ecology adopted new Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Guidelines based on the State Shoreline Management Act. Cities and counties across the state (about 250 in all) were mandated to update their Shoreline Master Programs to be consistent with the new guidelines within the decade. Plan goals should include ways to encourage water-dependent uses, protect shoreline natural resources, and promote public access. The State offered grant monies to assist cities and counties in their updates. The City of Shoreline applied for and received a two-year grant for the 2008-2009 biennium.

Local master programs regulate new development and use of "shorelines of statewide significance" within their jurisdictions. According to Department of Ecology (DOE) definitions and an inventory performed in 2004 and updated in 2008, the areas affected in Shoreline run the length of our Puget Sound coastline, inland to 200 feet from the Ordinary High Water Mark.

In 1998, with the adoption of its own Comprehensive Plan, the City adopted a Shoreline Master Program Element that contains goals, policies and maps of shoreline environments. Shoreline's existing master program reflects the elements that were in the King County SMP in 1995 when Shoreline incorporated. Though consistent with the King County SMP, the City's SMP element was not reviewed by the Department of Ecology and does not qualify as part of the City's recognized SMP. The City continues to apply the 1995 King County SMP rules to regulate shoreline development, but is required by the DOE to adopt one that reflects the updated guidelines from the State.

Shoreline's grant, which ran through spring 2009, was largely used to hire a consultant to perform technical work such as conducting an inventory and analysis, mapping conditions, determining environmental designations, characterizing ecosystem-wide processes, analyzing cumulative impacts, and identifying opportunities for protection and restoration.

The grant did not cover the full cost of developing the SMP update, and due to budget shortfalls and a long list of cities waiting for funding to begin their process, which precluded additional funding from the State, the City has dedicated funds to complete the project.

### **PROCESS**

Phase I of the SMP update process (completed December 2008) was primarily to gather data, including a shoreline inventory and characterization report, analysis of shoreline use and public access, and mapping. These items were presented to the public and Planning Commission at an Open House and meeting on November 20, 2008.

Phase II (current phase of the process) involves translating this information into policies, regulations and restoration opportunities to manage future conservation and/or development of the shoreline. Draft documents created include a restoration plan, recommendations report, and development of general policies and environmental designations. These products will be the focus of discussion at this Open House and meeting. Deliverables yet to be created include environment specific use and modification policies, regulations and administrative provisions, as well as a cumulative impacts analysis.

Phase III (upcoming phase) is review and adoption by Ecology, SEPA and GMA officials, the public, Planning Commission and City Council. The process must be completed by December of 2010 to comply with the state's Shoreline Management Act. Staff and consultants believe that we are on track to meet this deadline, and will be available to answer questions and discuss options at this meeting.

If you have questions or comments prior to the meeting, contact Miranda Redinger at 206-801-2513 or [mredinger@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:mredinger@shorelinewa.gov)

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Due to the number and length of attachments for review, we request that Commissioners and the public go to the City's project web page at <http://shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=410> to review the documents listed below. Please note that they are all in draft form until approved by Ecology and adopted by Council.

- A: Draft General Goals and Policies
- B: Draft Recommendations Report
- C: Draft Restoration Plan
- D: Draft Environment Designations