



Skagit County Planning & Development Services

DALE PERNULA, AICP *Director*

JACK MOORE, CBCO *Building Official*

Notice of Availability

including notice of SEPA threshold determination, written comment period, and public hearing

Proposal Information

Publish date:	February 4, 2016
Proposal name:	Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Update
Documents available at:	www.skagitcounty.net/smp
Lead Agency:	Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Contact Person:	Betsy Stevenson, AICP, Senior Planner, Team Supervisor
SEPA Responsible Official:	Dale Pernula, AICP, Director
Public hearing body:	Skagit County Planning Commission
Public hearing date:	Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 6 p.m.
Written comment deadline:	Monday, April 4, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

Proposal Description

Skagit County is proposing to update the County's Shoreline Master Program ("SMP"), which hasn't been comprehensively updated since its adoption in 1976. Skagit County, along with all other local governments containing shorelines of the state is required to update the SMP. The SMP is a combined planning and regulatory document that contains policies, goals, and specific land-use regulations for shorelines, and is intended to balance development, public access, and protection of natural resource and shoreline areas. State law considers the goals and policies of an SMP an element of the county comprehensive plan, and the SMP use regulations are considered a part of the county's development regulations.

Shoreline plans are required by the state Shoreline Management Act ("the SMA"), which was approved by Washington voters in a 1972 referendum. The SMA is intended to be a cooperative program between local government and the state. The Shoreline Master Program jurisdiction includes marine shorelines, rivers with a mean annual flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second, lakes and reservoirs greater 20 acres or larger, upland areas within 200 feet of these water bodies and portions of the floodplains and wetlands associated with these shorelines. It only applies to lands outside cities and towns, in unincorporated areas of the county.

The proposed update is a complete rewrite of the current plan to comply with new state rules and the latest best available science, and to integrate the shoreline policies into the Comprehensive Plan

and the shoreline development regulations into the County code. The proposal and a staff report will be available on the County website on Friday, February 5.

SEPA Threshold Determination

Skagit County has determined that this proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement is not required under the State Environmental Policy Act, RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This determination was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency and is available upon request.

This determination is issued pursuant to WAC 197-11-340(2). Skagit County will not act on this proposal during the public comment period. Written comments regarding this Determination of Nonsignificance must be submitted by the deadline above and in the same manner as other comments. Pursuant to SCC 14.12.210, no administrative appeal process is available for this legislative action.

How to Comment

Comments are accepted via email or on paper. All comments must be received by the deadline and include (1) your full name, (2) your mailing address, and (3) the proposal name (“Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Update”) in the subject line. Comments not meeting these requirements will not be considered.

Email comments are preferred and must be sent to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us. Include your comments in the body of your email message rather than as attachments.

Paper comments must be printed on 8½ x 11 paper and mailed or delivered to:

Comments on the Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Update
Planning and Development Services
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon WA 98273

You may also comment in person at the public hearing at the Commissioners Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon. Public hearing testimony is usually limited to three minutes, so written comments are preferred.

Anyone who plans to attend the public hearing and has special needs or disabilities should contact Planning and Development Services at (360) 416-1320 at least 96 hours before the hearing to discuss and arrange any special accommodations.