



Executive Summary

Issue Title: 2024 Critical Areas Ordinance Update
Meeting Date: March 21, 2023
Time Required: 20 - 30 Minutes
Department: Department of Community Development (DCD)
Attendees: Colin Poff, Carla Lundgren

Action Requested at This Meeting: No action necessary – status update.

Background:

The Kitsap County Community Development Department will review and update its Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) with adoption planned in December of 2024. The CAO was last updated in 2017, and will be updated in conjunction with the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. Edits will be related to KCC Title 19.

The purpose of this project is to evaluate and modify the CAO per the schedule provided in RCW 36.70A.130.

Staff are briefing the Board of Commissioners on the Public Participation Plan related to this project. Staff have drafted the project work plan, begun compiling best available science (BAS) data, developed a public participation plan, and drafted a proposed project schedule. No public outreach has yet been conducted for this project.

Scope:

The Public Participation Plan will guide County staff in gathering public comments and ideas on Kitsap County's quality of life, public safety, growth, and economic development. The plan will also help create positive community engagement, build trust, ensure transparency, foster healthy discussion about growth management, and improve coordination between jurisdictions within the County. The plan provides for robust public participation, vital to creating a practical, inclusive, and implementable Critical Areas Ordinance. The objectives of this Public Participation Plan include:

- Provide the public with timely information and opportunities to review and comment on the Critical Areas Ordinance review and potential amendments. These comments on the formal draft proposal will be forwarded to Kitsap County Planning Commission and Kitsap County Board of Commissioners.
- Ensure transparency and predictability throughout the process by engaging with the public early and often.
- Provide guidance to the public on best practices for writing and submitting comments on the draft CAO.
- Provide opportunities for formal public input throughout the review process and especially at key milestones prior to decision making by local officials.

- Consult and consider recommendations from federal and state agencies, and Native American Tribes in Kitsap County.
- Engage a diverse population equitably and inclusively, especially communities that have been historically underserved, so that the resulting Critical Areas Ordinance is well-grounded in the experiences and knowledge of the public.

DCD will develop revisions to the Critical Areas Ordinance based on suggestions that are received from internal staff, external stakeholders, project consultant (The Watershed Company), BAS data, and public comment.

Next Steps:

- April -May 2023 (*tentative*) – Public Comment period on BAS data
- May 2023 (*tentative*) – Virtual Public Participation Meeting #1
- June 2023 – Planning Commission Work Session on BAS data & Project Scope
- June 2023 – Board of County Commissioners Work Session on BAS data & Project Scope