



Planning Commission Executive Summary

Issue Title: KCC Title 15 Flood Hazard Areas Ordinance Update
Meeting Date: 10/18/21
Time Required: 30 minutes
Department: Department of Community Development (DCD)
Attendees: David Kinley

Action Requested at This Meeting:

1) No action requested

Background

Kitsap County's flood hazard standards were originally adopted in 1980, and subsequently revised in 2003 and 2015. The standards are contained in Title 15 KCC, and are incorporated by reference into Titles 19 (Critical Areas) and 22 (Shoreline Master Program).

Flood hazard areas are identified by the "base flood" elevation, meaning a one percent chance of the identified flood elevation being equaled or exceeded in any given year. A base flood event is also referred to as the "100-year flood."

In order to mitigate the effects of flooding on its citizens, Kitsap County participates in FEMA's NFIP. In order to stay current under the NFIP, County flood standards and practices are periodically reviewed for compliance with current minimum FEMA standards.

In order to ensure standards are enacted at the local jurisdiction level, FEMA contracts with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to assist jurisdictions via the Community Assistance Visit (CAV) program.

Ecology's most recent CAV occurred in April 2021 which included the following:

- Virtual interview
- Training on the Puget Sound Biological Opinion
- Audit of permits in the Floodplain
- Overview of Title 15 and the FEMA Model Ordinance for Washington State

As conclusion of the CAV, on May 27, 2021 Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners received a letter from DOE detailing the need for revision to sections of KCC Title 15 in order to be in compliance with the current FEMA Model Ordinance for Washington State.

Given that Kitsap County is subject to the requirements of the Washington State Department of Ecology as per RCW 86.16.031, which is responsible for implementing FEMA and NFIP standards, DCD has begun the process of amending the language of Title 15 to align with these requirements.

Summary of Ordinance

The proposed changes to Title 15 are relatively minor and represent the required changes with a few recommendations included. The majority of the changes are added or amended definitions. Examples of added language are severability, added permit submittal items, structural anchoring, residential construction requirements for specific flood zones, references to other standards, and department responsibilities. A complete scoping of changes and draft amendment is provided by means of attachment.

Attachments

T15 FHA Scoping Matrix (summary of changes)
Draft Amendments KCC Title 15 'Flood Hazard Areas'
DOE CAV Summary Letter