



CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

Update Scope of Work

Introduction - Need for this Update

The Growth Management Act of Washington (GMA) requires counties and cities to review and evaluate comprehensive plans and development regulations, and update them if necessary, according to a schedule established by RCW 36.70A.130. Kitsap County adopted the comprehensive plan in June 2016, which provides a framework of goals and policies and a work plan of strategies through 2036. With that framework, the County will be reviewing and revising, if necessary, the associated development regulations.

The County's review of development regulations includes the Kitsap County **Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO)** in Kitsap County Code Title 19. This code update is scheduled for adoption in June 2017.

The County's CAO was adopted pursuant to state law that requires local jurisdictions to designate and adopt regulations for the protection of critical areas in accordance with state guidelines (WAC 365-190). Critical Areas include:

- Wetlands
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
- Frequently Flooded Areas
- Geologically Hazardous Areas
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Scope of the CAO Update

The Kitsap County CAO was last comprehensively updated in 2005 with limited amendments in 2007. The intent of this current update is to revise code as necessary to incorporate recent Best Available Science (BAS), to comply with updates to GMA since 2005, and to support the other existing policies, as noted below.

This update is limited to:

- Compliance with state mandates;
- Incorporation of any recent BAS or new information available since the last update (WAC 365-195-915);



- Consideration and incorporation of any recent court or Growth Management Hearings Board decisions;
- Correction of code conflicts or internal inconsistencies;
- Inclusion of code corrections or other amendments identified by staff while implementing the CAO;
- Consideration of other amendments proposed by stakeholders, if within the scope of project; and
- Incorporation of amendments as a result of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion on FEMA floodplains.

For more information, including:

- **Schedule;**
- **Drafts;**
- **Summary of proposed changes; and**
- **Best Available Science Summary,**



Please visit the [County website](#) and our **24/7 Online Open House**. Comments are encouraged to be submitted online.



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Critical Areas Ordinance Update

Kitsap County is in the process of updating its critical areas regulations. These regulations, known as the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), are those rules in the County Code (KCC Title 19) that address how various environmental resource and hazard areas are to be managed when using or developing property. Adoption of any amendments are expected by mid-2017.

Website: https://spf.kitsapgov.com/dcd/Pages/Critical_Areas_Update.aspx

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