



Executive Summary

Issue Title: 2024 Critical Areas Ordinance Update
Meeting Date: July 18, 2023
Time Required: 60 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 is reviewing and updating its Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) with adoption targeted by June, 2024. The CAO was last updated in 2017, and will be completed 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. The scope of the project is as follows:

- Compliance with State mandates
- Incorporation of any recent BAS or new information available since the last update in 2017
- Consideration and incorporation of any recent court or Growth Management Hearings Board decisions
- Receive technical guidance regarding each type of Critical Areas and update as needed. (*i.e. Wetlands, aquifers, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas*)
- Integrate critical areas regulations with other County efforts including the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update, Natural Resources as an Asset, and Monitoring Effectiveness
- Inclusion of code corrections or other amendments identified by staff while implementing the CAO

Update:

A Best Available Science (BAS) summary and Consistency and Gap Analysis was recently completed. One virtual public participation meeting has also been conducted.

County Staff would like to provide an overview of key issues identified in these documents. Staff is seeking preliminary guidance from the Planning Commission in the scope of review and draft amendments that will occur over the coming months.

In addition, County Staff has identified “optional” changes to Title 19 that are included as an attachment. These changes were identified by staff, and are not mandatory to comply with State Law or BAS. However, they may improve clarity or effectiveness of code. Many are labeled be “administrative” in nature, while others could be more substantial updates.

Next Steps:

- July-November 2023 – Working Group Meetings
- January 2024 – Draft CAO Amendments released and public comment period.
- June, 2024 – Target CAO Adoption

Attachments:

- Best Available Science Summary
- Consistency and Gap Analysis
- List of “Optional” Amendments