

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Initial Public Meeting, November 7th, 2007

OVERVIEW

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has begun the process of revising Seattle's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) for the first time since 1987. The SMP establishes policies and regulations governing land use along marine and freshwater shorelines. Seattle's shorelines include Puget Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Union and the Ship Canal, the Duwamish River, and Green Lake. The area affected by the SMP is generally 200' landward from the waterline. DPD is working with the Washington Department of Ecology to complete the update of Seattle's program by the spring of 2010.

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Seattle, and other local governments in the state are required by the Washington Shoreline Management Act (SMA) to develop and adopt a Shoreline Master Program (SMP) including goals, policies, and regulations consistent with state guidelines. The SMA establishes three major policy goals for SMPs:

- **Preferred Shoreline Uses**

The SMA establishes preferred uses in order to prioritize water-oriented uses and ensure that land uses are appropriate for the environmental context.

- **Environmental Protection**

The SMA requires protections for shoreline natural resources, including "...the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life..." to ensure no net loss of ecological function.

- **Public Access**

The SMA promotes public access to the water by mandating inclusion of a public access element in local SMPs and requiring provisions to ensure that new development maintains public access features.

To implement these policies, the Department of Ecology has also developed Shoreline Master Program Guidelines (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/SMA/guidelines/>) which provide specific standards for SMPs. These standards address a variety of issues including shoreline uses, modifications, public access, vegetation conservation, critical areas, flood hazard reduction, water quality, and archeological and historic resources.



IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/ShorelineMasterProgramUpdate/Overview/>
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/guidelines/index.html>

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Initial Public Meeting, November 7th, 2007

PROCESS & TIMELINE

The SMP update will include the following program elements:

- 1. Conduct an Inventory and Characterization of Shoreline Conditions:**
This scientific analysis and land use inventory provides a snapshot of existing conditions to inform the development of goals, policies, environmental designations and regulations. *(Winter 2007 - Winter 2008)*
- 2. Establish Shoreline Goals and Policies:**
These goals and policies establish the future vision for the shoreline and are the basis for the environmental designations and regulations. *(Winter 2007 – Fall 2008)*
- 3. Establish Environment Designations:**
These designations act as a zoning overlay which modifies allowed land uses, heights and development standards as appropriate for local shoreline conditions. *(Winter 2008 – Fall 2008)*
- 4. Prepare Regulations:**
Specific standards are required for issues including shoreline uses, modifications, public access, vegetation conservation, critical areas, flood hazard reduction, water quality, and archeological and historic resources. *(Winter 2008 – Fall 2008)*
- 5. Evaluate Cumulative Impacts:**
Local jurisdictions must conduct this analysis to ensure that the proposed “regulation of development shall achieve no net loss of ecological function.” *(Winter 2009 – Fall 2009)*
- 6. Prepare a Restoration Plan:**
SMPs are required to include “goals, polices and actions for restoration of impaired shorelines.” *(Winter 2008 – Fall 2009)*
- 7. Approval by City Council:** *(Winter 2010 - Spring 2010)*
- 8. Approval by Washington Department of Ecology:** *(Spring 2010)*



IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/ShorelineMasterProgramUpdate/Overview/>
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/guidelines/index.html>