

# DPD

## Director's Rule 30-2006

Applicant:  City of Seattle  Department of Planning and Development	Page  1 of 2	Supersedes:  N/A
	Publication:  10/26/06	Effective:  11/21/06
Subject:  Update of Wetland Environmentally Critical Areas Mapping	Code and Section Reference: Seattle Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance SMC 25.09.020.C	
	Type of Rule:  Map Update	
	Ordinance Authority:  SMC 3.06.040	
Index:  Environmentally Critical Areas	Approved	Date
	(signature on file) Diane M. Sugimura, Director, DPD	11/17/06

### PURPOSE

This rule updates the mapping for Wetland Environmentally Critical Areas where enhanced data is now available. A master set of the updated mapping is filed at DPD and is also available on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services National Wetland Inventory website at <http://www.fws.gov/nwi/>.

Authority for this update is SMC 25.09.020.C, *Regulations for Environmentally Critical Areas*, which states that "the Director may update or amend the environmentally critical areas maps by Director's Rule, according to Seattle Municipal Code Chapters 3.02 and 3.06, as new information and improved mapping resources become available. Mapping amendments may occur at a frequency not to exceed once every year."

### BASIS FOR UPDATED ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS MAPPING

Updates to this mapping are based on both review of existing data and field reconnaissance conducted by DPD staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Wetlands Inventory, incorporated color-infrared aerial photographs taken from April 2004, color digital photos taken in 1999 & 2002, black and white digital photos taken in 1993, Topographic Maps from the 1950s/60s, LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) 2-foot contour maps, and existing wetland delineation reports. This information was analyzed and then extensive field inventories were conducted by DPD staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wetlands were classified based on the Cowardin Classification System (1979) used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This classification system identifies wetlands based on system subsystem, class, subclass, water regime, and any special modifiers. In addition, to the Cowardin classification each wetland was given a Hydrogeomorphic Classification (Brinson 1993) of either: Riverine (Fluvial), Depressional, Slope (Seeps and Springs), Flats, Tidal, or Lacustrine Fringe.

**Sources cited:**

Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Jamestown, ND: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Home Page. <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1998/classwet/classwet.htm> (Version 04DEC98).

Brinson, M.M. 1993. A Hydrogeomorphic Classification for Wetlands. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Exp. Stn, Tech. Rep. WRP-DE-4, Washington, D. C. 79 pp. +app.