

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM: PERIODIC REVIEW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



Introduction

The City of Sequim is undertaking a Periodic Review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how the City will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that the City will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well City contact information and web addresses. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

Public Participation Goals

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the Periodic Review process.
- Encourage interested parties to review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide comments to decision makers.
- Provide forums for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

Public Participation Opportunities

The City is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the process. The City will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage their participation, including the following:

City Staff

At any time during the Periodic Review, Tim Woolett, Senior Planner, can be reached with any comments or questions. He can be reached via phone at (360) 582-2476 or via email at twoolett@sequimwa.gov.

Website

The City's website includes a Shoreline Master Program webpage where project information such as status updates, draft documents, and official notices can be accessed. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Periodic Review process. The webpage includes who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments. The City webpage for the Periodic Review can be found at:

<https://www.sequimwa.gov/371/Shoreline-Master-Program>

Civic Center

Note that due to COVID-19, access to Civic Center may be limited, so please contact City staff in advance of visiting Civic Center (see "City Staff" above for contact information).

Open House

Due to the risks of COVID-19, the City plans to hold a community open house in a virtual format. The open house will review potential changes to the SMP and request public comments. Public comments received during the open house will be posted on the Shoreline Master Program webpage.

List of Interested Parties

An email list of interested parties will be maintained by the City. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties can be added to the list by contacting the City (see "City Staff" above for contact information).

Comment

Comments to the City by letter or email are encouraged. All comments will be compiled and provided to the Planning Commission and City Council. Comments during the joint comment period and joint public hearing will also be provided to Ecology. While boards, commissions and committees are currently prohibited from meeting in person due to the risks of COVID-19, public comment can be sent by email to the City (see "City Staff" above for contact information).

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the City Council. Interested parties are encouraged to participate and provide comments during the Planning Commission and/or City Council meetings. Official meeting notices will be published as established in City policy.

Currently the Planning Commission is prohibited from meeting in person due to the risks of COVID-19. The public can listen to meetings by streaming audio online or by telephone using instructions that are provided in meeting notices. Public comment can be sent by email to the City (see “City Staff” above for contact information).

News media

The local news media will be kept up to date on the Periodic Review process and receive copies of all official notices.

Public Comment Periods & Hearings

The Planning Commission will hold at least one public hearing to solicit input on the Periodic Review. The public hearing will be held during the 30-day public comment period.

The City will coordinate with the Department of Ecology on public notification of comment periods and hearings to take advantage of Ecology’s optional SMP amendment process that allows for a combined state-local comment period (WAC 173-26-104).

Public notice of all hearings will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy and comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A notice will be sent to the email list (see “List of Interested Parties” above) and the Department of Ecology.

Stakeholders

The City will engage the following stakeholders:

State Government

- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Other Government

- Port of Port Angeles
- Clallam County

Tribal

- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
- Quileute Nation
- Makah Nation

- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Sequim residents
- Shoreline property owners
- Sequim Bay Yacht Club

Community Groups

Public Participation Timeline

Following is the anticipated timeline for public participation opportunities. The timeline may be modified as the project progresses. Specific dates will be publicized via email and official notices, news media, and the website.

Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City staff may be contacted with project-related questions or concerns• Project information is available on project webpage
October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email notification sent to stakeholders
Fall 2020 – Winter 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Commission review• Community open house• 30-day joint public comment period on draft revisions• Joint public hearing before Planning Commission and Ecology
Spring 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City Council review• Submittal to Ecology for state approval