

PLANNING COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION  
Shoreline Master Program  
December 13, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Todd Voth, Steve Schield, Nathan Nofziger, Charles Hepburn, Rick Penhallurick, Vicki Heimark, and Carly Griffith Hotvedt

Staff Present: Anne Henning, Billie Jo Muñoz, and Sue Mahaney

The study session was called to discuss the Shoreline Master Program.

Anne Henning, Senior Planner, provided information from the Department of Ecology on non-conforming uses in the shoreline areas.

There was discussion by the Commission and the following changes were made to Chapter 13, Definitions.

~~Buffer - An area of intact vegetation maintained between human activities and a particular natural feature, such as a wetland or shoreline stream or a bird's nest. The buffer reduces potential negative impacts by providing an area around the feature that is unaffected by the activity.~~

~~Cumulative effects - "Diverse phenomena resulting from the collective impacts of management activities. There are negative or undesirable consequences that can involve the additive effects of a repeated single activity, such as forest harvest, or the synergistic or additive effects of two or more activities. Cumulative effects may show threshold behavior: the cumulative impacts are minimal up to some critical point, after which major changes occur - through time at a particular site or through time and across space" (Franklin 1992: 37-38, quoted in Management Recommendations for Priority Habitats).~~

~~OR: The combined, incremental effects of human activity on ecological functions and values. Cumulative impacts result when the effects of an action are added to or interact with the effects of other actions in a particular place and within a particular time. It is the combination of these effects, and any resulting environmental degradation, that should be the focus of cumulative impact analysis and changes to policies and permitting decisions (Westland Guidance for Small Cities)~~

~~OR: The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (Port Townsend SMP)~~

~~Development - A land use consisting of the construction or exterior alteration of structures; grading, dredging, drilling, or dumping; filling; removal of sand, gravel, or minerals; bulkheading; driving of pilings; or any project of a temporary or permanent nature which modifies structures, land, or shorelines and which does not fall within allowable exemptions.~~

~~Enhancement - actions performed within an existing degraded shoreline, critical area and/or buffer to intentionally increase or augment one or more functions or values of the existing area. Enhancement actions include, but are not limited to, increasing plant diversity and cover, increasing wildlife habitat and structural complexity (snags, woody debris), installing environmentally-compatible erosion controls, or removing non-indigenous plant or animal species (Whatcom County proposed SMP)~~

~~OR: An action approved by the Shoreline Administrator and taken with the intention and probable effect of improving the condition and function of a shoreline area, such as improving environmental~~

~~functions in an existing, viable shoreline habitat by means of increasing plant diversity, increasing wildlife habitat, installing environmentally compatible erosion controls, or removing non-indigenous plant and/or animal species.~~

~~OR: Alteration of an existing resource to improve or increase its characteristics and processes without degrading other existing functions. Enhancements are to be distinguished from resource creation or restoration projects (Port Townsend SMP)~~

~~OR: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland or shoreline to heighten, intensify, or improve specific function(s) or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for specified purposes such as water quality improvement, flood water retention, or wildlife habitat. Enhancement results in a change in wetland or shoreline function(s) and can lead to decline in other wetland or shoreline functions, but does not result in a gain in wetland acres. Examples are planting vegetation, controlling non-native or invasive species, and modifying site elevations to alter hydroperiods. (Wetland Guidance for Small Cities)~~

### Stormwater management facilities

Ms. Henning suggested the following definition be added:

Natural Character and Ecology of the Shoreline - The structural components of a given shoreline area that together comprise the societal and ecological functions of the shoreline. Character includes but is not limited to vegetative structure, soil composition, underlying geology, presence of wildlife, aesthetics, and utility for human use.

It was the consensus of the Commission that this definition be added.

## **APPENDIX A - MITIGATION**

a-10-040 - Performance Standards: The following performance standards shall apply to compensatory mitigation projects:

5. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Community Development Department one year after mitigation installation; three years after mitigation installation; and five years after mitigation installation. The length of time required for monitoring reports may be increased by the Administrator on a case-by-case basis when longer monitoring time is necessary to establish or re-establish functions and values of the mitigation site. Monitoring reports shall be submitted by a qualified professional. The professional must verify that the conditions of approval and provisions in the management and mitigation plan have been satisfied.

There was discussion on who could do the monitoring reports other than a "qualified professional" as defined in the Shoreline Master Program and it was suggested the language be changed to "qualified third party".

The study session adjourned at 8:30 p.m.