



DATE: July 17, 2013

TO: Chair Tebelius and Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Paul Inghram, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager  
*Planning and Community Development*  
[pinghram@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pinghram@bellevuewa.gov), 425-452-4070

SUBJECT: Shoreline Master Program Adoption Process

At their study session on July 15 the City Council discussed how to proceed with adoption of the recommended Shoreline Master Program. The Council directed staff to proceed with discussions with the state department of Ecology and to initiate and complete remaining work products necessary for submittal of the master program to Ecology. This study session will provide the Planning Commission with an opportunity to review the Council's direction and have an initial discussion of how work related to the Shoreline Master Program fits within the Commission's overall work program.

On May 28 the Planning Commission presented its recommendation on the amendments to the Shoreline Element of the Comprehensive Plan and the Shoreline Overlay District of the Land Use Code to the City Council. Those recommended amendments make up the bulk of the Shoreline Master Program. Additional policy/code amendment and consulting work is required before the complete Shoreline Master Program package can be submitted to Ecology for formal review, including:

- Critical areas policy and code conformance amendments
- General land use code conformance amendments
- Cumulative impact analysis
- Ecology SMP update submittal checklist

Council directed staff to meet with Ecology staff regarding the agency's May 14, 2013, letter that provided preliminary comments on the draft Shoreline Master Program. This review will educate Ecology regarding the content of the recommendation, narrow the scope of outstanding issues, and help clarify where Ecology has substantive issues that need further resolution through Council-directed negotiation. The Council also directed that the city proceed with development of those work products necessary for formal submittal. As a result, the Planning Commission will be reengaged this fall with work related to those policy and code conformance amendments, including modifications to the critical areas regulations.

A specific schedule for the Planning Commission's review and work on the conformance amendments has not been developed at this time. However, this work will overlap the update of the Comprehensive Plan, code amendments to implement state Initiative 502, and other work program items.