

Draft SMP Comments- Critical Areas

11. The current Critical Areas rules were adopted in 2006 through a covert process with little involvement from and limited notice to shoreline property owners. (37.1;39.1;39.12;48.4;48.34)

Response: The following is a summary of the public outreach and involvement efforts conducted as part of the critical areas update-

- Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) representing a wide spectrum of interests was appointed by the Bellevue City Council to prepare a recommendation for updating the city's Critical Areas policies. The committee was co-chaired by Nan Campbell and Steve Dennis, both Lake Sammamish residents, from December 2001 through April 2003, the CAC held 22 meetings that were all open to the public, plus two special community meetings;
- In March of 2004 the Council discussed the inclusion of shorelines into the critical areas update process;
- A direct mailer was sent in March 2004 to shoreline property owners notifying them of the inclusion of shorelines in the critical areas update (see attached).
- The CAC was notified in April of 2004 of the inclusion of the shorelines into the critical areas update and the direction by the council to not reconvene the CAC but proceed through the Planning Commission process;
- The Planning Commission hosted a Public Open House describing the inclusion of shorelines as critical areas in May of 2004. The Open House included a presentation from a scientist about the impacts to shorelines. A panel discussion with the Planning Commission was also held about potential policies. The panel discussion included shoreline property owners, construction industry, and other interested stakeholder groups. At the May 2004 study session, the Lake Sammamish Ordinary High Water Mark study was also discussed;
- The City developed and consistently updated its web site with staff email contact information, a comment form, key dates, background and technical information. The web page was also listed under the "Featured Items" on City's Home page;
- Three direct mailings were sent to over 4,000 property owners who own property adjacent to some of Bellevue's lakes, streams and wetlands notifying them of the planning commission study sessions, the public open houses and the public hearing;
- The Planning Commission held 14 study sessions between November 2004 and June 2005 in developing the ordinances, all of which were noticed on the City's website and open to the public;
- The City held three public open houses in June to inform and educate the public about the proposal in preparation for the public hearing;
- Public notice of the hearing and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in the newspaper and was sent to the Bellevue School District, the East Bellevue Community Council, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Downtown Association and numerous local and state agencies;
- Finally, articles were placed in *It's Your City, Neighborhood Newsletter*, and community association newsletters, describing the update and letting groups know that staff would be willing to come to their meetings to discuss the update.
- The City produced a brief television segment to air on BTV explaining what critical areas were (including shorelines), the final Planning Commission recommendation and the Council process for final action on the proposal.