

City of Pacific



Shoreline Master Program Update Public Participation Plan

November 2009

City of Pacific
100 3rd Ave SE
Pacific, WA 98047

Prepared by:

Parametrix

411 108th Avenue NE, Suite 1800
Bellevue, WA 98004-5571

T. 425.458.6200 F. 425.458.6363

www.parametrix.com

Introduction

The City of Pacific is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in accordance with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA) governed by RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26. It is the purpose of the SMA to manage the shoreline to accommodate all reasonable and appropriate uses consistent with protecting against adverse effects to the public health, its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life. The act's policy of achieving both shoreline utilization and protection is reflected in the provision that "permitted uses in the shorelines of the state shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize, in so far as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and the public's use of the water."

Project Overview

Pacific has one area under the jurisdiction of the SMA, the White River which is designated a Shoreline of Statewide Significance based on flow. It is therefore subject to additional policies that recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest; and provide for preserving the natural character and ecology of the shoreline, and increasing public access and recreational opportunities. The regulatory provisions of the SMA include the shore lands within 200 ft. of the ordinary high water line or floodway as well as wetlands associated with the water body.

All jurisdictions in Washington State are required to develop, maintain, and periodically update their SMP. Update of Pacific's SMP will include a new inventory and characterization of shorelines in the City, an assessment of options and public visioning process, the drafting of a new SMP document, and review and final adoption of the SMP.

Roles and Responsibilities

The City of Pacific is responsible for the update of the SMP in company with state rules and guideline. This responsibility induces actively inviting public comment and coordinating with adjacent jurisdictions, affected tribes, and state agencies. The City has accepted a grant from Ecology to compete this work, and is responsible for meeting the obligations of the contract. The primary contact person for the City of Pacific is:

Jay Bennett
Community Development and Public Works Director
City of Pacific
100 3rd Ave SE
Pacific, WA 98047
253-929-1113
jbennett@ci.pacific.wa.us

The Department of Ecology is responsible for providing technical assistance to the City and must approve the City's updated SMP. The primary contact person at DOE is:

Joe Burcar
Department of Ecology, NW Regional Office
3190 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7145
jobu461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Participation Plan

The Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58.130) and the Shoreline Guidelines (WAC 173-26-090) require the City to invite citizens and stakeholders to participate in the SMP update process. Public participation is also very important to the City of Pacific as an effective tool to obtain public and agency input in the important decisions that balance competing interests and needs for shoreline use. It is important that information be made available so any interested person can readily understand the materials and participate. The City will encourage participation in several ways.

Stakeholders

A variety of groups, agencies, and individuals may have interest in the update of Pacific's SMP. These stakeholders can be categorized as follows:

- Other Governmental Agencies
 - City departments and advisory bodies including Public Works and Parks. Coordination with the Park Board on the public access element will be an important effort.
 - Adjacent jurisdictions: Auburn, Algona Sumner, King County, Pierce County
Especially important is coordination with flood control groups with King and Pierce counties since potential acquisitions for flood control will affect the range of uses within the shoreline.
 - State agencies: DOE, Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Commerce
 - Federal agencies: US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency
 - Tribal government: Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Quasi-governmental Groups
 - Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 10: White/Puyallup River
 - Puget Sound Regional Council
 - Puget Sound Partnership
- Community Groups and Clubs

- White River Valley Lions Club
- Pacific Partnerships
- Citizens and Property Owners, especially shoreline property owners
- Business Groups and Associations
 - Business Organizations: Auburn Chamber of Commerce
 - Trade Organizations: Master Builders Association of King and Pierce Counties,
 - Association of Realtors
 - Businesses on or near the shoreline
- Environmental Organizations and Conservation Groups
 - Local groups: Friends of the Lower White River
 - Regional groups: Futurewise, Washington Environmental Council, Pierce County Biodiversity Network, Washington State Lake Protection Association, Washington Native Plant Society
 - Local Chapters of National groups: Serra Club, Audubon Society, Trust for Public Land, Society for Ecological Restoration, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited

Project Outreach

Preliminary outreach will be to the King County Flood Management Division to get clarity on their plans and programs. If possible, we will coordinate public outreach with them since we do not want citizens to think they are getting conflicting information from the county and the city.

Initial public outreach will include notifying all stakeholders by mail and inviting them to participate. Informational notices will be posted in several locations throughout the community to invite users of the City's shorelines to participate. All outreach efforts will be documented by the City and available for public review upon request.

Ongoing outreach will include several measures. Stakeholders who express interest in participating will continue to receive notes and informational mailings. Notes will be posted throughout the community, as above, with information about key deadlines and public meeting dates. Public meeting dates will also be included in utility bills, as feasible. Individual meetings will be held with stakeholders with extensive holdings or management responsibility, including the King County Floodplain Management Division.

A series of public meetings will be held to initiate the SMP update. The first of these meetings will be a joint public meeting and briefing for the Pacific City Council and Planning Commission.

At the general meeting for all stakeholders, participants will be presented with major policy provisions of the program together with conceptual options for addressing these provisions. Particular policy issues will include, but are not limited to:

- Achieving no net loss of ecological functions
- Flood control
- Addressing cumulative impacts and fairly allocating the burden of achieving no net loss
- Providing for water dependent uses and water oriented uses
- Increasing public access opportunities
- Providing increased opportunities for recreation
- Providing for bank protection that protects aquatic resources
- Providing for vegetation management that contributes to ecologic functions
- Providing for flood control consistent with ecological and other goals
- Implementing critical area regulations

Participants will be encouraged to register preferences for different approaches to shoreline policies and regulations. Participants will also be provided with an overview and have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the process of developing the inventory and analysis and applying the findings to policies and regulations. Graphic examples and photos will be used to illustrate the issues and alternate measures.

During the regulatory development stage, the City intends to divide the shoreline planning areas into distinct geographical areas for analysis and public input. The areas will be selected based on differences in natural processes and land use. Creating these geographical areas also furthers outreach and public participation goals. It enables the City to focus on the specific needs and input of stakeholders in each area.

Participation Tools

Throughout the process of the SMP update, the City will maintain several channels for communication and public participation. One of the primary tools will be a City webpage dedicated to the project. This website will include notes for upcoming public meetings, documents available for review, and other information related to the update.

Public meetings will provide another opportunity for public participation and comment. The City of Pacific Planning Commission will be the primary review body for all of the work accomplished as part of the SMP update. Planning Commission meetings are open to the public, and time is set aside during each meeting for public comment. In addition, the City Council will be briefed on the status of the update at key points in the process. Several meetings with the Planning Commission are scheduled for each of the important phases of the project including the initial outreach, visioning, review of policies and regulations. The City Council is expected to be kept apprised of the Planning Commission's work through regular update and is expected to sponsor public hearings prior to adoption.

Document Review

Update of the SMP will result in several work products that require review. Some of these products include: Shoreline inventory and characterization, City Shoreline vision, SMP policies, Shoreline and related regulations, Cumulative impact analysis, and Shoreline Restoration Plan.

It is expected that the City will consult with stakeholders in the development of documents and other work products for the SMP update. In particular, the City hopes to work closely with other governmental agencies (for example: Ecology, King County Floodplain Management, US Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe) in the drafting stage.

Once drafted, all documents will be available for agency and public review. Documents will be posted on the city's website. Comment periods will be clearly specified and advertised through the means dented in this public participation plan. The City will maintain a database of all comments received throughout the SMP update, which will be available for public review upon request.

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process provides additional opportunities to seek public input. The City anticipates integrating SEPA review into the proposal through the Growth Management Act/SEPA integration process. The SEPA review process also will be integrated with cumulative impact analysis. Prior to Planning Commission consideration of the Draft Master Program, the City will provide note of the SEPA threshold determination which provides the opportunity for additional input on environmental impacts of the proposal.

After transmittal of the City-adopted Shoreline Master Program, the Department of Ecology will provide public notice to agencies and the public and will hold a public hearing in the community.

Conclusion

The update of Pacific's SMP is a collaborative effort in which the City will engage citizens, businesses, governmental agencies, and other interested groups. The City website, public postings, community events, public meetings, and possibly emails and newsletters will be used to reach out to interested parties and get them involved in the process.