



Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review

Joint Public Hearing 5/1/2023

*Periodic Review performed with
grant funding from:*



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

What is a Shoreline Master Program (SMP)?

- An SMP is a set of policies and regulations required by state law that has three basic principles:
 - Protect the environmental resources of state shorelines
 - Promote public access and enjoyment opportunities
 - Give priority to uses that require a shoreline location
- Joint effort with Washington State Department of Ecology
- The City performed a comprehensive update (= major overhaul) of its SMP that went into effect in 2016

Where does the SMP apply?

- As relevant to Elma, includes:
 - Waterbodies: Cloquallum Creek
 - Uplands within 200 feet
 - Associated wetlands



What is an SMP periodic update?

- The state requires all SMPs to be reviewed every eight years
- Periodic review (= minor update) is intended to keep SMPs current with:
 - Amendments to state laws
 - Changes in local plans and regulations
 - Changes in local circumstances
 - New or improved data and information

Summary of amendments

- Exemptions and exceptions
 - Updating exemptions from a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit to be consistent with those in state law
 - Adding exceptions, or developments not subject to City shoreline review, consistent with those in state law
- Definitions
 - Updating definitions to be consistent with those in current state law
- Restoration projects
 - Updating language regarding relief from development standards for qualifying restoration projects

Summary of amendments (continued)

- Shoreline critical areas
 - Removing exemption for small wetlands
- SMP administration
 - Adding language about the optional amendment process under WAC 173-26-104

Next steps

- 30-day public comment period – April 12 through May 12
- Consider public comments and potential revisions – Mid-May
- Submittal to Ecology for initial determination – Mid-May
- Consider Ecology comments and potential revisions – Mid-June
- Adoption by City Council – Late June

Additional information

- Project webpage
 - <https://cityofelma.com/elma-shoreline-master-program/>
- Jim Starks, Director of Public Works
 - (360) 482-2212
 - jim@cityofelma.com

Public hearing

- Authorities
 - Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58)
 - SMP Guidelines (WAC 173-26)
- Opportunity to provide testimony on the record
- Written comments also accepted through May 12, 2023
 - By email
 - jim@cityofelma.com
 - By mail:
 - Jim Starks
 - Director of Public Works
 - PO Box 3005
 - Elma, WA 98541