

For Immediate Release – October 11, 2007

Contact: Michelle McConnell, Associate Planner, SMP Update
Jefferson County Department of Community Development
360/379-4484 or mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us

SMP Advisory Committee Meeting and Open House Tuesday in Port Ludlow

Port Townsend, WA—On Tuesday, October 16th, there will be a Shoreline Policy Advisory Committee meeting from 12:30 -5 p.m. in Port Ludlow at the Beach Club at 121 Marina View Drive. Following on the heels of the committee meeting, a public Open House will be held in the same location from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This gives an opportunity for the public to be brought up-to-date on the activities being done for the comprehensive Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update project and to answer questions citizens may have.

“Our Open Houses are drop-in events that feature informational poster displays, a repeating slide show, comment forms, and an interactive digital mapping station with staff and volunteers available to answer questions,” said Michelle McConnell, Associate Planner for the SMP Update. “If you can’t attend, but want to provide input, the comment form is also available on-line.”

Additional Open Houses will be as follows:

The third Open House will be Tuesday, October 23rd, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., in Quilcene at the Community Center, at 294952 Highway 101.

And the final Open House will be Tuesday, October 30th, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Kalaloch Lodge, at 157151 Highway 101.

An early draft version of the proposed language for the updated SMP has been distributed to the Shoreline Policy Advisory Committee for review and comment. Their meetings, including the one on Tuesday, October 16th in Port Ludlow, provide an opportunity for them to work with County staff and consultants in developing the SMP proposal for Planning Commission and formal public review in 2008. Tuesday’s focus will be on Chapter 6 General Policies and Regulations with some time to be spent discussing the “menu” and locations of new shoreline environment designations (SEDs). Functioning somewhat like a zoning overlay, SEDs help determine allowed uses and densities.

Jefferson County received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to update its Shoreline Master Program in compliance with the State’s 1971 Shoreline Management Act and the 2003 SMP Guidelines. All jurisdictions in the State must update their SMPs by 2014. Jefferson County is due to submit a locally-approved SMP to the Department of Ecology by June 2009.

More information is available by contacting Michelle McConnell at 379.4484 or via e-mail at mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us. Or go to the County’s Web site at www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm.

###