

For Immediate Release — May 21, 2008

Contact: Al Scalf
Director, Department of Community Development, Jefferson County
(360) 379-4450 or ascal@co.jefferson.wa.us

Working draft of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) to be released Friday

Port Townsend, WA—A revised *Committee Working Draft Shoreline Master Program (SMP)* will be released to the two shoreline advisory committees and to the public on Friday, May 23, 2008.

“The Department of Community Development (DCD) staff and consultant team ESA Adolfsen have been hard at work since the start of 2008 revising draft shoreline policies, regulations and environmental designation maps to reflect committee input and staff review,” said Al Scalf, Director for DCD. “In 2007, two advisory committees, one technical and one policy-driven (dubbed STAC and SPAC, acronyms for Shoreline Technical Advisory Committee and Shoreline Policy Advisory Committee, respectively), met regularly to assess shoreline features and assist staff and the consultant in drafting an updated SMP.”

The fruit of their labor is the release of the revised working draft SMP. Supplemental technical documents including the *Final Shoreline Inventory & Characterization Report* and the *Shoreline Restoration Plan*, also undergoing revision, are anticipated to be released in mid-June. Final committee feedback and informal public comment will be accepted until 5 p.m. on July 11, 2008, on these three documents.

Public meetings will be planned for June and into July to inform shoreline property owners and other interested parties about existing shoreline conditions, State guidelines, as well as the changes to buffers, development standards and permit processes proposed in the updated SMP.

In September, a *Preliminary Draft SMP* will be submitted to the County Planning Commission to begin the formal public review process. It’s anticipated that the Planning Commission will provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) by mid-February 2009. Once the BOCC takes action to locally approve the document, it will be submitted to the Washington Department of Ecology for final approval and is due to them by June 30, 2009.

Jefferson County is required 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.

For more information, contact Michelle McConnell in DCD at 379.4484, via e-mail at mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us or visit the County’s Web site on the SMP Update at www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm.

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