

Anacortes SMP Periodic Review Public Participation Plan

Introduction

The City of Anacortes is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act, RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how the City of Anacortes will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that the City will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well contact information and web addresses. This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Anacortes Municipal Code (AMC) 19.16.030. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted, if needed.

1.0 Public and Agency Goals

- To provide the public with timely information, an understanding of the process, and opportunities to review and comment on the SMP review and potential amendments, and to have these comments forwarded to decision makers.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the review process.
- Encourage the public to informally review and comment on the update throughout the process.
- Provide forums for formal public input at milestones prior to decision making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

2.0 Public Engagement Opportunities

Anacortes is committed to providing multiple opportunities for the public to engage in the Update throughout the process. The City will take advantage of various modes of communication to inform the public and encourage their participation. Opportunities will include:

2.1 Website

The City of Anacortes's website will house a SMP Periodic Review webpage where interested citizens and community members may visit for status updates, draft documents, official notices, minutes, and other project information. This webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Update process. An e-mail link for questions or comments will be provided.

2.2 Open House(s)

Anacortes will initiate the Periodic Review with a community open house. Public comment received during the Open House will be collected, compiled and posted on the Periodic Review website. The City anticipates holding a second open house prior to any public hearings.

2.3 Notice mailing list

An e-notice mailing list of interested persons and organizations has been established. Those on the e-notice list will receive notices regarding Periodic Review progress. Individuals interested in being on the mailing list may navigate to the City’s NotifyMe feature on its website:

<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/list.aspx>, and select “Shoreline Master Program Update” under “News Flash”.

2.4 Comment

Interested citizens are encouraged to provide comments to the City by letter or email. All comments will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and the City Council. The Periodic Review website will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents are available for review at the City’s Planning, Community, and Economic Development Department, and copies can be provided at the established copying cost.

2.5 Planning Commission (PC)

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the City Council. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend and provide verbal comments to the City during the PC deliberations, as described in Section 5, Public Comment, below. City Council has the ability to take action on the PC recommendation without further process, meetings and public hearings. Official notices will be published as established in City policy.

2.6 News media

The local news media will be kept up to date on the update process and receive copies of all official notices.

3.0 List of stakeholders

The City will engage the following stakeholders:

Members of the Public

- Shoreline property owners
- Community Groups

Tribes

- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Samish Indian Nation
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

City Officials

- City Council
- Planning Commission

City Departments and Services

- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation

Other Local Government

- Skagit County
- Port of Anacortes
- Port of Skagit
- Town of La Conner
- City of Mount Vernon
- City of Burlington

State Government

- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Parks
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation

Federal Government

- US Army Corps of Engineer

4.0 Timeline

The following is a general timeline. The City will coordinate with Department of Ecology throughout. A similar timeline will be posted on the SMP Periodic Review website.

September 2019	Launch webpage on City website to advertise SMP overview Post the Draft SMP Gap Analysis on the City's website. The Gap Analysis will identify recommended updates to the SMP based upon local and state regulatory changes
October-November 2019	SMP Open House
December 2019	Review SMP regulations and draft proposed amendments
January 2020	2 nd Open House, Planning Commission to discuss proposed SMP amendments
February 2020	Planning Commission Joint Public Hearing with Ecology Public comment period on draft revisions Environmental review (SEPA)
March 2020	Submit proposed SMP code, Gap Analysis to Ecology for Initial Determination of Consistency
April 2020	Receive Initial Determination from Ecology
May 2020	Make SMP changes per Ecology review City Council meeting and adoption of SMP amendments Ordinance
June 2020	SMP Submittal to Ecology for Final Determination

5.0 Public Comment

The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to consider public testimony on the Periodic Review. The City Council has the option to take Planning Commission's recommendation without further discussion before final adoption. The City will coordinate with Department of Ecology on notice of comment periods to take advantage of Ecology's optional SMP amendment process that allows for a joint state/local comment period per WAC 173-26-104. Public notice of the joint public hearing with Planning Commission will state the date/time, review body and location of the public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy, sent to the stakeholders mailing list mentioned above, and the Department of Ecology.