

March 6, 2024

Presented by:
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Kitsap County
Critical Areas Ordinance Update
Central Kitsap Community Council

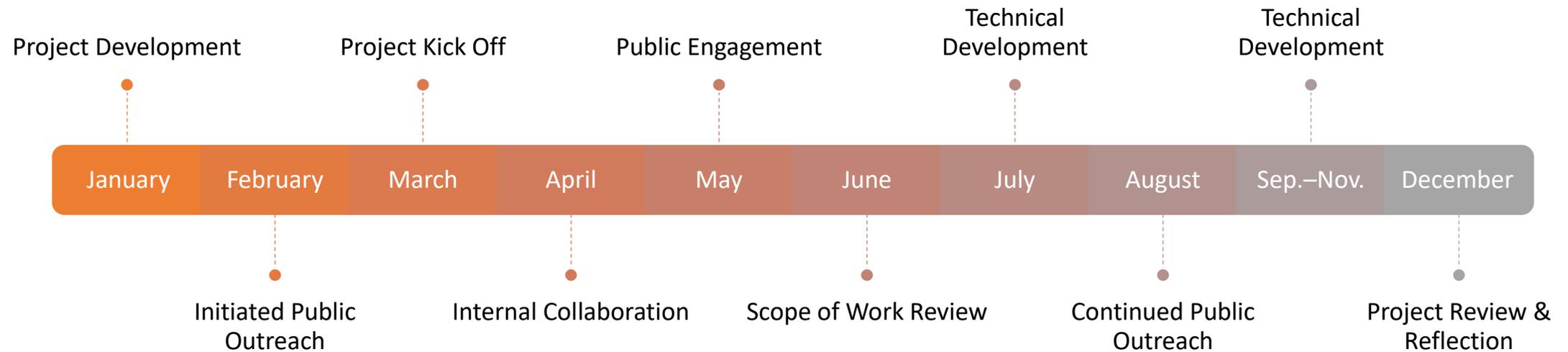


Overview:

- Policies and regulations that guide environment protections and promotes public safety in the County's critical areas
- Assure consistency of the CAO with the County's comprehensive plan and development regulations; and
- Provide clarifications to improve usability and predictability of the CAO for applicants and reviewers.
- Based on Best Available Science (BAS) and Gap Analysis review
- Last review conducted in 2017
- Required update was every 8 years, now every 10 years with Comprehensive Plan
- Target adoption date **September 2024***



2023 Project Achievements





PUBLIC OUTREACH

Tribal Coordination

- Bi-weekly meetings

Community Consultations

- Kitsap ERACE
- NK League of Woman Voters
- Kitsap Conservation District
- Kitsap Builders Association

In-Person Community Event

- Discover Kingston

Public Participation Meeting (Virtual)

Community Advisory Council Presentations

- Manchester
- CKCC
- Suquamish
- Kingston

Working Group Meetings



Purpose – Provide technical expertise and review on Best Available Science (BAS) summary & Gap Analysis report

Standing Members - Representatives from local Tribes & community organizations with expertise in planning and critical areas

Technical Experts - Staff from appropriate state agencies with training and expertise in a specific critical area topic

- Five groups
- Two meetings for each group (3 hours each)
- Ten meetings = 30 hours total
- Written summaries available on project webpage
- Successes & Challenges

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Identify required, recommended, & discretionary changes
- Best Available Science (BAS) summary & Gap Analysis report
- Interdepartmental Collaboration (i.e. legal, natural resources, current planning, GIS, etc.)
- Discussion with Neighboring Jurisdictions, State Agencies, & Tribes
- Ongoing review & work with The DCG Watershed Company
- Ongoing briefings with Planning Commission & Board of County Commissioners, including one-on-one meetings
- Technical advisory through Working Group meetings
- Public comment, requests, and recommendations



Riparian Management Zones

- WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife recommends transition from stream typing and their related buffer widths, to identifying “Riparian Management Zones” (RMZ)
- Utilize “Site Potential Tree Height” (SPTH) to determine the distance required for protection from a stream.
- “SPTH200” refers to the “the average maximum height of the tallest dominant trees (200 years or more) for a given site class.”
- Assumption that old-growth forest conditions are needed for full riparian ecosystem functions.



Other Topics Discussed



- Dept. of Ecology: Consider providing more detail on standard buffer condition requirements and remove buffer reduction options.
- Critical aquifer recharge areas at risk of seawater intrusion
- Consider use of other data for mapping and/or protecting frequently flooded areas
- Additional and/or enhanced mapping needs
- Potential code changes to Wetlands (19.200), such as use of minimization measures, methods of compensatory mitigation, mitigation compliance
- Staff Identified optional code changes

2024 Next Steps*



(*dates are tentative & subject to change)

For more information:

Project webpage: kcowa.us/cao

Comments & Questions: codeupdates@kitsap.gov

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