



CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE UPDATE

WORKING GROUP: Purpose and Guidelines

Background and Purpose

The Department of Community Development is conducting a periodic review of the County's Critical Areas Ordinance, Kitsap County Code (KCC) Title 19, as required by RCW 36.70A.130. The Critical Areas Ordinance, KCC Title 19, was last reviewed and updated in 2017. Critical Areas Ordinances must be evaluated and, if needed, revised every ten years per the schedule provided in [RCW 36.70A.130](#). The Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) will be reviewed and updated to ensure compliance with state mandates, maintain consistency with local regulations and the Comprehensive Plan, and provide predictability and clarifications.

The overall purpose of this update is to “review and revise, as necessary”. This update will be limited to:

- Compliance with state mandates;
- Incorporation of any recent BAS or new information available since the last update in 2017 ([WAC 365-195-915](#));
- Consideration and incorporation of recent court or Growth Management Hearings Board decisions.
- Correction of code conflicts or internal inconsistencies;
- Inclusion of code corrections or other amendments identified by staff while implementing the CAO;
- Consideration of other amendments proposed by stakeholders, if within the scope of project.

*This series of Working Group meetings will provide a **technical** sounding-board for County staff to move forward with DRAFT recommended changes. This is not intended to be a substitute for a robust public participation process. Rather, it will help ensure that County staff are proposing its most technically-sound draft for the*

public to review and comment on through further outreach and participation opportunities.

Guidelines

The CAO Update Working Groups are advisory groups only. Groups assembled to review, comment on, and make TECHNICAL recommendations related to the Critical Areas Ordinance. All recommendations developed through the Working Group will be presented to the Department of Community Development, the Kitsap County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners, as the County works to draft an update to the CAO.

The Working Group will work in a relatively informal fashion. The goal of each meeting will be to engage in a comprehensive discussion of the critical area at hand, but full consensus of the Group on every issue will not be required. When there are strong majority and minority opinions, each of those perspectives will be thoroughly documented. Formal votes will not be taken.

The following are Ground Rules the Working Group members are asked to abide by:

- Use the group's time well
- Engage constructively- vigorous, respectful exchange that encourages all points of view, open communication and good solutions.
- Represent well the people of your community or organization.
- Strive for consensus- to seek out what you and the group can and cannot agree to or modify to achieve agreement- while recognizing that majority and minority opinions may be the best result on some topics.
- Be courteous and give you fellow Working Group members your full attention.
- Members are expected to check email, review draft documents, and provide their comments.

Members

Each working group is comprised of standing members and technical experts.

Standing Members:

- Representatives from local Tribes and community organizations with expertise in planning and critical areas
- Are encouraged to attend all meetings.

Technical Experts:

- Technical staff from appropriate state agencies with training and expertise in the critical area topic being discussed.
- Asked to participate in the meeting(s) which most pertain to their area of expertise.

County Staff:

- Will facilitate the meetings without bias, draft meeting summaries, and send out documents.
- May discuss perspectives of local implementation.
- Will participate in each meeting.

General Meeting Organization

A total of 10 meetings are anticipated, 2 for each topic area:

- Geologically Hazardous Areas
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
- Wetlands
- Frequently Flooded Areas
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

In each of the first meetings, we will discuss:

- Existing code section
- Required legislative changes
- Best Available Science recommendations
- Any further recommendations

The pertinent code, required changes, and known best available science recommendations will be provided to each Working Group member prior to the first meeting. The first meeting will be conducted via Zoom. A meeting link will be provided a week prior to the meeting. The second meeting could be conducted via Zoom or in-person and will be decided by the working group at the first meeting.

Prior to the second meetings, a first meeting summary will be distributed. A red-line draft of code will also be provided, if available. A discussion potential draft amendments will be the topic for the second meeting. The Working Group's final comments and recommendations will also be summarized, and changes made to the draft where appropriate. This documentation and draft will then be shared during Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioner work studies and hearings, as well as at other public outreach and participation opportunities.

Draft Schedule*Round 1 Meetings via Zoom*

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas – Thursday, July 20th @ 1pm-4pm
- Wetlands – Tuesday, July 25th @ 9am-12pm

- Frequently Flooded Areas – Wednesday, July 26th @ 9am-12pm
- Geologically Hazardous Areas – Thursday, July 27th @ 9am-12pm
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas – Thursday, July 27th @ 1pm-4pm

DATE	9AM to 12PM	1PM to 4PM
July 20, 2023 - Thursday		Fish&Wildlife
July 25, 2023 - Tuesday	Wetlands	
July 26, 2023 - Wednesday	FFA	
July 27, 2023 - Thursday	GEO	CARA

Round 2 Meetings

- Roughly 6 weeks from previous meeting on each topic
- Dates, times, and location to be determined

Planning Commission and BoCC Work Study Briefings on Work Group Progress

- Planning Commission: TBD
- Board of County Commissioners: TBD

Project Milestones:

- Draft amendments available in early **January 2024**
- Public Comment Period open **January-February 2024**
- Planning Commission Hearing(s) in **February 2024**
- BoCC Work Study and Planning Commission Findings of Fact / Decision in **April 2024**
- BoCC Hearing(s) in **May 2024**
- Final Work Study and Adoption Hearing in **June 2024**

NOTE: ALL DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THIS IS NOT A FINAL OR ADOPTED SCHEDULE.