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Presented by:

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Kitsap County  
Critical Areas Ordinance Update  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**



# 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 **July 2024\***





# PUBLIC OUTREACH

## Tribal Coordination

- Bi-weekly meetings

## Community Consultations

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

## 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

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**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

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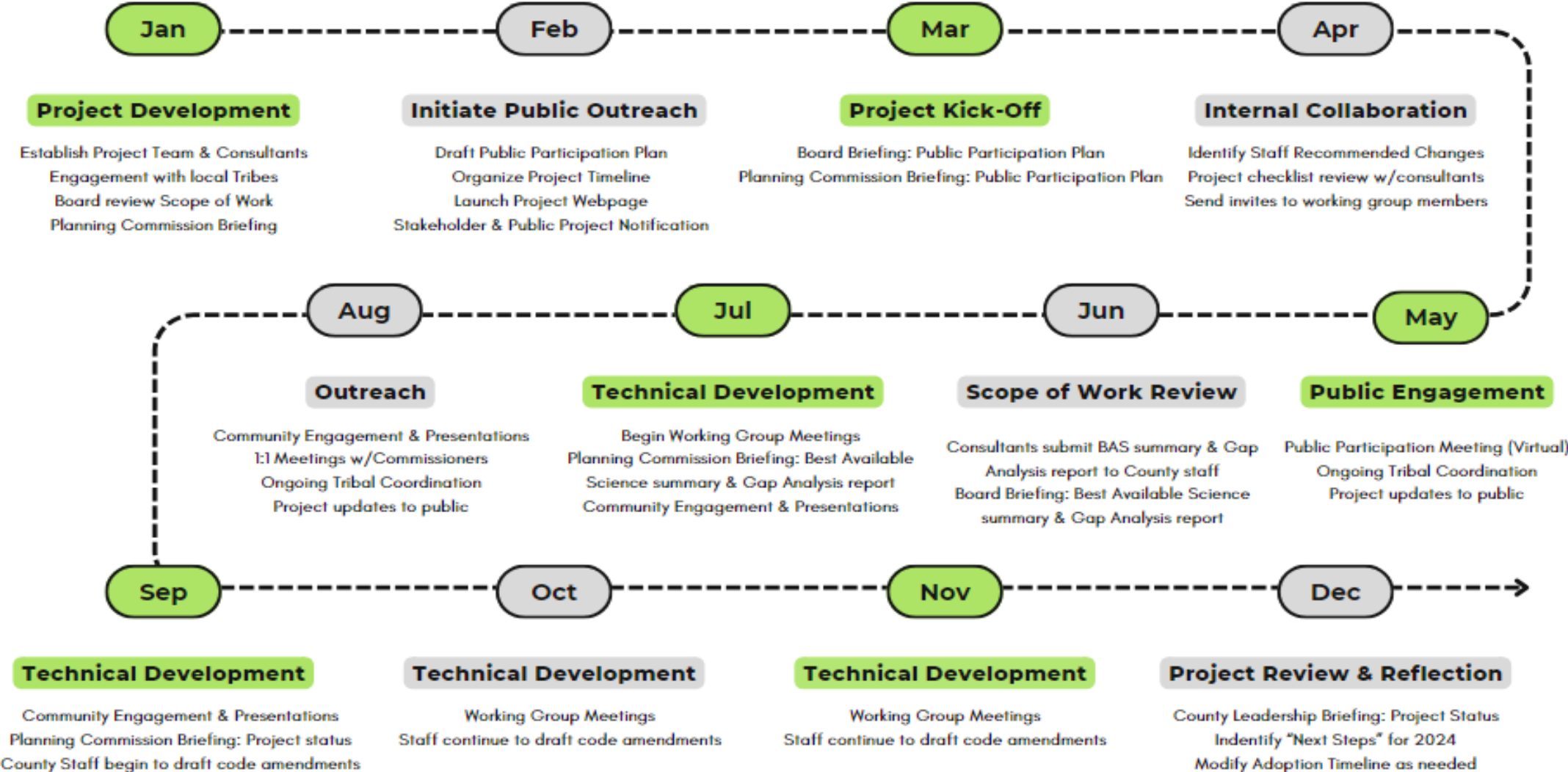
- Five groups
- Two meetings for each group (3 hours each)
- Ten meetings = 30 hours total
- Written summaries available on project webpage
- Successes & Challenges

# TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Identify required, recommended, & discretionary changes
- Best Available Science (BAS) summary & Gap Analysis report
- Interdepartmental Collaboration
- Staff Identified Recommended Changes
- Meetings with Neighboring Jurisdiction
- Ongoing review & work with The DCG Watershed Company
- County Staff code amendment drafts
- Working Group meetings



# 2023 Progress



# 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.



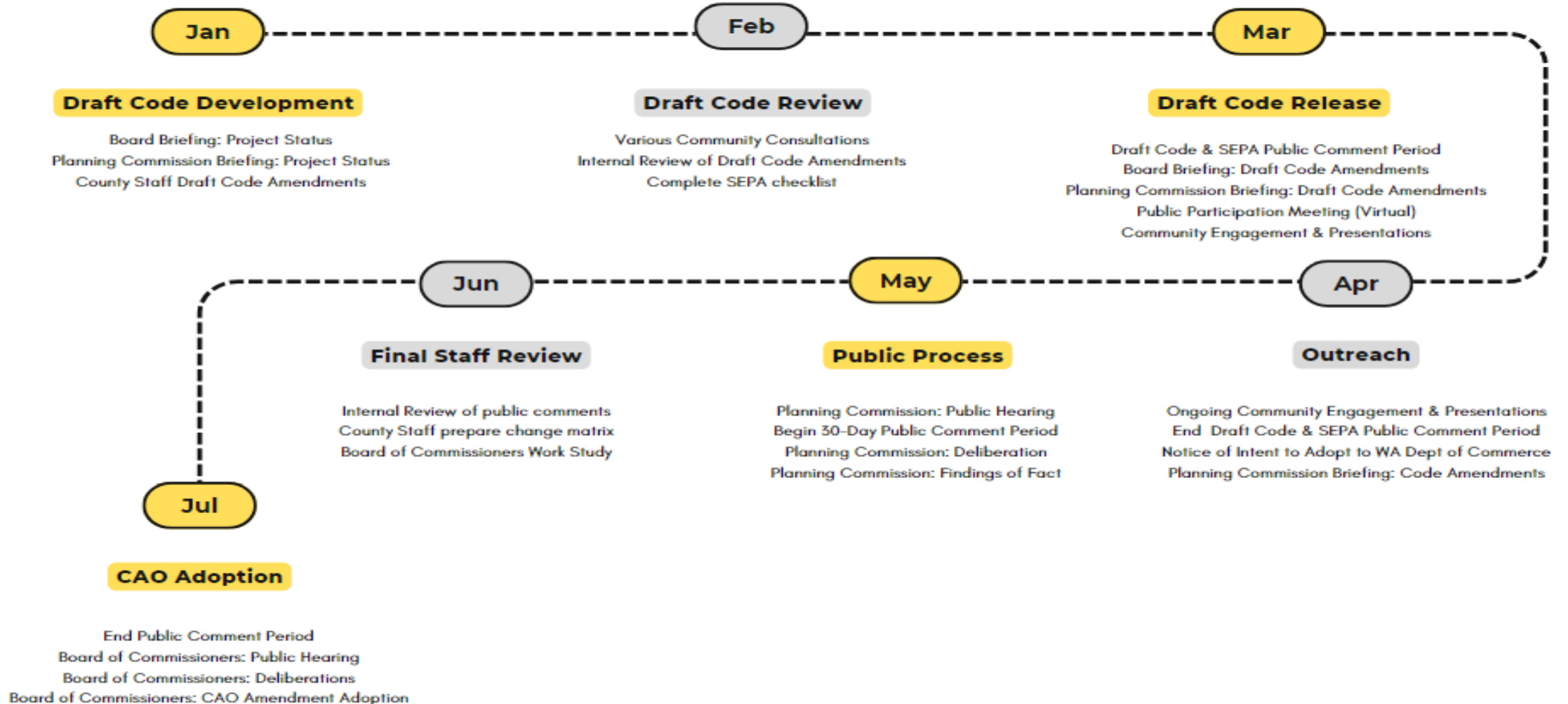
# Other Topics Discussed



- 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\*



*\*schedule is tentative - subject to change*

# For more information:

Project webpage: [kcowa.us/cao](http://kcowa.us/cao)

Comments & Questions: [codeupdates@kitsap.gov](mailto:codeupdates@kitsap.gov)

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