

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM PERIODIC REVIEW

Public Participation Plan

November 2018

City of Gig Harbor
3510 Grandview Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98335



Introduction

The City of Gig Harbor is conducting a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), consistent with the state Shoreline Management Act (SMA; RCW 90.58) and Ecology's Periodic Review Rule set forth in WAC 173-26-090. Gig Harbor last updated its SMP in 2013. The SMP is e both a planning document that sets policy, and development regulations for the City's shoreline areas, which include adjacent upland areas within 200 feet of designated shorelines. The primary policy objectives of the SMA are to: encourage water-dependent and water-oriented uses; protect the shoreline ecology and natural resources; and promote public access. Since public use and enjoyment of the shorelines is a principal policy of the SMA, it is imperative that the public has opportunities to participate in the process. This Public Participation Plan identifies goals and strategies to ensure such participation occurs.

Goals of the Public Participation Plan

The SMA and SMP guidelines (RCW 90.58.130 and WAC 173-26-090) require that local governments inform the people of the state about the planning process and invite and encourage participation by all who have any interest or responsibility related to shorelines. The goal of the Public Participation Plan is to provide a guide to proactively encourage public participation throughout the SMP periodic review process. The City of Gig Harbor is committed to encouraging coordinated and effective public involvement.

Overview of the City and Shorelines

The City of Gig Harbor is centrally located in Puget Sound, 11 miles west of Tacoma and 49 miles south of Seattle. The City encompasses an area of approximately four-square miles. As of 2018, the City's population was approximately 10,320 (City of Gig Harbor website, November 2018). The SMP also covers the city's urban growth area (UGA) with the exception of portions of Henderson Bay and the Burley Lagoon located north of the city limits. The SMP will not be effective in the UGA, however, until the area annexes into the city.

Gig Harbor has approximately 8.1 miles of Puget Sound shorelines in its city limits and UGA. The shorelines include Gig Harbor Bay, portions of Colvos Passage and the Tacoma Narrows, and portions of Henderson Bay and Burley Lagoon adjacent to the City's UGA boundary. Tidally influenced downstream segments of Crescent Creek and Donkey Creek (also known as North Creek), which flow through the City into Gig Harbor Bay, portions of Purdy Creek, which flows into Burley Lagoon, and Goodnough and McCormick Creeks, which both discharge into Henderson Bay are also included. The shorelines along these water systems are where community members live, work, and play and therefore are of great value to the residents of Gig Harbor.

Roles and Responsibilities

The City of Gig Harbor is responsible for all aspects of the SMP periodic review. The City will be the primary regulator, with Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) acting in a support and review capacity. Ecology must approve new or amended shoreline master programs. Following local adoption of the City's amended SMP, Ecology will conduct its own public review as part of its formal approval process.

The primary contacts for Gig Harbor's SMP update are:

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Key Parties

Local governments must consult with interested parties throughout the process of amending a SMP. To date, the City of Gig Harbor has identified the following interested parties, technical resources, or other stakeholders that may participate in the SMP periodic review process:

Members of the Public

- Residents city-wide
- Property/business owners in the shoreline jurisdiction
- Other citizens of the state

City Officials

- Gig Harbor City Council
- Gig Harbor Planning Commission

Business Community

- Chamber of Commerce
- Gig Harbor Downtown Waterfront Alliance

Tribes

- Puyallup Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe

Environmental Stakeholders

- Tahoma Audubon Society
- Harbor Wild Watch

Other Local Government

- Pierce County
- City of Tacoma

City Departments

- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation
- Historic Preservation Specialist

State Government

- Dept. of Ecology
- Dept. of Natural Resources, Aquatic Lands
- Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Dept. of Commerce
- Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Notification to these stakeholders may be accomplished via email or other means as the shoreline management planning process proceeds.

Public Participation Strategy

Public Outreach Program

In addition to the stakeholder committee forum, the City will also set up a public outreach program to ensure that the broader population is also informed and has opportunity to participate. Some key elements of this program include:

- Website: Adding a page to the City's current website where community members can access draft documents and maps, view the schedule, check for meeting notices, obtain contact information and submit comments. This will create one central location where the latest information can be obtained. The City calendar could also contain key dates in the development of the SMP.
- Public meetings: Providing opportunity through the local review and adoption process with the Planning Commission and City Council.
- Public hearing: Public hearings for the draft proposal before the Planning Commission and City Council will provide the community with the forum to include their comments into the public record.

- **Mailing list:** Maintaining a list of interested parties would provide the City with another avenue to keep the public informed throughout the update process. Utilization of the city website’s “Notify Me” tool will allow interested parties to add themselves to the project website homepage and choose to either receive an e-mail or text whenever new information is added or changed on the website. Notices of comment periods and public hearings will be sent to parties on the mailing list.
- **Comments:** Establishing multiple means for submitting comments will allow for interested people to choose their preferred way to provide input. Methods can include on-line comment forms, public hearing testimony, and a direct email address for comments. The City will consider all comments received and will respond in aggregate or individually.
- **Public notices:** Notice of the public hearings will be placed on the City’s website, posted at City Hall, the local library, and published in at least one local newspaper (i.e. The Peninsula Gateway).

Updates to City Council and Planning Commission

It is important to keep interested parties at all levels adequately informed from the beginning of the process. Through periodic meetings with the Planning Commission and City Council, concerns can be addressed as they surface. These meetings also provide another opportunity for other interested parties to obtain information on the process.

Target Schedule

City of Gig Harbor’s Public Participation Schedule	
November 2018 - February 2019	Planning Commission meeting
February 2019	Planning Commission public hearing
February 2019	Planning Commission meeting – recommendation
March-April 2019	GMA 60-day review to CTED and Ecology
April 2019	Local SEPA review and approval
May 2019	City Council ordinance – first reading
June 2019	City Council ordinance – second reading
June 2019	SMP Submittal to Ecology