

Shoreline Master Program Update

Public Participation Plan

Background

The City of Union Gap Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a local land use policies and regulations that guide development on and use of the city shorelines. The City of Union Gap SMP applies to both public and private uses for Ahtanum Creek shorelines, associated wetlands and floodplains within the City of Union Gap. The City of Union Gap SMP protect natural resources for future generations, provide for public access to public waters and shores, and plans for water-dependent uses. The City of Union Gap SMP must be consistent with the Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and must be approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

The City SMP must be reviewed and, if necessary, updated to ensure they remain compliant with state laws and local comprehensive plans. This review must be completed every eight (8) years. The City SMP Periodic Review must be complete no later than June 30, 2021.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides technical assistance, guidance documents, and grant funding to assist in the completion of the Periodic Review. Ecology's grant contract requires completion of five tasks, designed to ensure local governments complete the required Periodic Review. These tasks are as follows:

1. Project Oversight: Coordination, Management, and Administration

The City will provide project oversight to complete the scope of work in compliance with the grant contract, which includes project coordination, project management, and project administration.

2. Secure Consultant Services

The City has entered into a contract with Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) to complete work in accordance with the scope of work of the grant through Ecology.

3. Public Participation

The City will prepare and disseminate a public participation plan to invite and encourage public involvement in the SMP periodic review consistent with WAC 173-26-090 and local requirements.

4. Review Shoreline Master Program and Draft Revisions, If Needed

The consultant will review the SMP to determine if revisions are needed. To do this, the consultant will use the Ecology checklist to:

- a. Review amendments to chapter 90.58 RCW and Ecology rules that have occurred since the Shoreline Master Program was last amended and determine if local amendments are needed to maintain compliance.
- b. Review changes to the comprehensive plan and development regulations to determine if the Shoreline Master Program policies and regulations remain consistent with them. Document the consistency analysis to support proposed changes to the SMP or note that Findings of Adequacy would be appropriate.

- c. Conduct additional analysis deemed necessary to address changing local circumstances, new information or improved data.

5. Final Draft SMP or Findings of Adequacy

The City and consultant will conduct the public review process, which at a minimum will include:

- a. Conduct a local public review process for the proposed Shoreline Master Program as provided in the SMA and WAC 173-26. Where amendments to the SMP are proposed they shall contain applicable shoreline goals, policies, or regulations with copies of any provisions adopted by reference. Where no changes are needed, the local process will include a formal Findings of Adequacy.
- b. Assemble final draft amendment or Findings of Adequacy: Assemble a complete SMP final draft amendment in preparation for review and approval by the City Council. Where the review determines that no changes are needed, formal Findings of Adequacy will be prepared.
- c. An Open House meetings may be conducted prior to a Public Hearing on the draft amendments or proposed findings of Adequacy. The Public Hearing will be held by the Union Gap Planning Commission. The Planning Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration and decision.

Timeline

The City anticipates the draft SMP revisions or Findings of Adequacy will be prepared by February 2021. The public hearing and Planning Commission deliberations would occur shortly thereafter. The City intends to adopt revisions to the SMP or adopt Findings of Adequacy by the May 2021 prior to the deadline for completing the Periodic Review required by state statutes. However, due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic may impact these timelines.

Public Participation Plan

Public engagement is an integral part of this planning process. Engagement is needed from interested parties including residents, businesses, and stakeholders and agencies. City staff is proposing the follow outreach methods:

Public Meetings (due to COVID-19 may be virtual meeting via the web)

Public meetings to accept feedback during the process will be held. Types of public meetings may include an Open House, presentations or briefings before the Planning Commission, and the public hearing before the Planning Commission.

Comment Forms

Comment forms will be available at public meetings, City Hall, City's SMP webpage, and YVCOG SMP webpage.

Webpage

Uniongapwa.gov

The City SMP webpages will contain information about the update requirements and process, timeline, opportunities to get involved or provide comments. The SMP webpages will also contain all materials and documents for review that are related to the work being conducted.

Planning Commission

Staff anticipate bringing amendments or findings of adequacy to the City Planning Commission in the spring of 2021. The Commission may also receive briefings on the proposal during the process. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposal before making a recommendation to City Council.

City Council

The Union Gap Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Union Gap City Council on the SMP Periodic Review. The Council may hold additional public meetings/hearings, but it is not required. It is anticipated that City Council will consider the Planning Commission's recommendation and make a decision in the spring of 2021.

How to get Involved

To request to be added to the notification list for this proposal or for more information on how to get involved or comment, please contact either:

Lynn Deitrick or Jeff Watson, Yakima Valley Conference of Governments at (509)574-1550 or by email at lynn.deitrick@yvcog.org, or

Dennis Henne, Director, City of Union Gap at (509) 575-3638 or by email at jenny.valle@uniongapwa.gov