



## Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review

### Public Participation Plan

#### INTRODUCTION

The City of Vancouver is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other city plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data. A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how the City will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP.

Since the comprehensive update in 2012, the Department of Ecology (“Ecology”) has approved two locally-initiated amendments to Vancouver’s SMP: In 2017 to incorporate adopted amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance into the master program; and in 2019 to accommodate the redevelopment of the Port of Vancouver’s Terminal 1 site, consistent with the City of Vancouver’s City Center Vision (VCCV) Plan.

The Public Participation Plan outlined here describes the steps that the City will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment during the 2020 SMP Periodic Review process, as well as city contact information and web addresses. The Plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by the City of Vancouver’s Municipal Code Title 20, and is a working document that will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

Visit the project webpage to view the current Shoreline Master Program and additional information related to the periodic review: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/ced/page/smp-periodic-review>

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOALS

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the periodic review process.
- Encourage interested parties to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.
- Provide forums for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Vancouver is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the process. A variety of communication tools will be used to inform and engage the public, including:

##### *Website*

The City of Vancouver’s website will include a webpage for the periodic review where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, official notices, minutes, and other project

information. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the periodic review process, and include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.

### *Open House*

The City will organize a community open house as part of the periodic review process (date to be determined). Public comments received during the open house will be posted on the periodic review webpage. A community survey is an optional tool that may be utilized in association with open house events. If used, results will be posted on the project webpage.

### *Mailers*

Mailed notice to shoreline property owners and nearby properties may be used as a communication and noticing tool regarding key information and dates in the process.

### *Email Distribution List*

An email list of interested parties will be created, advertised, and maintained by the Community & Economic Development Department and will be used to notify interested parties regarding periodic review progress and opportunities to participate in the process. Interested parties can be added to the list by contacting the Project Manager (see Primary Staff Contact section) or signing up to receive email updates on the project webpage.

### *Public Comment Period and Hearings*

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Vancouver City Council. The Planning Commission will hold a workshop to discuss the periodic review and proposed amendments to the master program, and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the periodic review. Planning Commission workshops are open to the public, and interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide input at these deliberations. Vancouver City Council will also hold at least one public hearing to receive public comments prior to final adoption. Both Planning Commission and City Council hearings will be televised by CVTV.

The City plans to take advantage of the optional joint-review process as part of the periodic review, which allows for a joint state-local comment period and public hearing (WAC 173-26-104). City staff will coordinate with Ecology on public notification of the comment period and hearing(s). Public notice of all hearings will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location. Notices will be published per official policy, and will be distributed to the email list and Ecology.

The project webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review online and at the City's Community & Economic Development Department. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments by letter or email to the Project Manager (see Primary Staff Contact section). All comments will be compiled and provided to the Planning Commission and City Council.

### *News Media*

The local news media will receive copies of all official public notices.

### *Primary Staff Contact*

To learn more about the process, submit comments, or for additional information, contact the Project Manager:

**Cayla Cothron, Associate Long Range Planner**

(360) 487-7899

[cayla.cothron@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:cayla.cothron@cityofvancouver.us)

## LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders will be informed and invited to participate throughout the process. Notification will be accomplished through the project webpage, email, mail, and news media. At a minimum, the City of Vancouver will engage the following stakeholders:

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Shoreline Property Owners	State Government Agencies
Residents and Community-Based Organizations	Environmental Interests
Clark County and Neighboring Jurisdictions	Business and Economic Development Interests
Cowlitz Tribe	

## TIMELINE

The following is a general timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. The City will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. A detailed timeline will be posted on the periodic review webpage.

