



CITY OF POULSBO  
NOTICE OF DECISION

**2017 CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE UPDATE**

The following was **approved** by the City Council on  
June 7, 2017, **adopted** on June 14, 2017 and **effective** on June 28, 2017

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**Planning File:** 2017 City of Poulsbo Critical Areas Ordinance Update

**Date of Notice of Decision:** June 28, 2017

**Description of Approved Project:** The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires counties and cities to review and evaluate comprehensive plan and development regulations, and update them if necessary, according to a schedule established by RCW 36.70A.130. The City of Poulsbo adopted an updated comprehensive plan in December 2016, which provides a framework of goals and policies.

The City's review of development regulations includes the City's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), found in Poulsbo Municipal Code 16.20. The CAO are regulations for the protection of critical areas in accordance with state requirements. Critical Areas include:

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

The City's CAO was last comprehensively updated in 2007. The intent of the 2017 update was to revise the CAO as necessary to incorporate Best Available Science or new information since the last update (WAC 365-1950915), correction of code conflicts or internal inconsistencies, amendments to assist with ease of administration, or recommendations offered by the City's consultant critical areas biologist.

The April 2017 Draft Critical Areas Ordinance Update amendments were represented as **bold underline** for proposed additions and ~~strikeouts~~ for deletions. The Planning Commission, in its role as the City's primary land use advisory committee, reviewed the April 2017 draft, held workshops and identified several additional modifications. The May 2017 Planning Commission Critical Areas Ordinance was released; the Planning Commission modifications were identified in **blue underline** or ~~strikeout~~. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 16, 2017.

The City Council reviewed the May 2017 PC Recommended CAO at workshops and held a public hearing on the May 2017 PC Draft CAO on June 7, 2017. Modifications identified by the City Council during the workshop and the public hearing were identified in **orange bold**. The City Council modifications were identified in a May 2017 Draft CAO Modification Document. The City Council's decision included amendments to the May 2017 Draft CAO as identified within the draft and as included in the Final Modification Document.

**Review Process:** The Poulsbo Planning Commission and City Council reviewed the draft critical area ordinance amendments in workshops; a public hearing before the Poulsbo Planning Commission was held on May 16, 2017 and a public hearing before the City Council was held on June 7, 2017. The City Council adopted the approved amendments on June 14, 2017, and become effective on June 28, 2017.

**Decision:** The City Council has APPROVED the proposed amendments to the Poulsbo Critical Areas Ordinance (PMC 16.20), as reflected in the May 2017 Draft Critical Areas Ordinance and the Final Modification Document (including its attachments), and supersedes and completely replaces all previous critical areas ordinance and updates adopted by the city. This decision is represented in City of Poulsbo Ordinance 2017-10.

**Appeal Authority:** The decision is final. Per RCW 36.70A.290, appeals of development regulations are to be made with the Central Growth Management Hearings Board, per their prescribed requirements and procedures.

**Examination of File:** The complete case file may be examined at the Planning Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Poulsbo City Hall (200 NE Moe Street) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to arrange a time to examine the file, please contact the Planning Department at (360) 394-9748. The City has posted all pertinent information regarding the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update at the following link: <https://cityofpoulsbo.com/critical-areas-ordinance/>