



# Notice of Application with Optional DNS and Planning Commission Public Hearing

Planning and Economic Development Department  
200 NE Moe Street | Poulsbo, Washington 98370  
(360) 394-9748 | fax (360) 697-8269  
[www.cityofpoulsbo.com](http://www.cityofpoulsbo.com) | [plan&econ@cityofpoulsbo.com](mailto:plan&econ@cityofpoulsbo.com)

## 2025 CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE UPDATE, PHASE I

The public has the right to review the contents of the official file for the proposed amendments, provide written comments, participate in any public hearings, and request a copy of the final decision.

Planning File:	P-08-04-25-02	Application Type:	IV
Notice of Application:	Wednesday, August 27, 2025		
Comments Due:	4:30pm on Thursday, September 11, 2025		
Summary of Proposed Amendments:	<p>The City of Poulsbo is undertaking an update to its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) as part of the required periodic review under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A.130. This update ensures the City's critical areas regulations remain consistent with current state law, reflect Best Available Science (BAS), and continue to protect the ecological functions and public health and safety associated with wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.</p> <p>To manage the complexity of the update and meet both statutory and local planning objectives, the CAO will be updated in two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase I (2025) will include required updates mandated by state law and guidance from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Department of Ecology, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. These changes are non-discretionary and must be completed as part of the City's 2025 GMA periodic update.</li><li>• Phase II (anticipated to begin in 2026) will focus on discretionary amendments identified by the city to improve clarity, address local implementation challenges, and support long-term environmental and regulatory goals.</li></ul> <p>This phased approach allows the city to meet state requirements within the periodic update deadline while also creating space for more thoughtful engagement on optional changes.</p>		
Public Comment Methods:	Written comments may be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to the City of Poulsbo. To ensure consideration, all written comments must be received prior to the closing of the public hearing. At the hearing, the public will have an opportunity to provide written and verbal testimony regarding the proposed project.		
Environmental Review:	<p>The City of Poulsbo has reviewed the proposed amendments for probable adverse environmental impacts and expects to issue a determination of nonsignificance (DNS) for this project. The Optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355 is being used. <i>This may be the only opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed amendments.</i> The proposal may include mitigation measures under applicable codes, and the project review process may incorporate or require mitigation measures regardless of whether an EIS is prepared. A copy of the subsequent threshold determination for the proposal may be obtained upon request. Agencies, tribes, and the public are encouraged to review and comment on the proposed amendments and probable environmental impacts. Comments related to environmental review must be submitted by <b>4:30pm on Thursday, September 11, 2025.</b></p>		

**Public Participation Plan:**

A public and agency participation plan has been developed for this review process and can be viewed at <https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate/>.

**Draft Document:**

The proposed amendments are represented as underline for proposed additions and ~~strikeouts~~ for deletions. The proposed amendments can be found online: <https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate/>.

**Planning Commission Public Hearing:**

The Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:00 pm or soon thereafter**. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council. Meeting procedures are available from the PED Department and City Clerk's office and are conducted based on Roberts' Rules of Order. Public Hearings are being held as a hybrid virtual/in-person at the web address and call-in number noted below and at City Hall Council Chambers, 200 NE Moe Street. This call-in number: 1 253 215 8782 and meeting id: 813 4761 3119 are provided for virtual attendance, in addition to this webinar link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81347613119>.

**Examination of File:**



<https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate/>

**Staff Contact:**

Nikole Coleman, AICP | Planning Manager | [ncoleman@cityofpoulsbo.com](mailto:ncoleman@cityofpoulsbo.com)





## Affidavit of Public Notice

Planning and Economic Development Department  
200 NE Moe Street | Poulsbo, Washington 98370  
(360) 394-9748 | fax (360) 697-8269

[www.cityofpoulsbo.com](http://www.cityofpoulsbo.com) | [plan&econ@cityofpoulsbo.com](mailto:plan&econ@cityofpoulsbo.com)

Application No: P-08-04-25-02 Project Name: 2025 Critical Area Ordinance Update Phase 1  
NOA WOODS ? PCPH

Tiffany Simmons, being first duly sworn, upon his/her oath deposes and says: That he/she is now, and at all times herein mentioned has been, a citizen of the United States and the State of Washington, over and above the age of twenty-one years and a resident of said County, that on August 27, 2025, a copy of the following City of Poulsbo public notices, and which is attached to this affidavit,

- ☒ Notice of Application WOODS
- ☐ SEPA Determination
- ☐ Notice of Public Meeting
- ☒ Notice of Public Hearing PC
- ☒ Notice of Decision

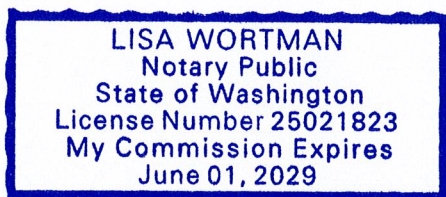
has been provided:

- ☐ Mailed to owners of property within 300' of the project site
- ☒ Provided to newspaper of general circulation
- ☒ Emailed to PED Department distribution lists and/or parties of record
- ☒ Posted at Library, City Hall, Poulsbo Post Office
- ☒ Posted to the City's website
- ☐ Posted at Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 8/27/25

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of August, 2025



Lisa Wortman  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of  
Washington, residing at:

Poulsbo, WA  
My Commission expires on:

June 01, 2029

# Kitsap Sun

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

PO Box 52173, Phoenix, AZ. 85072-2173

## **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

City of Poulsbo- Planning Dept  
200 NE Moe ST  
Poulsbo WA 98370

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN.

I, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says: That I am now, and at all times embraced in the publication herein mentioned was the principal clerk of the printers and publishers of KITSAP SUN; that said newspaper has been approved as a legal newspaper by the order of the Superior Court of the County of Kitsap, in which County it is published and is now and has been for more than 6 months prior to the date of the publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Bremerton, Kitsap County, Washington, a weekly newspaper in Kitsap County, Washington and is now and during all of the said time, was printed in an office maintained in the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper; that the following is a true text of an advertisement as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplement form) of said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit: And on

08/27/2025

such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period.  
Subscribed and sworn to before on 08/27/2025

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$35.40	
Tax Amount:	\$0.00	
Payment Cost:	\$35.40	
Order No:	11582091	# of Copies:
Customer No:	1472361	0
PO #:	LBKS0353381	

**THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!**

*Please do not use this form for payment remittance.*

NANCY HEYRMAN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin



CITY OF POULSBO  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION w/  
Optional DNS and PLAN-  
NING COMMISSION PUBLIC  
HEARING

Project Name: 2025 Critical  
Areas Ordinance Update,  
Phase I | P-08-04-25-02

**Project Description:** The City of Poulsbo is undertaking an update to its Critical Areas Ordinance as part of the required periodic review under the Washington State Growth Management Act. This update ensures the City's critical areas regulations remain consistent with current state law, reflect Best Available Science, and continue to protect the ecological functions and public health and safety associated with wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.

**Public Comment Methods:** Written comments may be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to the City of Poulsbo by 4:30pm on Thursday, September 11, 2025. At the Planning Commission hearing, the public will have an opportunity to provide written and verbal testimony regarding the proposed project.

**Environmental Review:** The City of Poulsbo has reviewed the proposed amendments for probable adverse environmental impacts and expects to issue a determination of nonsignificance (DNS) for this project. The Optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355 is being used. This may be the only opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed amendments. Comments related to environmental review must be submitted by 4:30pm on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

**Planning Commission Public Hearing:** The Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday October 7, 2025, at 6:00 pm or soon thereafter. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council. Meeting procedures are available from the PED Department and City Clerk's office. Public Hearings are being held as a hybrid virtual/in-person at the web address and call-in number noted below and at City Hall Council Chambers, 200 NE Moe Street. This call-in number: 1 253 215 8782 and meeting id: 813 4761 3119 are provided for virtual attendance, in addition to this webinar link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81347613119>

**More Information:** <https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate/>  
August 27 2025  
LBKS0353381



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
1011 Plum Street SE • PO Box 42525 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2525 • (360) 725-4000  
[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)

08/14/2025

Ms. Nikole Coleman  
Planning Manager  
City of Poulsbo  
200 NE Moe Street  
Poulsbo, WA 98370-0098

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Re: City of Poulsbo--2025-S-9757--60-day Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment

Dear Ms. Coleman:

Thank you for sending the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) the 60-day Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment as required under [RCW 36.70A.106](#). We received your submittal with the following description.

**This update ensures the City's critical areas regulations remain consistent with current state law, reflect Best Available Science, and continue to protect the ecological functions and public health and safety associated with wetlands, fish and wild-life habitat, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.**

We received your submittal on 08/13/2025 and processed it with the Submittal ID 2025-S-9757. Please keep this letter as documentation that you have met this procedural requirement. Your 60-day notice period ends on 10/12/2025.

We have forwarded a copy of this notice to other state agencies for comment.

Please remember to submit the final adopted amendment to Commerce within ten days of adoption.

If you have any questions, please contact Growth Management Services at [reviewteam@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:reviewteam@commerce.wa.gov), or call Ted Vanegas, (360) 725-2778.

Sincerely,

Review Team  
Growth Management Services

## **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:**

### **2025 Critical Areas Ordinance Update May Affect Your Property**

The City of Poulsbo is required by the State of Washington to update its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) by the end of 2025. As part of this update, stream buffer widths are proposed to increase in many areas, which may affect the development potential or use of your property. These changes are required to meet current science and guidance provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

The Poulsbo Planning Commission will begin its formal review of the draft amendments at a **public workshop on Tuesday, August 26, 2025** starting at 6pm, or soon thereafter. We encourage your participation and feedback. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council.

Workshops are being held as a hybrid virtual/in-person at the web address and call-in number noted below and at City Hall Council Chambers, 200 NE Moe Street. This call-in number: 1 253 215 8782 and meeting id: 813 4761 3119 are provided for virtual attendance, in addition to this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81347613119>.

*Check out the project website here: [cityofpoulsbo.com/critical-areas-update](https://cityofpoulsbo.com/critical-areas-update)*

For more info and to  
determine if your property  
may be impacted:

SCAN HERE



## Questions?

Contact the PED Department at  
[planninginfo@cityofpoulsbo.com](mailto:planninginfo@cityofpoulsbo.com)  
or 360-394-9882.



Planning Department  
200 NE Moe St  
Poulsbo, Washington 98370-7347

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Seattle, WA 98116-4553

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**From:** [Constant Contact](#)  
**To:** [City of Poulsbo Planning and Economic Development](#)  
**Subject:** Your campaign 2025 Critical Areas Ordinance Update Phase I - NOA w/ ODNS and Planning Commission Public Hearing has been sent  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 8:10:51 AM

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Dear Nikole Coleman,

Your campaign '**2025 Critical Areas Ordinance Update Phase I - NOA w/ ODNS and Planning Commission Public Hearing**' was sent on 8/27/2025 around 11:01 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports [in your account](#) to get real-time results and stats.

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**Subject:** 2025 Critical Areas Ordinance Update Phase I - NOA w/ ODNS and Planning Commission Public Hearing

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## City of Poulsbo Public Notice

You are receiving this email because you've signed up to receive periodic notices regarding the City of Poulsbo's development regulations. Thank you for your interest in the future of Poulsbo.

The City of Poulsbo is undertaking an update to its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) as part of the required periodic review under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A.130. This update ensures the City's critical areas regulations remain consistent with current state law, reflect Best Available Science (BAS), and continue to protect the ecological functions and public health and safety associated with wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.

To manage the complexity of the update and meet both statutory and local planning objectives, the CAO will be updated in two phases:

- Phase I (2025) will include required updates mandated by state law and guidance from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Department of Ecology, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. These changes are non-discretionary and must be completed as part of the City's 2025 GMA periodic update.
- Phase II (anticipated to begin in 2026) will focus on discretionary amendments identified by the city to improve clarity, address local implementation challenges, and support long-term environmental and regulatory goals.

This phased approach allows the city to meet state requirements within the periodic update deadline while also creating space for more thoughtful

engagement on optional changes.

Written comments may be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to the City of Poulsbo by 4:30pm on Thursday, September 11, 2025. To ensure consideration, all written comments must be received prior to the closing of the public hearing. At the hearing, the public will have an opportunity to provide written and verbal testimony regarding the proposed project.

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The Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled for [Tuesday, October 7, 2025](#), at 6:00 pm or soon thereafter. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council.

Again, thank you for your interest in the future of Poulsbo.

- [Notice of Application w/Optional DNS and Notice of Public Hearing](#)
- [SEPA Checklist](#)
- Full project documents can be viewed [here](#).

Staff Contact: Nikole Coleman, Senior Planner | [ncoleman@cityofpoulsbo.com](mailto:ncoleman@cityofpoulsbo.com)

City of Poulsbo | Planning and Economic Development Department 200 NE Moe Street |  
Poulsbo, WA 98370 US

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# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

200 NE Moe Street | Poulsbo, Washington 98370  
(360) 394-9748 | fax (360) 697-8269  
[www.cityofpoulsbo.com](http://www.cityofpoulsbo.com) | [plan&econ@cityofpoulsbo.com](mailto:plan&econ@cityofpoulsbo.com)

## A. BACKGROUND

Name: 2025 Critical Areas Ordinance Update, Phase I

Date Prepared:

Name of Applicant: City of Poulsbo

Address: 200 NE Moe Street | Poulsbo

Phone: 360.394.9748

Contact: Nikole Coleman

Agency Requesting Checklist: City of Poulsbo

**Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):** The Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for October 7, 2025. The City Council workshop and public hearing to be held after the conclusion of the Planning Commission review. All meeting dates are subject to change. Public notices for public hearing dates will be issued and published in the City's official newspaper and City's website.

**Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.** No.

**List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, directly related to this proposal.** "WETLANDS AND FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDED PROTECTION MEASURES REPORT" (Grette, 2024). Land use applications submitted to the City will be required to be processed under the provisions of Title 19, and may require environmental review when development is proposed, pursuant to SEPA rules.

**Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals or other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.** Permits will be processed under the current critical areas ordinance until new regulations go into effect.

**List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.** City Council approval.

**Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal.**

The City of Poulsbo is undertaking a two-phase update of its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) to meet state requirements under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). This legislation requires cities to identify and protect critical areas—such as wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas—using Best Available Science (BAS). Updates are required every ten years, and recent guidance from the Departments of Commerce, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife informs the City's work. The current review focuses on required updates such as revised stream buffers and updated definitions. These updates are necessary to maintain consistency with state law and ensure environmental protections are legally defensible and scientifically sound.

The 2025 amendments include revisions to wetland mitigation ratios and stream buffers. Wetland mitigation ratios have been updated to match 2018 Ecology guidance, and stream buffers—now called riparian management zones—have been expanded based on WDFW's BAS. Key changes include increasing the required riparian management zone widths for some streams or stream reaches, modifying building setback requirements, and clarifying definitions for terms. Discretionary improvements—such as enhanced implementation strategies and permitting streamlining—will be considered in Phase II beginning in 2026. Project documents can be viewed here: <https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate/>

**Location of the proposal.** Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. Poulsbo is located in Township 26 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian and is located in all or portions of Sections 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26. The updated Ordinance will apply to residentially zoned properties city-wide. The responses provided from this point forward imply city-wide applicability, unless otherwise specified.



B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS		Agree	Disagree	Mitigate
<b>1. Earth</b>				
<p>a. General description of the site (check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> rolling <input type="checkbox"/> hilly <input type="checkbox"/> steep <input type="checkbox"/> slopes <input type="checkbox"/> mountainous</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other.</p> <p>Poulsbo's topography varies throughout the city, from flat to areas of steep slopes. Actual development will be subject to additional SEPA review as appropriate. Environmental review and threshold determination will be required at the time of development review. Site specific development impacts are not identified at this time.</p>	✓			
<p>b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? There are areas within the city limits with slopes exceeding 40%, and potential geohazard areas are mapped on the City's critical areas maps. At the time of a development proposal, additional information on slopes will be required. Future development will require additional environmental review.</p>	✓			
<p>c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. According to the Kitsap County Soil Survey, the soils within the city limits is predominately classified as Poulsbo Gravelly sandy loam, with areas of Kapowsin gravelly loam and Sinclair soils.</p>	✓			
<p>d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. Geohazards are mapped in the City's critical areas maps and unstable soils/slopes are regulated by the City's Critical Areas Ordinance. No development is proposed at this time. Review of soil conditions will occur at the time specific proposals move forward.</p>	✓			
<p>e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. This is not applicable to this non-project action.</p>	✓			
<p>f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so, generally describe. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. Erosion control would be addressed through existing City ordinances, including the clearing and grading and critical areas regulations.</p>	✓			
<p>g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed currently. Projects will require further analysis and SEPA review, where appropriate.</p>	✓			
<p>h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any. None. No development is proposed currently. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.</p>	✓			
<b>2. Air</b>				
<p>a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.</p>	✓			
<p>b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.</p>	✓			
<p>c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any. None. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. New construction will comply with the requirements of the Poulsbo Municipal Code and the Engineering Department, which will be reviewed at the time of a specific project proposal moving forward.</p>	✓			

<b>3. Water</b>			
<b>a. Surface:</b>			
1)	Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. Poulsbo's main surface water body is Liberty Bay; there are numerous streams and wetlands throughout the city limits. There is no development proposed at this time; future development will require additional environmental review.	✓	
2)	Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	
3)	Estimate the amount of fill and dredge that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	
4)	Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	
5)	Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	
6)	Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	
<b>b. Ground:</b>			
1)	Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	
2)	Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc...). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	
<b>c. Water Runoff (including storm water):</b>			
1)	Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (including quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Future development will lead to stormwater runoff, which will be reviewed and required to meet City and State regulations for stormwater management. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓	

2)	<b>Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters?</b> If so, <b>generally describe.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
3)	<b>Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns near the site? If so, describe.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
d.	<b>Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. At the time of development review, projects will be reviewed for compliance with the City's adopted storm water management regulations and updated critical areas ordinance.	✓		
<b>4. Plants</b>				
a.	<b>Check types of vegetation found on the site:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrubs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pasture <input type="checkbox"/> Crop or grain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other <input type="checkbox"/> Water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of vegetation The checked vegetation is found throughout Poulsbo. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time.	✓		
b.	<b>What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
c.	<b>List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
d.	<b>Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. Landscaping is typically required for new development proposals.	✓		
e.	<b>List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. Landscaping is typically required for new development proposals.	✓		
<b>5. Animals</b>				
a.	<b>Check any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: <input type="checkbox"/> Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: There are a variety of birds, fish, and mammals that inhabit Poulsbo. They are primarily located near streams and Liberty Bay.	✓		
b.	<b>List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.</b> Poulsbo has several listed species, including bald eagle, blue heron, harbor seal, salmon (Chinook, chum, coho), steelhead, cutthroat, hardshell clam, smelt, and sand lance. No development is proposed at this time. Additional environmental review will be conducted at the time of application for specific development.	✓		



c. <b>Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.</b> Liberty Bay and adjacent streams are known to contain anadromous salmonids. The City is located within the Pacific Flyway – a flight corridor for migrating waterfowl and other birds – that extends from Alaska to Mexico and South America.	✓		
d. <b>Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. The City's Critical Areas Ordinance provides protection for wildlife. Any additional mitigation necessary will be identified at the time of site-specific development review.	✓		
e. <b>List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. The City's Critical Areas Ordinance provides protection for wildlife. Any additional mitigation necessary will be identified at the time of site-specific development review.	✓		
<b>6. Energy and Natural Resources</b>			
a. <b>What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. Electric energy is available city-wide and natural gas is available in specific locations in the city limits.	✓		
b. <b>Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
c. <b>What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. Future development will meet the current energy code as identified in the International Building Code.	✓		
<b>7. Environmental Health</b>			
a. <b>Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
1) <b>Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
2) <b>Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design.</b> This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
3) <b>Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
4) <b>Describe special emergency services that might be required.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		

5)	<b>Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
<b>b. Noise</b>				
1)	<b>What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?</b> The city has a typical level of noise expected in an urban environment.	✓		
2)	<b>What types of levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)?</b> Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
3)	<b>Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. Construction noise is regulated in the Poulsbo Municipal Code.	✓		
<b>8. Land and Shoreline Use</b>				
a.	<b>What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.</b> The city has a variety of single-family residential development along with commercial areas, and other uses including multifamily residential, light industrial, institutional, and parks.	✓		
b.	<b>Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
1)	<b>Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting?</b> If so, how: This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
c.	<b>Describe any structures on the site.</b> No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
d.	<b>Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
e.	<b>What is the current zoning classification of the site?</b> No development is proposed at the comprehensive plan amendment stage. Determination of zoning classification and applicable review requirements will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
f.	<b>What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?</b> No development is proposed at the comprehensive plan amendment stage. Determination of comprehensive plan designation will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
g.	<b>If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?</b> No development is proposed at the comprehensive plan amendment stage. Determination of shoreline designation and applicable review requirements will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		

h. <b>Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify</b> The actual development of the specific sites will be subject to additional development review and would be subject to environmental review. Site specific development impacts are not identified at this time. Identification of critical areas will be made based on the City's Critical Area Ordinances maps and site-specific environmental information prepared during the development review process.	✓		
i. <b>Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
j. <b>Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
k. <b>Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
l. <b>Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.</b> No development is proposed with the comprehensive plan amendments. Determination of specific measures to ensure compatibility will be made during development review.	✓		
m. <b>Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any.</b> No development is proposed with the comprehensive plan amendments. Determination of specific measures to ensure compatibility will be made during development review.	✓		
<b>9. Housing</b>			
a. <b>Approximately how many units would be provided, if any?</b> None. This is a non-project action.	✓		
b. <b>Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated?</b> None. This is a non-project action.	✓		
c. <b>Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
<b>10. Aesthetics</b>			
a. <b>What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
b. <b>What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
c. <b>Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. While site specific development impacts are not identified at this time, building height and design review requirements are set forth in Poulsbo's zoning ordinance.	✓		
<b>11. Light and Glare</b>			
a. <b>What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
b. <b>Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?</b> This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		

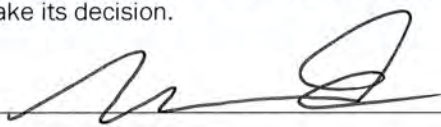
c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. While site specific impacts are not identified at this time, the City's zoning ordinance contains lighting requirements. Additional environmental review will be required as sites are proposed for development.	✓		
<b>12. Recreation</b>			
a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Poulsbo has a variety of public parks and recreation opportunities throughout the city.	✓		
b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
<b>13. Historic and Cultural Preservation</b>			
a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe. Unknown at this time. This is a non-project action. Determination will be made at the time of specific proposals for development.	✓		
b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. Unknown at this time.	✓		
c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
d. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any. If at the time of site-specific development, evidence of historic or cultural resources are found, proper protocols and notifications will be initiated.	✓		
<b>14. Transportation</b>			
a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. Major streets and highways in Poulsbo include Highway 3, 305, State Route 307, Viking Avenue, Finn Hill, Front Street, Fjord Drive, Hostmark, Caldart, and Lincoln.	✓		
b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? Kitsap Transit provides public transit throughout the city.	✓		
c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time.	✓		



#### D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS

1.	<p><b>How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substance; or production of noise?</b> The amendments would not create any of these effects. All development and uses will be subject to all applicable local, state, and federal regulatory requirements and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis during the development review process.</p> <p><b>Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:</b> No measures are proposed with the update. However, measures will be identified as necessary during the development permit and environmental process for specific projects. Compliance with city regulations and other appropriate mitigations would reduce increases.</p>
2.	<p><b>How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?</b> The proposed amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance are not anticipated to negatively affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life. The amendments include increased protection standards based on best available science, updated state guidance, and changes in state law.</p> <p><b>Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:</b> No measures are proposed with the update. The CAO provides regulatory protective measures to protect and conserve vegetation and wildlife habitat. Additional measures may be identified during the development permit and environmental review process for specific projects.</p>
3.	<p><b>How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?</b> As a non-project action, the amendments would not deplete energy or natural resources. Projects resulting from the amendments will require further environmental review at the time of development application.</p> <p><b>Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:</b> Measures would be identified during the project specific development permit and environmental review. Compliance with city regulations and other appropriate mitigations would provide the appropriate measures to reduce impacts.</p>
4.	<p><b>How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?</b> The proposed amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance are based on best available science, updates to state guidance, and changes to state law. These amendments are intended to improve protection standards for environmentally sensitive (critical) areas.</p> <p><b>Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:</b> Measures would be identified during the project specific development permit and environmental review. Compliance with city regulations and other appropriate mitigations would provide the appropriate measures to reduce impacts.</p>
5.	<p><b>How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?</b> The proposed updates will not change existing land use patterns.</p> <p><b>Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:</b> The amendments being considered through the update do not pose shoreline or land use impacts. All development applications will be subject to further review under SEPA, the city's zoning code and the Shoreline Master Program where appropriate.</p>
6.	<p><b>How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?</b> No development is proposed. However, future developments on the subject sites may have increased demands, which would be identified during the specific project development review. Projects resulting from amendments may require further review under SEPA which will be accomplished as required under WAC 197-11 and the Poulsbo Municipal Code.</p> <p><b>Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:</b> Measures to reduce impacts on transportation, public services and utilities would be identified during project specific development review. Compliance with city regulations and other appropriate mitigations could provide the appropriate measures to reduce impacts.</p>
7.	<p><b>Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.</b> The proposed amendments do not conflict with any local, state or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. All future development proposals would be required to follow all applicable regulations regarding the protection of the environment.</p>



Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.				
d.	Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
e.	Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail or air transportation? If so, generally describe. No.	✓		
f.	How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and non passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
g.	Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
h.	Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward. At the time of development review, projects will be reviewed for traffic impacts and appropriate mitigation will be imposed.	✓		
<b>15. Public Services</b>				
a.	Would the project result in an increased need for public service (for example fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
b.	Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. This is not applicable to this non-project action. No development is proposed at this time. Determination will be made at the time specific proposals move forward.	✓		
<b>16. Utilities</b>				
a.	Check the utilities currently available at the site: <input type="checkbox"/> electric <input type="checkbox"/> natural gas <input type="checkbox"/> water <input type="checkbox"/> refuse service <input type="checkbox"/> telephone, <input type="checkbox"/> sanitary sewer <input type="checkbox"/> septic system <input type="checkbox"/> other. Utilities are also available throughout the city, with natural gas only available in specific areas. No development is proposed with the amendments, and specific determination of utility services will be made at the time of development review.	✓		
b.	Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. Utilities are also available throughout the city, with natural gas only available in specific areas. No development is proposed with the amendments, and specific determination of utility services will be made at the time of development review.	✓		
<b>C. SIGNATURE</b>				
The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.				
Signature:  Date Submitted: <u>8/12/25</u>				

Reviewed by  
Edie Bergoff  
8/14/2025



**From:** [NoReply@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:NoReply@ecy.wa.gov)  
**To:** [Tiffany Simmons](#)  
**Subject:** SEPA record published  
**Date:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 12:59:16 PM

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The SEPA admin reviewed and published [SEPA record number 202503408, "2025 Critical Area Ordinance Update -Phase I"](#).  
Lead Agency File Number: P-08-04-25-02.  
It will now be available to the public.

From: Kelli Price  
Email: [separegister@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:separegister@ecy.wa.gov)  
Phone number: (206) 594-0014