



Notice of Application with Optional DNS and Planning Commission Public Hearing

Planning and Economic Development Department
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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">• 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. <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:	<p>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.</p>		
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 4:30pm on Thursday, September 11, 2025.</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/>

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