CITY OF SUMAS
SHOREINE MASTER PROGRAM PERIODIC REVIEW

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Introduction

The City of Sumas (City) is currently undertaking a required review of its Shoreline Management Master Program (SMP). This review is required by the State Shoreline Management Act, RCW 90.58.080(4), and is referred to as the Periodic Review. The Shoreline Management Act requires that each SMP be reviewed and, if necessary, revised on an eight-year schedule established by the state Legislature. The Periodic Review ensures that the SMP stays current with changes in state laws and rules, remains consistent with other City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data. This review does not require the City to: re-evaluate the ecological baseline information that was developed as part of the most recent comprehensive update of the SMP; extensively assess no net loss criteria other than to ensure that proposed amendments do not result in degradation of the baseline condition; or change shoreline jurisdiction or environment designations, unless deemed appropriate and necessary by the City.

Purpose

The purpose of this document, referred to as the Public Participation Plan, is to describe how the City will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the SMP periodic review process. This includes describing the steps the City will take to provide ongoing opportunities for public engagement and informal and formal opportunities for public comment. The plan also summarizes the City's public participation goals and provides contact information and web addresses to increase access to important information throughout the process.

It is understood at the outset that this plan is a working document and may be updated as needed to help increase opportunities for public participation over the course of the Periodic Review.

1.0 Public Participation Goals

As an initial step in the Periodic Review process, the City has established the following 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, stakeholders and government agencies about their concerns, questions and priorities for the periodic review process.
- Encourage interested parties to review proposed changes to the SMP and provide comments throughout the process and ensure that those comments will be provided to decision makers.
- Provide opportunities for formal public input at project milestones, including at public hearings, prior to decision-making by local officials.

- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies and Native American tribes.

2.0 Public Participation Opportunities

The City is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the Periodic Review process and will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage participation, including the following:

2.1 Website

The City's website will feature information about the review on its SMP Periodic Review webpage. This webpage can be found at: http://www.cityofsumas.com/shoreline_management_master_program. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the periodic review, including draft documents, notices, and other project information. The page will provide staff contact information, as well as an email link for questions and comments.

2.2 News Media

The official paper of record, the Lynden Tribune, will be kept up to date on the periodic review process and receive copies of all official notices for publication. Copies will also be provided to the local library. Other internet sources, such as social media, may also be considered for notification, if deemed appropriate.

2.3 Noticing

The public will be notified of the process and meetings via a combination of website, email, and newspaper announcements. Newspaper notifications pursuant to Section 2.2 will point community members to the City's SMP website where they can learn about the update process and request to receive future notifications as an interested party regarding periodic review progress and participation opportunities.

2.4 Public Open Houses

If determined to be necessary, the City will hold one or more public open houses during the SMP update process. An initial open house could be held to provide initial information regarding the periodic review process and receive initial comments from the public. A second open house could be held to provide information regarding proposed SMP amendments and receive additional public comments. All public comments received during open houses will be made available to City staff and decision makers.

2.5 Scoping

An important early step in the periodic review process will be to establish the scope of the review. The scope of the review and update will be based on changes in state law and rules, staff-identified issues, and public and agency comments received in response to the City's initial public notification regarding the Periodic Review. The issues included in the initial scope will be taken to the Planning Commission and City Council to provide them an opportunity to suggest modifications to the scope prior to its being finalized. The setting of the initial scope does not preclude other proposed amendments being

considered in the future. Amendments can be proposed at any time through the process. Scoping is just a filtering process to identify priority issues to be addressed in the limited time and budget available for this SMP update cycle.

2.6 Public Comment Periods and Public Hearings

The City will provide notification regarding a formal 60-day public comment period during which comments will be received regarding proposed amendments to the SMP. One or more public hearings will be held before the Planning Commission and City Council during June 2021. Advance notice will be provided to the public and agencies prior to the hearings. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to solicit input on the periodic review. Planning Commission meetings are open to the public. The Planning Commission will provide recommendations to the City Council. The City Council will also hold at least one public hearing, which will also be open to the public. Following the closing of the public hearings, the final decision regarding amendments to the SMP will be made by the City Council.

2.7 Ongoing Comment

All documents under consideration will be available on the periodic review webpage and at City Hall, P.O. Box 9, Sumas, WA 98295. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments by letter or email (to the address provided in section 2.8). All comments will be compiled and provided to the Planning Commission and City Council.

2.8 Primary Staff Contact

Interested parties can learn about the process and where to find information, and submit comments, by contacting the Project Manager for this project:

Rollin Harper, City Planner
P.O. Box 9
Sumas, WA 98295
Phone: (360) 733-6033
Email: rollinh@sehome.com

3.0 Stakeholder Coordination

The City will invite the participation of the following government agencies and stakeholders in the review process:

- Whatcom County
- Lummi Nation
- Nooksack Tribe
- Port of Bellingham
- Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- US Army Corps of Engineers

- Whatcom Conservation District
- Drainage Districts and Subzones

The Project Manager will engage directly with City staff from other departments – especially Public Works and Parks. All other agencies and local organizations will be expected to participate by providing written comments and during public hearings unless other avenues for participation requested.

4.0 Timeline

The following is a general timeline for the Periodic Review process, including anticipated public participation opportunities:

Milestone	Timing
Initial Notification regarding Periodic Review	December 2020
Initial Scoping	January 2021
Preparation of Draft SMP Amendments	February through April 2021
Public Review Period	April through June, 2021
Hearings	June 2021