



Benton County and the Department of Ecology Notice of Open Record Joint Hearing and Comment Period

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Benton County and the Department of Ecology will be holding a joint local/state Public Comment Period and Public Hearing on Benton County's Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review on April 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. via a virtual meeting platform (see below for more information).

Benton County and Washington Dept. of Ecology are accepting comments on a periodic review of the county's shoreline master program under RCW 90.58.080(4). The county has prepared draft SMP amendments to keep the SMP current with changes in state law, changes in other county plans and regulations, and other changed local circumstances.

The proposed amendments consist of housekeeping edits to reflect updated code sections, dates, etc. Deleting the definition for Board of Adjustment and adding text for Hearing Examiner, adding text to the definition for "Development", amending the definition for "Substantial development" by updating the dollar amount for exceeding the fair market value, adding text to Section 15.04.120 regarding "Developments not required to obtain shoreline permits or local reviews", adding text to 15.06.030 for external or internal retrofitting of an existing structure for compliance with ADA, amending 15.07.030 by adding language to Substantial Development Permit exception applying to dock construction, and amending 15.07.150 to add a language regarding County permit review time

Public comment will be accepted from March 24th to April 23, 2021 at 5 p.m. A joint local/state public hearing is set for April 13, 2021 via a virtual meeting format (see below for information on attending the meeting). Send comments to the Benton County Planning Division at P.O. Box 910, Prosser WA or by email to planning.department@co.benton.wa.us. Comments sent to the county will be forwarded to the Dept. of Ecology.

Proposed amendments to the county shoreline master program are available for review at <https://tinyurl.com/SMP2021update> and at the County Planning Division Office within the Public Services Building at 102206 E. Wiser Parkway, Kennewick WA 99338.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Shoreline Master Plan has been reviewed under the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act and a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued on February 24, 2021 and accordingly an Environmental Impact Statement was not required. Any comments regarding this determination and the environmental impacts of the proposal can be made at the Planning Commission Hearing using the method noted below or in writing to the Benton County Planning Department by 5 p.m. on Monday April 13, 2021.

Due to Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order the County Offices are closed to in person visits from the public at this time. To continue to provide public access to the Planning Commission meetings, Benton County will be providing telephonic and video access for the public to view and provide testimony at the Planning Commission meetings. If you choose to join the meeting telephonically, we ask that you please limit background noise or mute your line to prevent any

unnecessary interruption to the meeting. To find information on virtual attendance options, including streaming video, WebEx video conferencing and telephone, please visit www.tinyurl.com/BCPublicNotice.

If you wish to provide comments on any action before the Planning Commission, we ask that you please fill out our online form (found at <https://tinyurl.com/testifyform>) and submit your request to our office. **You must submit a request form to participate for each hearing that you wish to attend.** If you prefer to make the request by phone, please call our office at 786-5612 and we can add you to the list for providing testimony. At the meeting the names of those wishing to testify will be called out and at that time you will be able to present your comments/concerns regarding the specific agenda item.

At this hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval, conditional approval, or disapproval of the Shoreline Master Plan to the Benton County Board of Commissioners. All parties concerned may present any support or objections for the Plan per the phone in instructions above. Information concerning the Plan can be obtained at the Benton County Planning Department, by calling 736-3086 (Tri-Cities) or 786-5612 (Prosser).

Dated at Prosser, Washington on this 19th day of March 2021.

Martin Sheeran, Chairman
BENTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Greg Wendt, Director
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

PUBLISH ON: March 24, 2021