

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

STAFF REPORT

RE: 2016 CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE (CAO) UPDATE
Staff Report to City Council

ATTACHMENTS:

- May 11, 2016 Memo to Mayor and City Council
- Proposed amendments

I. INFORMATION

The City of Gold Bar proposes to adopt amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). The amendments were prepared in compliance with the state Growth Management Act. The GMA requires cities and counties to designate and classify critical areas, and to adopt policies and regulations to identify, designate and protect the functions and values of critical areas. There are five critical areas identified, which include:

- Wetlands,
- Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas,
- Critical aquifer recharge areas,
- Geologically hazardous areas, and
- Frequently flooded areas

The CAO has been updated to ensure it contains GMA-required information and are consistent with state agency guidance and best available science (BAS). The CAO is used to guide environmental review of land use actions and development activity within the City.

II. PROCESS

- DECISION PROCEDURE: In accordance with GBMC 19.01.030, code amendments are a Type 5 decision subject to final decision by City Council.
- PUBLIC HEARING: An Open Record Public Hearing before City Council is scheduled for June 7, 2016, at 7:00PM. A copy of the staff report will be available to the public for at least 7 days prior to the Hearing.
- COMMERCE REVIEW: The City submitted the draft CAO amendments to the Department of Commerce for expedited review on May 12, 2016. No comments have been received at this time.

IV. STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) REVIEW

This proposal was determined through SEPA review to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment; a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued by the City, dated May 13, 2016. No comment was received during the public comment period.

In response to the SEPA notice, the Department of Ecology requested the draft CAO for review. No comments have been received at this time. Ecology comments will be integrated into the final proposed CAO amendments.

V. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments are summarized in the May 11, 2016 memo to Mayor Lee Hodo and Gold Bar City Council, subject: 2016 Critical Areas Ordinance Update. The memo, and draft CAO amendments, are included as attachments to this Staff Report.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **approval** of the proposed 2016 CAO amendments by the City Council.