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J.E. "Sam" Ryan
Director

December 21, 2017

Chad Yunge
Department of Ecology, Bellingham Field Office
1440 10th St #102
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: Shoreline Management Program Limited Amendment

Dear Chad,

As you are aware, the Whatcom County Council recently adopted an update to its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). As part of the process, the Council also amended the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program, specifically WCC 23.10.060(A), to revise the date of the reference CAO. The amended text reads as follows:

23.10.060 References to plans, regulations or information sources.

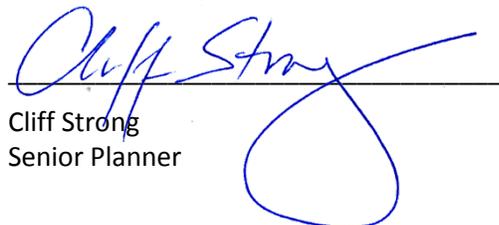
- A. The Whatcom County critical areas ordinance, Chapter 16.16 WCC (Ordinance No. ~~2005-0682017-077~~, dated ~~September 30, 2005~~December 5, 2017, ~~and as amended on February 27, 2007~~) is hereby adopted in whole as a part of this program, except that the permit, nonconforming use, appeal and enforcement provisions of the critical areas ordinance (WCC 16.16.270 through 16.16.285) shall not apply within shoreline jurisdiction. All references to the critical areas ordinance (CAO), Chapter 16.16 WCC, are for this specific version.

Nothing else in the Shoreline Management Program is being amended. As such, this is considered neither a comprehensive master program update nor a periodic review, but rather a locally initiated amendment.

The adoption of the CAO is the culmination of 3-½ years of work, starting with 1-½ years of public meetings with a Technical Advisory Committee and a Citizens Advisory Committee, 8 months of Planning Commission review and hearings, and 15 months of County Council review and hearings (the public process is detailed in Exhibit C).

Our understanding is that the Department of Ecology now needs to do its review of this limited amendment. I look forward to working with you on gaining the Department's approval in the coming months. If you have any questions, please contact me at 360.778.5942 or cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Sincerely,


Cliff Strong
Senior Planner