

# DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN – Critical Areas Ordinance Update

## Goals for the Public Process

- Follow the public participation goals & policies in the Comprehensive Plan, including:
  - Provide a transparent process that enables open, meaningful and respectful dialogue among all stakeholders
  - Provide information and outreach materials through a variety of means
  - Use creative methods to engage under-represented groups and people
- Educate and enable dialogue that builds broader community understanding of the importance of protecting critical natural areas
- Use data-driven information
- Draw on previous planning efforts – complement them, do not recreate them

## Communication and Outreach

### Points of Contact:

- Linda Bentley, Project Lead
- Leonard Bauer, Deputy CP&D Director

### Target Audiences

Many groups and people in the community are involved in efforts to protect critical natural areas, which must be done in a way to also encourage good development where appropriate. The following are considered target audiences for the update to the Critical Areas Ordinance outreach:

- Olympia residents and outside visitors
- Local organizations, boards and committees
- Property owners
- Developers and investment community
- Individual stakeholders and interest groups
- Thurston County and the seven jurisdictions within, in particular the urban Cities of Lacey and Tumwater; Thurston Regional Planning Council
- Utilities and Service Providers (*Intercity Transit, Puget Sound Energy, etc.*)
- City Council, advisory boards and department staff

## **Public Engagement Activities**

### **Winter-Spring 2016 Outreach - Phase 1**

Phase 1 is, primarily, to identify gaps in our current Critical Areas Ordinance regarding Best Available Science (BAS) and other Growth Management Act requirements. The main thrust of outreach during Phase 1 includes staff creating and updating a webpage on the City website, providing ongoing information in City e-newsletters, creating an “interested party” contact list, and briefing Council and City advisory committees on the status of the CAO update at their public meetings.

### **Spring-Summer 2016 Public Meetings - Phase 1**

<b>April</b>	Staff briefing at Utility Advisory Committee, Planning Commission and Land Use and Environment Committee
<b>May</b>	Public Hearing at Planning Commission
<b>June</b>	City Council Resolution to Adopt

### **Summer-Winter 2016 – Phase 2 (Protection of Species and Habitat)**

Phase 2 is to identify locally important species and/or habitats that the community wishes to protect and choose options to achieve that goal. Following is a conceptual outreach framework, to be further developed in conjunction with our consultant:

- Create a broad, open participation process that engages public/stakeholders in the evaluation of information and options for protecting locally important species and habitats
- Host at least one public workshop in summer 2016
- Continue to disseminate information via City webpage and e-newsletters
- Present updates to Council and advisory committees
- Conduct public hearing(s)