



San Juan County Community Development & Planning

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August 26, 2011

To: The Journal and the Sounder

Re: Please publish once on August 31, 2011 in both the Journal and the Sounder

Notice of Public Hearing on an Ordinance Regarding Regulations for Wetland Critical Areas; Amending Sections 18.20, 18.10.040, and 18.30.150 of the San Juan County Code and Notice of SEPA Determination and Repealing Appendices A-C of SJCC 18.30.150

Notice is hereby given that the San Juan County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on an ordinance amending the Critical Area provisions of the San Juan County Code. The ordinance addresses Wetland Critical Areas. These amendments are proposed to fulfill the periodic update requirements of RCW 36.70A.130.

For Wetland Critical Areas, the proposed ordinance: adds, changes, and removes definitions of terms; adds to the list of official maps; includes options for the minimum size of regulated wetlands; clarifies the activities allowed within wetlands and their buffers; classifies wetlands based on their type and assigns importance ratings; removes the list of regulated activities; removes the standard buffer width protocol and establishes a site-specific procedure for determining any required buffer widths; removes sections on buffer averaging; decreasing, and increasing; consolidates and revises the process, requirements, and criteria for noncompensatory enhancement projects; adds reference to the official manual to be used for wetland delineations (for greater consistency with the WAC); clarifies the required contents for wetland critical area reports; revises the regulation of ponds; removes the sections regarding compensatory mitigation; and repealing Appendices A (San Juan County Wetlands Rating System), B (Mitigation/Enhancement Plan Contents), and C (Bonding).

The hearing will begin at or after 8:45 a.m., Friday, September 16, 2011 at the San Juan Island Grange, 152 First Street, Friday Harbor. Interested parties are encouraged to attend & submit oral comments or to provide written comments at or prior to the hearing. To allow for distribution to Planning Commissioners, it is recommended that written comments be submitted by 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 14, 2011.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review. An Environmental Checklist for the proposed amendments was reviewed, and it was determined that adoption of the proposed regulations will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and an environmental impact statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). Under WAC 197-11-340(2) a Determination of Non-Significance was issued on August 30, 2011. Comments on this determination must be submitted by September 14, 2011. Following a final decision this determination may be appealed with the underlying action to Superior Court or State Boards as provided in RCW 36.70A, RCW 90.58, and RCW 36.70C. For appeals to Superior Court, the appeal period is 21 days and for appeals to the Growth Management Hearings Board, the appeal period is 60 days.

Copies of the ordinance, SEPA checklist, SEPA Determination and associated documents are available from the San Juan County Community Development & Planning Department or will be mailed on request. For copies, more information or to submit comments contact Janice Biletnikoff, AICP, San Juan County CD&P, PO Box 947, Friday Harbor, WA, 98250, (360) 370-7572, or janiceb@sanjuanco.com.