

**CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND
SEPA
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

Project Name and Description: 2025 Periodic Review of Port Townsend Municipal Code (PTMC) Chapter 19.05 Critical Areas Ordinance. This is a non-project action to conduct a periodic review and update of the City’s Critical Areas Ordinance in accordance with best available science, updated state guidance, and changes in state law. In addition, staff has recommended amendments to improve clarity and facilitate implementation. The Growth Management Act requires all cities and counties in Washington to adopt regulations protecting “critical areas” in order to preserve the natural environment, wildlife habitats, and sources of fresh drinking water. Critical areas regulation also encourage public safety by limiting development in areas prone to natural hazards like floods and landslides.

File References: LUP 25-002

Location/Legal Description: The revisions will apply to critical areas within the city limits.

Proponent: City of Port Townsend
Planning & Community Development
250 Madison Street, Suite 3
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Lead Agency: City of Port Townsend, Planning & Community Development Department

Determination of Non- Significance: As provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158, the lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the applicable development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under Chapter 36.70A RCW and in other local, state, or federal laws or rules. Therefore, this proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the environment, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C), and the City will not require additional mitigation measures under SEPA. This decision was made after review of an Environmental Checklist and other information on file with the City. This information is available to the public upon request

SEPA Public Comment/Appeal Period: The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date of issuance of this Threshold Determination. Written comments/appeals *concerning the environmental analysis and SEPA determination* must be submitted to the Planning & Community Development Department (address below) no later than **4:00 p.m., January 30, 2025**. Please include the **Subject line “CAO SEPA Comments”** The DNS may be retained, modified or withdrawn. Any appeal of a Threshold SEPA determination for Type V applications is heard by the City Council.

Staff Contact: Adrian Smith, Long Range Planner asmith@cityofpt.us

Planning & Community Development Department
250 Madison Street, Suite 3
Port Townsend, WA 98368.
Phone: 360-379-4423

Public Hearing: An open record public hearing will be held prior to adoption of the revised CAO; followed by an open record public hearing before City Council.

Responsible Official: Emma Bolin, AICP
Director, Planning & Community Development

Signature: _____

Date: January 15, 2025

TO: All Permit and Review Authorities

ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

The environmental review consisted of analysis based on the following documents included in the environmental record.

DOCUMENTS/REFERENCES:

- Exhibit A: SEPA Environmental Checklist
- Exhibit B: Draft Critical Areas Ordinance (Chapter 19.05 PTMC) in legislative format
- Exhibit C: Commerce Checklist
- Exhibit D: Staff Summary of Amendments

Draft amendments and related documents are available for review at:

<https://cityofpt.us/planning-community-development/page/land-use-projects-under-review>

If you prefer to view documents at City Hall, please contact the City Clerk

arodrigues@cityofpt.us

Alternatively, you may schedule an appointment to review any of the above documents at City Hall, 540 Water Street, by contacting the Planning & Community Development Department, at (360) 379-5095.