

The Seattle Times

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTIES OF KING AND SNOHOMISH

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10/08/2025

Agent Sharon Seligman Signature Sharon Seligman

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 10/08/2025

Frankie Flight

(Notary Signature) Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle

Publication Cost: \$346.50
Order No: 104602
Customer No: 306
PO #:



KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
LOCAL SERVICES, PERMITTING
DIVISION
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 300,
Renton, WA 98057

**NOTICE OF: STATE
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
(SEPA) DETERMINATION OF
NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)
Non-Protect Action and ADOPTION OF
EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENT**

Proponent: King County

Proposed Ordinance 2024-0408 - Critical
Areas Ordinance

This proposal is a nonprotect action to update King County's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) as required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) to protect the functions and values of critical areas, include Best Available Science (BAS) in informing policies and regulations, and give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries. In 2010, Washington State updated the GMA, adding a requirement that jurisdictions ensure no net loss of existing critical areas functions and values. It also directed jurisdictions to protect critical areas through a combination of regulatory measures and nonregulatory programs. The GMA also requires that jurisdictions plan for effects of a changing climate when updating protections for critical areas.

To inform the 2024 BAS review, the County reviewed state law and guidance from the Washington State Department of Commerce, and updated BAS from state agencies, including the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Consistent with state law and guidance and the adopted King County Comprehensive Plan, King County uses a combination of regulations and non-regulatory actions to protect critical areas functions and values and ensure no net loss of ecological function. The county's current proposed updates to the CAO were developed within the unique policy, program, and regulatory context of King County and also reflect the need to simultaneously address multiple GMA goals.

King County's 2024 BAS review affirmed that many County policies and development regulations protecting critical areas in unincorporated King County (UKC) are well aligned with GMA mandates and BAS. The 2024 BAS review also identified regulatory updates necessary to improve alignment with BAS and satisfy GMA mandates.

As part of this DNS, King County is also adopting the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Additional information, copies of decision and related documents may be found here:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/local-services/permits/public-notices.aspx>

COMMENT PROCEDURES: This Determination of Non-significance (DNS) is issued under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-340. The Permitting Division has determined after review of the proposed legislation, an environmental checklist and associated documents, that existing State of Washington and King County regulations and codes are sufficient to address potential impacts associated with the proposed legislation. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The issuance of this DNS does NOT constitute approval or adoption of the subject legislation.

You may comment on this DNS by submitting comments to the address or email below. Comments must be received no later than 4:00 pm on October 22, 2025. The King County Council will not act until after the comment period.

King County Department of
Local Services - Permitting Division
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 300
Renton, WA 98057
ATTN: Ty Peterson
E-mail: ty.peterson@kingcounty.gov

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing on a proposed ordinance is not yet scheduled but anticipated in the future before the Metropolitan King County Council. Information on the public hearing and how to submit public comment can be found at this website: https://www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees/full_council.aspx.

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