



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Stephen Atkinson, Associate Planner, Planning and Development Services
Peter Huffman, Interim Director, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance – Approving an Updated Shoreline Master Program, Superseding Ordinance 28034 as Provisionally Approved on November 29, 2011 – October 8, 2013
DATE: September 25, 2013

SUMMARY:

The Ordinance requested by this Memorandum supersedes the locally-approved Shoreline Master Program intended for adoption in Ordinance 28034, and incorporates the changes required by the State Department of Ecology (“Ecology”) as agreed to in Council Resolution 38734.

BACKGROUND:

On August 19, 2013 the Department of Ecology issued a conditional approval of the City of Tacoma Shoreline Master Program as provisionally adopted on November 29, 2011. The City of Tacoma had 30 days to respond to Ecology’s decision to either accept Ecology’s revisions or to propose alternatives. The Council formalized a response by resolution on September 17, 2013, accepting the majority of Ecology’s conditions and proposing an alternative intent statement for the S-6/7 Schuster Parkway Transition Shoreline District. This ordinance will supersede the Master Program provisionally adopted in 2011, as agreed in Resolution 38734.

ISSUE:

The Shoreline Management Act of 1971 (“SMA”) requires local Master Programs to meet three basic policies: (a) give priority to uses that require a shoreline location, (b) promote public access and enjoyment opportunities, and (c) protect the environmental resources of state shorelines. The Department of Ecology guidelines, codified in Washington Administrative Code 173-26, are to be used and followed by local jurisdictions in the comprehensive update to local Master Programs, and include substantive, procedural, and process requirements. The City of Tacoma was required to complete the update by December 1, 2011. Locally-approved Shoreline Master Programs cannot not take effect until final approval is issued by the Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatives were evaluated as part of the Council’s review of Ecology’s conditional approval and in the adoption of Resolution 38734. No additional alternatives are being considered at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the ordinance to be effective 14 days from Ecology’s Final Action.