



City of Tacoma
Planning and Development Services

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

June 2, 2026

What is happening and why am I being notified?

The City of Tacoma is proposing to update its Critical Areas Protection Ordinance (CAO) – the primary local regulation that protects environmentally sensitive lands including wetlands, streams, fish and wildlife habitat, geologically hazardous areas, flood hazard areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas. You are receiving this notice because you are on the City's distribution list for this update.

About the Proposed CAO Update

The Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.130) requires cities and counties to periodically update their critical areas regulations to reflect best available science. The proposed update modernizes Tacoma's critical areas protections to align with current science, state requirements, and the City's adopted environmental and climate goals.

The proposed update was developed following a gap analysis, extensive public outreach, several rounds of Planning Commission review, and a public hearing on August 20, 2025. The Planning Commission completed its recommendation on April 1, 2026. All public comments received through the process are documented in the public record.

What happens at the public meeting?

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed CAO Update during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on June 2, 2026. The Council will accept testimony from community members, property owners, businesses, and other interested parties wishing to provide comment on the proposed code amendments. Written comments submitted prior to the hearing will also be included in the public record.

The public hearing is an opportunity for the Council to hear from the community before taking action on the proposed update. The Council will **not** vote on adoption at the June 2nd hearing.

What happens after the public hearing?

Following the public hearing, the City Council is tentatively scheduled to consider the proposed CAO Update for a first reading on **June 16, 2026**, and for a final reading and adoption on **June 23, 2026**. These dates are subject to change depending on the outcome of the public hearing and Council deliberation. The City will provide updated scheduling information as it becomes available.

Upon adoption, the updated CAO will apply to new development applications and permit reviews citywide. Existing approved permits and vested applications are not affected by the update.

What do you need to do?

You are NOT required to take any action, but if you wish to provide oral testimony and/or written comments, please follow the instructions on this notice.

Staff Contact

For more information, please contact Robin Bolster-Grant, Land Use Division Manager, at (253) 401-1413 or rbgrant@tacoma.gov.