

**DRAFT  
CITY OF SAMMAMISH  
WASHINGTON  
ORDINANCE NO. O2013 -**

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**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON, PERTAINING TO THE PROTECTION AND REGULATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS, AMENDING CHAPTERS 21A.50, 21A.15 AND 21A.70 OF THE SAMMAMISH MUNICIPAL CODE.**

WHEREAS, the adopted City of Sammamish Comprehensive Plan supports the protection of environmentally critical areas through the adoption of development regulations; and

WHEREAS, the State Growth Management Act (GMA) includes adopted goals and requirements to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations including requirements to designate and protect environmentally critical areas; and

WHEREAS; the City has considered those adopted goals, policies and requirements in development of the proposed Sammamish Municipal Code Amendments related to critical areas, and, has considered other state requirements, law, rules, guidelines, and agency comments; and

WHEREAS, the City researched and assessed the experience of other jurisdictions in regard to standards and requirements for regulating critical areas, undertook an extensive Best Available Science (BAS) review and public process in accordance with the requirements of the GMA, developed Sammamish Municipal Code amendment drafts, prepared environmental documents in accordance with the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and held meetings and hearings throughout the code development process; and

WHEREAS, the City has been provided feedback on draft work products and guidance from members of the public, city staff, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington State Department of Ecology, other stakeholders and experts, the Sammamish Planning Commission, and elected and appointed officials during the development of the recommended code amendments; and

WHEREAS, in developing this ordinance, the City has followed the GMA's requirements, including to provide "early and continuous public involvement" through a variety of mechanisms described in the public record; and

WHEREAS, the City has followed the State guidelines for the BAS process required by RCW 36.70A.172 and WAC 365-195-900 through 925, employing a variety of mechanisms described in the public record; and

## Exhibit 1

WHEREAS, a notice of intent to adopt the proposed code amendments was sent to the State of Washington Department of Commerce and to other State agencies on March 14, 2013 for a 60 day review and comment period in accordance with State law; and

WHEREAS, an environmental review has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and a SEPA threshold determination was issued, and published on May 20, 2013, in the Seattle Times; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a total of 22 public meetings to consider the proposed amendments, which included three open house public meetings, two joint meetings with the City Council on December 1, 2011 and May 8, 2012, and a public hearing beginning on November 8, 2012 and continuing through November 15, 2012, and deliberations on December 6, December 13, 2012, January 17, and January 24, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has provided a recommendation to the City Council related to the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held five study sessions on the proposed amendments on March 5, March 12, March 18, April 2, and April 15, 2013, and a public hearing and first reading on May 7, 2013 and second reading and continued public hearing on May 20, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the recommendation of the City Planning Commission and the public comments received; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and considered a variety of information sources including Best Available Science materials, informational documents in the public record, and public testimony submitted verbally and in writing to the Planning Commission and to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires the proposed amendments to be effective throughout the City including within shoreline jurisdiction, a subsequent Shoreline Master Program amendment should be prepared for submittal to the State Department of Ecology for approval;

WHEREAS, based upon the foregoing process, the City Council has made the following Findings of Facts and Conclusions:

1. The Growth Management Act requires critical areas to be designated and protected and for cities to include and be informed by BAS when developing critical areas regulations. RCW 36.70A.
2. Critical areas include wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, geologically hazardous areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, and frequently flooded areas.
3. The City of Sammamish has within its borders a variety of environmentally sensitive areas that require protection of important functions and values.

4. The proposed regulations for critical areas are sufficient and appropriate to protect the functions and values of those areas consistent with the Sammamish Comprehensive Plan and Growth Management Act.
5. The amendments hereafter set forth address requirements related to development in and near environmentally critical areas including environmentally critical areas buffers, performance standards, mitigation requirements, exemptions and exceptions.
6. The amendments serve to further implement the Comprehensive Plan, and provide protection for critical areas that is consistent with BAS and with providing options and development flexibility, and are in the public interest.
7. The critical areas regulations continue to allow for reasonable use of property to ensure that such regulations do not infringe on constitutional private property rights.
8. The public record demonstrates that the amendments were developed through a review of the BAS literature available to the City for review and consideration.
9. The City has followed the GMA's requirements for public involvement and for including and considering BAS in modification of the regulations for critical areas.
10. The public testimony provided to the City included both support for the proposed amendments and suggestions for modifications.
11. Based on the review of the testimony and public record, the amendments attached to this ordinance reflect the City's requirement to protect critical areas and to consider the planning goals of the GMA, while recognizing public and private interests.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Adoption of amendments to Sammamish Municipal Code 21A.50 - Environmentally Critical Area Regulations, 21A.15 - Technical Terms and Land Use Definitions, and 21A.70 - Nonconformance, Temporary Uses, and Re-Use of Facilities.** The amendments to the Sammamish Municipal Code as set forth in Attachment "A" to this ordinance are hereby adopted.

**Section 2. Codification of the regulations.** The City Council authorizes the Community Development Director and City Clerk to correct errors in Attachment A, codify the regulatory provisions of the amendment to into Title 21A of the Sammamish Municipal Code, and publish the amended code.

**Section 3. Interpretation.** The City Council authorizes the Community Development Director to adopt administrative rules, adopt interpretations and administer the amended code as necessary to implement the legislative intent of the City Council.

**Section 4. Severability.** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this Ordinance be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or pre-emption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City, and shall take effect and be in full force \_\_\_\_\_ after the date of publication.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF  
ON THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2013**

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melonie Anderson, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce L. Disend, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk:  
Public Hearing:  
First Reading:  
Public Hearing:  
Second Reading:  
Passed by the City Council:  
Ordinance No.  
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