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# memorandum

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to Kittitas County/City of Ellensburg SMP Update CAC and TAC

from Adam Merrill

subject Introduction to the Ellensburg Draft Cumulative Impacts Analysis (October 2013)

As part of the regional Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update effort underway in Kittitas County, City of Ellensburg, City of Cle Elum, and Town of South Cle Elum, each jurisdiction is required to evaluate the “cumulative impacts” of reasonably foreseeable future development to verify that the policies and regulations proposed for shoreline management in each jurisdiction are adequate to ensure “no net loss of shoreline functions.” The report is an analysis of the cumulative impacts that can be expected to occur if the Ellensburg Revised Draft SMP is implemented.

## **How Does the Report Fit in with the Shoreline Master Program?**

Similar to the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report developed for the County and its municipalities, the Draft Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA) is a technical document intended to support the SMP comprehensive update. The report is intended to inform City residents, Department of Ecology and other stakeholders of the City’s proposed SMP of whether or not the SMP will be effective in preventing cumulative impacts to shoreline functions. The Draft CIA was prepared based on the October 2013 Revised Draft SMP. Because the SMP policies and regulations, including the proposed shoreline environment designations, are still being refined, the CIA will need to be updated and finalized to reflect the changes. The Draft CIA is being provided now to provide a preliminary assessment of whether the Revised Draft SMP would result in cumulative impacts to shoreline functions.

The Department of Ecology will consider the conclusions of the report as part of its review and final approval of the City’s Shoreline Master Program.

## **What is the Scope of the CIA?**

The analysis is limited to areas within Ellensburg city limits that are under the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Management Act. The impacts addressed in this analysis are the cumulative ecological impacts that could result from development and uses within shoreline jurisdiction. Development outside of City shoreline jurisdiction is

not considered in this CIA. The development impacts described in the CIA are based on expected future development trends within the City.

## **What are the Preliminary Results of the CIA?**

Based upon the Inventory and Characterization Report, the draft Shoreline Restoration Plan, an analysis of reasonably foreseeable future development, and the provisions of the October 2013 Revised Draft SMP, we determined that the SMP would be effective in preventing cumulative impacts to shoreline functions within City shoreline jurisdiction.

## **How Can You Help with the Final Analysis?**

You can help refine the analysis by considering these key questions:

- Does the analysis of future development appear to accurately estimate potential new development within a 20-year planning horizon?
- Are there additional shoreline restoration opportunities that are not included in the report?
- Is the analysis of shoreline “functions at risk” accurate, in the context of historic shoreline development and alteration within the City?