To: City of Mercer Island Planning Commission
From: Travis Saunders, Planner
Re: October 7 2009 Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update Workshop
Date: October 1, 2009

Commissioners and Councilmember Jahncke:

This evening’s Shoreline Master Program update workshop contains the following agenda item:

Agenda item 2:
The Commission will be reviewing shoreline environment designations (WAC 173-26-211) A staff presentation will provide information on the topic, including existing designations and conditions, state guidelines, and the City’s scientific consultant’s recommendations. Following the presentation, discussion, and deliberation, the Commission’s preliminary recommendation is requested for shoreline environment designations.

During the course of the September 16, 2009 meeting, the Commission requested of staff the following items:

1. Request: Provide draft language for vegetation standards that incorporates the Commission’s discussion of creating a twenty feet vegetation buffer, measured landward from the ordinary high water mark. 25% of the buffer area to contain vegetation coverage, with the first five feet of the buffer to contain native plantings. The draft also to include planting plan language that encourages shading through planting of a variety of ground cover, shrubs, and trees.
   Staff findings: Draft language is provided for the Commission’s review as Exhibit 1.

2. Request: Research prescriptive shoreline planting programs by other agencies.
   Staff findings: Staff contacted the Department of Ecology and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with the request and found that neither agency has a prescriptive planting program. The only planting plan by an agency that could be sourced is the Army Corps of Engineers RGP-3 plan, which was presented to the Commission as Exhibit 5 in the September 16, 2009 meeting packet.

Itemized below are the Shoreline Master Program update Exhibits for the October 7, 2009 Planning Commission meeting:

Exhibit 1: Draft Shoreline Vegetation Language

Exhibit 2: WAC 173-26-211 – Designation Guidelines
Exhibit 3: Current Mercer Island Code, MICC 19.07.110(B) – Shoreline Designated Environments

Exhibit 4: Current Shoreline Environment Map – MICC 19.07.110(B)(2) Appendix F

Exhibit 5: Shoreline Designation Recommendations by The Watershed Company

Exhibit 6: Proposed Designation Map

Exhibit 7: Analysis of Existing Zoning Code Related to Shoreline Clubs.

Should you have questions regarding the materials or the update process, feel free to contact me.