4 Shorelines of Statewide Significance

A. Purpose
Because shorelines of statewide significance are major resources from which all people of the state derive benefit, the statewide interest should be recognized and protected over the local interest in shorelines of statewide significance. [WAC 173-26-251(3)]

B. Applicability of Shorelines of Statewide Significance
Those areas which have been designated as Shorelines of Statewide Significance (RCW 90.58.030) in Kitsap County are:

1) Puget Sound - those areas lying seaward from the line of extreme low tide.
2) Hood Canal - From Kitsap-Mason line to Foulweather Bluff, from the line of extreme low tide to the ordinary high water mark, and associated shorelands.

C. Policies
To ensure that the statewide interest is recognized and protected over the local interest in shorelines of statewide significance, the County shall review all development proposals within shorelines of statewide significance for consistency with RCW 90.58.020 and the following policies (in order of preference):

Policy #1 Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest.
(a) The Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology, affected tribes, other resources agencies, and interest groups should be consulted for development proposals that could affect anadromous fisheries or other priority species or habitats. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(a)]

Policy #2 Preserve the natural character of the shoreline.
(a) Administer shoreline environments and use regulations to minimize damage to the unique character and ecology of shorelines of statewide significance. [WAC 173-26251(3)(c)]
(b) Where natural resources of statewide importance are being diminished over time by human activities, restoration of those resources should be facilitated. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(b)]

Policy #3 Result in the long term over short term benefit.
(a) Preserve sufficient shorelands and submerged lands to accommodate current and projected demand for economic resources, such as shellfish beds and navigable harbors. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(c)(iii)]
(b) Actions that would convert resources into irreversible uses or detrimentally alter natural conditions which are characteristic of shorelines of statewide significance should be severely limited. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(b)]
Policy #4  Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline.
(a) Projects shall be required to consider incremental and cumulative impacts while insuring no net loss of shoreline ecosystem processes and functions. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(d)(i)]
(b) In order to ensure the long-term protection of ecological resources of statewide importance, activities impacting anadromous fish habitats, forage fish spawning and rearing areas, shellfish beds and other unique environments should be severely limited. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(b and d)(i)]
(c) Limit public access where improvements would result in a loss of shoreline ecological functions, such as in priority or sensitive habitats. [WAC 173-26-221(4)(d)(v)]

Policy #5  Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines.
(a) Preserve and encourage public access with special scenic or cultural qualities. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(c)(iii)]

Policy #6  Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline.
(a) Public access and recreation requirements should take into account the activities of state agencies and the interests of the citizens of the state to visit public shorelines. [WAC 173-26-251(3)(c)(iii)]

Policy #7  Provide for any other element as defined in RCW 90.58.100 deemed appropriate or necessary.