

**Attachment C - Chapter 13.12 Floodplain Management**

**13.12.105 Definitions.**

Unless specifically defined below, terms or phrases used in this chapter shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this chapter its most reasonable application. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

“Adversely affect” or “adverse effect” means an effect that is a direct or indirect result of the proposed action or its interrelated or interdependent actions and the effects are not discountable, insignificant or beneficial. A discountable effect is extremely unlikely to occur. An insignificant effect relates to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where a take occurs. Based on best judgment, a person would not: (A) be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate an insignificant effect; or (B) expect a discountable effect to occur.

“Appurtenant structure” means a structure which is on the same parcel of property as the principal structure to be insured and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principal structure.

“Base flood” means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also referred to as the “100-year flood”). The area subject to the base flood is the special flood hazard area designated on flood insurance rate maps as Zone “A” or “V” including AE, AO, AH, A1-99 and VE.

“Base flood elevation” means the elevation of the base flood above the datum of the effective flood insurance rate map (FIRM).

“Basement” means any area of the structure having its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all sides.

“Beneficial effect” means a contemporaneous positive effect without any adverse effect. In the event that the overall effect of the proposed action is beneficial, but is also likely to cause some adverse effect, then the proposed action is considered to result in an adverse effect.

“Channel migration zone” means the area within the lateral extent of likely stream channel movement due to a destabilization and erosion, rapid stream incision, aggradations, avulsions, and shifts in location of stream channels.

“Critical facility” means a facility necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare during a flood. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire and emergency operations installations, water and wastewater treatment plants, electric power stations, and installations which produce, use, or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste (other than consumer products containing hazardous substances or hazardous waste intended for household use).

“Development” means any manmade change to improved or unimproved real estate in the regulatory floodplain, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, subdivision of land, removal of more than five percent of the native vegetation on the property, or alteration of natural site characteristics.

“Director” means the ~~public works~~ Planning and Community Development Director or designee.

“Dry floodproofing” means any combination of structural and nonstructural measures that prevent floodwaters from entering a structure.

“Elevation certificate” means the most current version of the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program form that documents the elevation of a structure within a special flood hazard area relative to the ground level so as to ensure compliance with this chapter, to determine the flood insurance premium rate, and/or to support a map amendment or revision.

“ESA” means the Endangered Species Act.

“Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)” means the agency responsible for administering the National Flood Insurance Program.

“FEMA” means Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“FIRM” means flood insurance rate map.

“Fish and wildlife habitat conservation area” means lands needed to maintain species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. These areas are designated in SMC 20.80.260 through 20.80.300.

“Flood” or “flooding” means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:

- A. The overflow of inland or tidal waters; and/or
- B. The unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

“Flood insurance rate map (FIRM)” means the official map on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

“Flood insurance study” means the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that includes flood profiles, the flood insurance rate map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

“Flood protection elevation (FPE)” means the elevation above the datum of the effective FIRM to which new and substantially improved structures must be protected from flood damage.

“Floodway” means the channel of a stream or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot at any point.

“Functionally dependent use” means a use that must be located or carried out close to water, for example docking or port facilities necessary for the unloading of cargo or passengers, or shipbuilding and ship repair.

“Historic structure” means a structure that:

- A. Is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Washington Heritage Register, or the Washington Heritage Barn Register; or

B. Has been certified to contribute to the historical significance of a registered historic district.

“Hyporheic zone” means a saturated layer of rock or sediment beneath and/or adjacent to a stream channel that contains some proportion of channel water or that has been altered by channel water infiltration.

“Impervious surface” means a hard surface area which causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from the flow present under natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots or storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, gravel roads, packed earthen materials, and oiled macadam or other surfaces which similarly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater.

“Lowest floor” means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement or crawl space) of a structure. An unfinished or flood-resistant enclosure, used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a structure’s lowest floor; provided, that such enclosure is compliant with SMC 13.12.500(B)(6), so that there are adequate openings to allow floodwaters into the area.

“Manufactured home” means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term “manufactured home” does not include a “recreational vehicle.”

“Manufactured home park or subdivision” means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

“Market value” means either the true and fair value of the property as established by the county assessor or by a Washington State certified or licensed appraiser.

“Native vegetation” means plant species that are indigenous to the community’s area and that reasonably could be expected to naturally occur on the site.

“Natural floodplain functions” means the contribution that a floodplain makes to support habitat, including but not limited to providing flood storage and conveyance, reducing flood velocities, reducing sedimentation, filtering nutrients and impurities from runoff, processing organic wastes, moderating temperature fluctuations, and providing breeding and feeding grounds, shelter, and refugia for aquatic or riparian species.

“New construction” means structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of this chapter.

“NMFS” means National Marine Fisheries Service.

“Protected area” means the lands that lie within the boundaries of the floodway, the riparian habitat zone, and the channel migration area. Because of the impact that development can have on flood heights and velocities and habitat, special rules apply in the protected area.

“Recreational vehicle” means a vehicle:

A. Built on a single chassis; and

B. Four hundred square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; and

C. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by an automobile or light duty truck; and

D. Designed primarily for use as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use, not as a permanent dwelling.

“Regulatory floodplain” means the area of the special flood hazard area plus the protected area, as defined in SMC 13.12.300. The term also includes newly designated areas that are delineated pursuant to SMC 13.12.300(E).

“Riparian” means of, adjacent to, or living on the bank of a river, lake, pond, ocean, sound, or other water body.

“Riparian habitat zone” means the water body and adjacent land areas that are likely to support aquatic and riparian habitat as detailed in SMC 13.12.300(D)(2).

“Special flood hazard area (SFHA)” means the land subject to inundation by the base flood. Special flood hazard areas are designated on flood insurance rate maps with the letter “A” or “V” including AE, AO, AH, A1-99 and VE. The special flood hazard area is also referred to as the area of special flood hazard or SFHA.

“Start of construction” includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The “actual start” means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the “actual start of construction” means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

“Structure” means a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground.

“Substantial damage” means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

“Substantial damage” also means flood-related damage sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a 10-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each such flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

“Substantial improvement” means any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, replacement, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either:

A. Before the “start of construction” of the improvement; or

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B. Before damage occurred, if the structure has been damaged or is being restored.

Substantial improvement occurs with the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not the alteration affects external dimensions.

Substantial improvement includes structures that have incurred “substantial damage,” regardless of the actual repair work performed.

Substantial improvement does not include any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions.

“Variance (floodplain)” means a grant of relief from the requirements of this chapter that permits construction in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this chapter.

“Water typing” means a system for classifying water bodies according to their size and fish habitat characteristics. The Washington Department of Natural Resources’ forest practices water typing classification system is hereby adopted by reference. The system defines four water types:

- A. Type “S” – Shoreline. Streams that are designated “shorelines of the state,” including marine shorelines.
- B. Type “F” – Fish. Streams that are known to be used by fish or meet the physical criteria to be potentially used by fish.
- C. Type “Np” – Non-fish perennial streams.
- D. Type “Ns” – Non-fish seasonal streams.

“Waters of the state” includes lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, underground water, salt waters, estuaries, tidal flats, beaches, and lands adjoining the seacoast of the state, sewers, and all other surface waters and watercourses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.

“Zone” means one or more areas delineated on the FIRM. The following zones may be used on the adopted FIRM. The special flood hazard area is comprised of the A and V zones.

A	SFHA where no base flood elevation is provided.
A#	Numbered A Zones (e.g., A7 or A14), SFHA with a base flood elevation.
AE	SFHA with a base flood elevation.
AO	SFHA subject to inundation by shallow flooding usually resulting

	from sheet flow on sloping terrain, with average depths between one and three feet. Average flood depths are shown.
AH	SFHA subject to inundation by shallow flooding (usually pond areas) with average depths between one and three feet. Base flood elevations are shown.
B	The area between the SFHA and the 500-year flood of the primary source of flooding. It may also be an area with a local, shallow flooding problem or an area protected by a levee.
C	An area of minimal flood hazard, as above the 500-year flood level of the primary source of flooding. B and C zones may have flooding that does not meet the criteria to be mapped as a special flood hazard area, especially pond and local drainage problems.
D	Area of undetermined but possible flood hazard.
V	The SFHA subject to coastal high hazard flooding including waves of three feet or greater in height. There are three types of V zones: V, V#, and VE, and they correspond to the A zone designations.
X	The area outside the mapped SFHA.
X – Shaded	The same as a Zone B, above.

**13.12.200 Floodplain administrator.**

A. Administrator Designation. The ~~public works~~Planning and Community Development Director is hereby appointed as the floodplain administrator, to administer and implement this chapter by granting or denying floodplain development permit applications in accordance with its provisions.

B. Administrator Duties. The director's duties shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

1. Ensure that all development activities within the regulatory floodplain of the jurisdiction of the city meet the requirements of this chapter.
2. Review all floodplain development permits to determine that the permit requirements of this chapter have been satisfied.
3. Review all floodplain development permits to determine if the proposed development is located in the protected area. If located in the protected area, ensure that the provisions of SMC 13.12.600 are met.
4. Review all floodplain development permits to determine that all necessary permits have been obtained from those federal, state, or local governmental agencies from which prior approval is required, including those local, state or federal permits that may be required to assure compliance with the Endangered Species Act and/or other appropriate state or federal laws.
5. Delegate to the building official, or designee, the responsibility to inspect all development projects before, during, and after construction to ensure compliance with all provisions of this chapter, including proper elevation of the structure.
6. Maintain for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of this chapter.
7. Submit reports as required for the National Flood Insurance Program.
8. Notify FEMA of any proposed amendments to this chapter.
9. Cooperate with state and federal agencies to improve flood and other technical data and notify FEMA of any new data that would revise the FIRM.

C. Upon receipt of a permit for a development project within a floodplain, the director shall compare the elevation of the site to the base flood elevation. A development project is not subject to the requirements of this chapter if it is located on land that can be shown to be:

1. Outside the protected area; and
2. Higher than the base flood elevation.

D. The director shall inform the applicant that the project may still be subject to the flood insurance purchase requirements unless the owner receives a letter of map amendment from FEMA.

E. The director shall make interpretations where needed, as to the exact location of the boundaries of the regulatory floodplain, the SFHA and the protected area where there appears to be a conflict between the mapped SFHA boundary and actual field conditions as determined

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by the base flood elevation and ground elevations. The applicant may appeal the director's interpretation of the location of the boundary to the hearing examiner according to the procedures described in SMC 20.30.200 through 20.30.270.