

City of Oroville
NEWS RELEASE
February 16, 2022

Shoreline Master Program Update Getting Underway

The City of Oroville will be initiating the public process for completing the required comprehensive update and periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in January, 2022. The city adopted its first SMP in 1991 after using the Okanogan County Shoreline Master Program since 1976.

The City is required to have an SMP in compliance with the Shoreline Management Act, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in the early 1970s. The Act requires that each county, city or town that contains a river or stream with a mean annual flow of 20 cubic feet per second or a lake greater than 20 acres in size, prepare and adopt a Shoreline Master Program. The SMP is a combination comprehensive plan and zoning code for areas under shoreline jurisdiction, that area lying 200 feet landward on a horizontal plane from the ordinary-high-water-mark or floodway boundary, whichever is greater, and any associated wetlands. Oroville has shoreline areas on Lake Osoyoos and the Okanogan and Similkameen Rivers.

Land uses within shoreline jurisdiction in the community include residential, commercial, public, industrial and undeveloped. The SMP contains permitting requirements and regulations for a variety of land uses within shoreline jurisdiction with the overall goal that the shoreline area be managed to “ensure no net loss” of shoreline functions and values. With much of the city’s shoreline areas already developed, the updated SMP will primarily affect new and significant redevelopment of land within shoreline jurisdiction. Most common activities, e.g. building a single family home and appurtenant structures, remodeling within an existing structure footprint and other low impact activities under a state defined amount are exempt from permitting but do require compliance with the SMP.

The Planning Commission, filling the role of the Shoreline Advisory Committee will hold a Public Workshop on February 22, 2022 to kick off the process, provide background information on the Shoreline Management Act, an overview of the City’s existing SMP and the process being used for the comprehensive review and periodic update. Any questions can be directed to Cindy Boyer at City Hall 509 476-2926 or Kurt Danison, Planner at 509 322 4037.