DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Proposal Name: Pierce County Flood Code and Shoreline Master Plan Updates

Proponent and Lead Agency: Pierce County Planning and Public Works - Surface Water Management Division

Date of Issuance: June 1, 2021

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Purpose of Announcement: The purpose of this announcement is to invite comments on the determination of non-significance (DNS) for proposed flood code and shoreline master plan updates.

Description of Proposal: The lead agency proposes to adopt a new updates the Pierce County Code (PCC) titles 18, 18E, and 18s to incorporate changes to flood hazard area code to ensure compatibility with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Changes to the flood hazard codes in PCC section 18E.70 and to definitions in section 18.25 are intended to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in flood hazard areas and provide criteria necessary for regulated activities located within flood hazard risk areas in Pierce County. Title 18S Development Policies and Regulations - Shorelines adopts section 18E.70 by reference, which means that these updates require a technical amendment to Pierce County’s Shoreline Master Plan updating the effective date of Title 18E in 18S.10.065 B. This a non-project action under SEPA.

Location of Proposal: Proposed changes affect codes that are in effect countywide. All of the flood hazard areas within unincorporated Pierce County would be subject to these code changes.

Pierce County has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist and list of proposed code changes. This information is available at: piercecountywa.gov/SMPfloodcode

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

The proposed changes do not represent a reduction in flood hazard or shoreline protection afforded by the existing flood code and shoreline master program. They do, in fact, increase the level of protection as a result of greater restrictions on structures within flood hazard areas.
Comment Deadline: This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and the comment period will end on June 18, 2021.

Date: June 1, 2021  SEPA Responsible Official: [Signature]
  (for) Jén Tetatzin
  Director of Planning and Public Works