SMP/CAO Monitoring

APA Regional Planners' Forum

April 19, 2018

Background

- Both elected officials and community members had an interest in monitoring efforts to collect recent, local, and scientifically appropriate data with which to review and assess the effectiveness of the SMP.

- Planning staff developed a SMP monitoring program based on City Council direction, approved April, 2015.

- Little implementation to date due to lack of staff time and no funding for monitoring efforts.

- Lessons learned useful for Critical Areas Ordinance Update.

Step 1: Determine Reasons for Monitoring

Primary goals of the SMP monitoring program include:

- Meet regulatory requirements.

- Document compliance with SMP regulations.

- Quantify and characterize environmental change in shoreline.

- Expand knowledge and understanding of SMP goals, policies and regulations.

- Establish common understanding.

- Provide feedback for SMP update.

Step 2: Establish Key Objectives and Study Questions

The monitoring program was designed to help answer several key questions:

- Is effective compliance with SMP regulations being achieved?

- Are gains or losses of ecological functions and processes occurring in the shoreline environment?

- If losses are occurring, what are the drivers?

- What are the programmatic and/or regulatory adjustments needed to achieve no net loss of shoreline functions and processes?

Step 3: Design the Monitoring Program

Design of the monitoring program followed these general steps:

- Extensive research and discussion by ETAC and others
- Peer workshop for review and refinement
- Input from shoreline, monitoring and outreach experts
- Develop a specific monitoring strategy
- Gain Council acceptance
- Develop first year program

Step 3: Design the Monitoring Program

How and what do we measure?

- **Eelgrass and Kelp:** Monitoring Important Nearshore Subtidal Habitats

- **Intertidal Beach Sediment Supply, Sediment Distribution and Shoreline Position:** Monitoring Critical Habitat For Juvenile Salmonids, Forage Fish, Shellfish And Eelgrass, and Changes to Major Shoreline Features

- **Marine Riparian Vegetation:** Monitoring Shading, and Food Supply to the Nearshore

- **Water Quality:** Monitoring for Adequate Water Quality for Fish and Nearshore Resources

- **Estuarine Emerging Vegetation (salt marsh):** Monitoring for Changes in Critical Salt Marsh Habitats

Step 3: Design the Monitoring Program

The monitoring program includes two types of monitoring that will provide data to inform adaptive management actions:

- In general, **implementation monitoring** is intended to (a) capture and track permit activity and (b) ensure compliance with permit-level mitigation measures and performance standards.

- **Status and trends monitoring** is intended to monitor change in established ecological parameters.

- Monitoring results will inform an **adaptive management** process aimed at improving both regulations and program implementation as needed.

Monitoring Approach

Baseline conditions
- New and existing data
- Existing development

SMP

Improved regulations

Improved implementation

Development Activity

Implementation Monitoring

Track Permits
Assess Compliance

Council response
Community response

Assess need for change

(Limited) Status and Trends Monitoring

Shoreline Conditions

Is existing level of protection acceptable?

Monitor type and Magnitude of change

Adaptive Management

Step 4: Determine the Monitoring Time Frame

Schedule: The monitoring program was initiated in 2015 and will extend through the City's next SMP update in 2020. Year 1 will conclude at the end of 2015. Monitoring results will inform the City's next SMP update, due in 2020.

Funding: First year funding includes only allocation/dedication of current planning staff (.20 FTE Associate Planner). **Subsequent years of the monitoring program will require additional funding** dependent upon results of Year 1 and recommendations for adaptive management and program growth.

Activity to Date

- LIDAR data and air photos collected; converted to land use/land cover through WDFW grant

- Funded DNR eelgrass monitoring effort – expanded scope

- Potential partnership with WWU/Huxley

Activity to Date
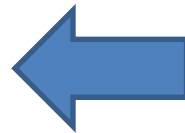
- Permit tracking framework developed

Contents

Single Family Residence Shoreline Mitigation Manual

Capture project data consistent with impacts addressed in mitigation manual using SmartGov permit database

Lessons Learned

- Motivation and funding limited with no mandate
- Scientists and planners need to collaborate on feasibility of data collection and database management
- Important to look for all available resources (e.g., other ongoing monitoring efforts, grant and partnership opportunities)
- Difficult to develop permit tracking system "after the fact"
- Important to consider how permit tracking will occur when writing code
- Need to develop permit tracking expectations with staff at "onboarding" – not optional
- May be more effective to have dedicated staff (compliance monitoring)

Critical Areas Ordinance Update

- Created minor critical area permit for tracking/monitoring purposes
  - Previously, many activities within critical areas were not captured (no review, or review with clearing permit or building permit)
  - No fee or intake appointment required
  - Can be approved at counter
- Setting up permit database to begin tracking at effective date of new CAO
  - New critical areas review workflow step, attaching to "parent permit" where possible to streamline process but still be able to track
  - Project details must be entered before permit can be closed

Questions and Discussion

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