

Mason County

SMP= Shoreline Master Program

- Do common line setbacks apply also to ancillary structures, ex. shed? [Yes, see definition of "Development" below.](#)
- Do common line setbacks apply to plastic Rubbermaid containers that aren't permanent structures? [Maybe, see definition of "Development" below.](#)
- Do common line setbacks apply to structures/uses in place before 1988? **NO**
- Do you have to prove that your house is going to fall into the lake to obtain a permit for shoreline stabilization? [Yes, see Shoreline Stabilization regulations from SMP:](#)

MCC 17.50.340 B. 2. New structural stabilization measures **shall not be allowed** except as follows:

- a. To protect existing primary structures:
 - i. New or enlarged structural shoreline stabilization measures for an existing primary structure, including residences, shall not be allowed unless there is conclusive evidence documented by a **Shoreline Geotechnical Assessment** that the structure is in danger from shoreline erosion caused by tidal action, currents, waves, or sea level rise. Normal sloughing, erosion of steep bluffs, or shoreline erosion itself, without a scientific or geotechnical analysis, is not demonstration of need. The geotechnical assessment shall evaluate on-site drainage issues and address drainage problems away from the shoreline edge before considering structural shoreline stabilization.
 - ii. The erosion control structure will not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions. This shall be demonstrated in a **Habitat Management Plan** as required in MCC 8.52.170(J).
 - iii. Primary structure means the structure or the only access associated with the principal use of the property that cannot feasibly be relocated. It may also include single family residential appurtenant structures that cannot feasibly be relocated.

- Is there evidence that soft-shore armoring is successful on Lake Cushman? **No soft-shore armoring has been attempted so far at Lake Cushman to our knowledge. However, LCMC is proposing soft-shore armoring at one of their Division Parks. We will monitor for success/failures.**

Development: A use consisting of the construction or exterior alteration of structures; dredging; drilling; dumping; filling; removal of any sand, gravel or minerals; bulkheading; driving of piling; placing of obstructions; or any project of a permanent or temporary nature which interferes with the normal public use of the surface of the waters overlying lands subject to the Act at any stage of water level. Siting a piece of equipment on the ground, such as a portable bar-b-que, is not "development" if the action meets the following criteria:

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- It involves no construction on site.
- It is not permanently affixed to the ground or other surface or platform.
- It does not require a building permit, mechanical permit, or plumbing permit.
- It is not located at or waterward of the ordinary high water mark.
- It does not include any of the actions listed in the definition for "development".
- It is subject to the SMP vegetation requirements (no clearing).
- It is not a containerized storage unit.

Tacoma Power

SMP= Shoreline Management Plan

SUSPG= Shoreline Use Specifications and Permitting Guidelines

SUP= Shoreline Use Permit

Safety

- Are red buoys that identify the distance to shore for safety reasons allowed? I believe this question was referring to buoys placed solely to maintain a buffer between shoreline structures and vessel traffic, not mooring buoys. The short answer is no. There is no provision in Tacoma Power's Shoreline Management Plan to allow marker buoys to maintain "vessel-free" areas in front of development lots.

The entire lake and shoreline up to 742 feet elevation (on Lake Cushman) is open to the public. Placement of a series of marker buoys would create the illusion that the area between the buoys and shore is private property, which it is not. In addition, there would be significant on-going maintenance and management associated with ensuring the buoys are properly anchored, are built with the correct materials (sinking line, etc.), have enough line scope for the changing lake levels, etc.

Tacoma Power's hydroelectric project crew has stated that buoys interfere with their work. Section I(c) of the master lease states that no uses will be allowed that interfere with Tacoma Power's operations.

Issues with boats should be reported to the Mason County Sheriff.

- Is it allowable to store boats, kayaks, etc. on my dock or on the shoreline fronting my development lot during the summer? See Appendix B Section 2.4 "Appurtenant Dock Uses" of the SUSPG. One portable boat may be stored on ungrated dock decking area or on the shoreline

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where vegetation will not be damaged. Storage of more than one boat would need to be authorized in the SUP. Goal is to avoid impacts shoreline vegetation and maintain aesthetics.

- Can Tacoma Power make some suggestions for safety? What can be done to ensure people swimming are not at risk of injury from boater traffic? Swim within designated swimming areas located at the Division Parks, Skokomish Park, or the Lake Cushman Resort. Swim close to the shoreline or your shoreline structures. Report issues to the Mason County Sheriff.
- Several years ago the county was looking for a place to moor a boat or jet ski for enforcement officers. Can Tacoma Power help with this in order to help improve safety? Possibly; Mason County should contact Tacoma Power Shoreline and Lands Coordinator Wynnae Wright at (253) 441-4180 or wwright@cityoftacoma.org to discuss their needs.
- Is it possible to install better boater safety and regulations signage at Skokomish Park and the Lake Cushman Resort? We are currently updating some of our jointly managed kiosks and will consider adding boater safety/regulation information.

Permitting

- Would it be possible to have some shoreline structure designs that have been permitted, and/or would be easily permitted, available for people to make the permitting process easier so that we don't have to dream this stuff up? This would be a good idea for the local contractors to come up with some packages they could offer to lessees, however, Tacoma Power would not offer this service.
 - Mason County has design standards for bulkheads and stairs. Each dock project is designed to be compatible with the lot and shoreline conditions, so they don't know if a "one-size-fits-all" design would work.
 - Tacoma Power cannot voluntarily share engineering plans of previously permitted projects because of the proprietary rights of the lot lessees who paid for that work.
- When does Tacoma Power anticipate that the draft SMP will be submitted? Tacoma Power expects to have a draft out for comment in late 2018.
- Last year it was noted that bringing the remaining unpermitted uses into compliance with our SMP was going to be a five-year process. Is that still the goal? Yes
- Is a licensed contractor required to do work on the shoreline? No
- When was the beginning of the five-year process? It was originally identified as a goal in 2014. We recognize that achieving compliance with all the structures by 2019 is not realistic, so we are now evaluating possible measures that could be implemented to enable achieving full compliance within five years from now.
- If Tacoma Power is working on the draft SMP now and expects to have it completed by the end of 2018, how will that affect lessees who are in the middle of the permitting process? Lessees

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who are in the middle of permitting will continue under the same permitting regime. Once the new plan is adopted, then new applicants will be subject to the updated plan.

- When labeling the docks with the required numbers, what are the specifications (location, size, lettering, etc.)? Tacoma Power will be providing and placing the placards on the permitted docks.
- Is it still a requirement to have reflective markers on the corners of the docks? Yes.
- Is Tacoma Power able to provide a contact/recommendation for rip rap installation? No. Tacoma Power cannot make recommendations.
- What is the justification for having to reapply for permits every five years? To clarify, the only permit that needs to be updated every five years is the SUP, so long as nothing has changed and nothing new is planned. Our FERC license states that we must actively manage the shoreline uses and structures and bring them into compliance with the SMP. Visiting the structures every five years ensures that as the structures age and need repairs, they will be properly maintained and remain in compliance with the SMP terms. It also better ensures that unpermitted work isn't done.
- Shoreline erosion that has been occurring since the beginning of dam operations has continued to move the 742' contour landward and effectively reduced the size of development lots. What can be done to address the loss of shoreline frontage? If you have a home on the adjacent upland development lot soft-shore armoring or a bulkhead would be allowed if justified, as outlined in the SUSPG. This option is not available to lots without a home.
- When selling, will the new lessees have to get new permits and/or bring docks into compliance under the updated guidelines? If regulatory permits (Mason County, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) have been obtained for the current shoreline structures, then the only permit that a new adjacent lessee needs to obtain is a new SUP from Tacoma Power. Tacoma Power permits are issued to the lessee and are not transferable. If the docks are well-maintained, they would typically not be required to be retrofitted. We are proposing to make that more clear when we revise the SMP.
- Is a cultural resources survey required for after-the-fact permitting of a structure? Yes, if there was ground disturbance associated with the original construction, it would likely require a cultural resources survey.
- Is the permit fee waiver still available if we (lessee) completed the 2014 shoreline survey? Yes, if you returned the 2014 survey within the specified timeframe, your initial SUP permit fee will be waived.
- Are Lake Cushman shoreline lessees able to access the 1972 photos of shoreline structures? Yes. Please contact Wynnae Wright at (253) 441-4180 or wwright@cityoftacoma.org to see if we have a 1972 photo of your lot.

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- If a shoreline structure has a Reservoir Structure Permit with no expiration date, is a new SUP with a five-year term needed? **Yes. Everyone needs to come into the new SUP permit schedule.**
- If there are existing unpermitted structures/uses associated with the lessee's lot, does anything need to be done now? **Not if they are properly maintained. Eventually all shoreline uses and structures need to be permitted. If you are ready to begin the permitting process, please contact Wynnae Wright at (253) 441-4180 or wwright@cityoftacoma.org**
- What is the process for getting someone to come out to your lot to tell you what is allowable and what is not? **Contact Wynnae Wright at (253) 441-4180 or wwright@cityoftacoma.org. She can start with a file review and/or will set up a site visit, whatever works for you.**
- I do not know where to locate permits associated with my lot if I have any. Where can we look? **Please contact Wynnae Wright at (253) 441-4180 or wwright@cityoftacoma.org to see if Tacoma Power has anything on file. For Mason County, contact Senior Planner Kell Rowen at krowen@co.mason.wa.us or (360) 427.9670 ext. 365. Sometimes the LCMC has permits on file as well, but Tacoma should have copies of those.**

Other

- Where can we find Kyrra's contact info?

Kyrra Wilson | Tacoma Power

Wildlife and Recreation Lands Officer
(253) 502-8824 (office)
(253) 686-0904 (cell)
kwilson@cityoftacoma.org

- Are there any plans for Zebra and Quagga mussel prevention at Lake Cushman? Whose jurisdiction is it to monitor mussel infestations/prevention?

According to their website (https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/about_council.shtml), the Washington Invasive Species Council (which was established by the legislature in 2006, and then extended until 2022) was tasked with providing policy level direction, planning, and coordination for combating harmful invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of others that may be potentially harmful. Read more about Zebra and Quagga mussels on their website:

https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/priorities/zebra_quagga_mussels.shtml

No Zebra or Quagga mussel populations have been found in Washington, but they are found in some other western states. The habitat for these mussels is not ideal in most of Tacoma Power's reservoirs due to the lowering of the water level each winter which could not be tolerated by the mussels. Still, Tacoma Power remains concerned about the future. We have conducted identification training for the managers at our hydropower projects and have placed signage at most of our boat launches.

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The state has a monitoring program and Tacoma Power will cooperate with them if requested. You can read more on WDFW's website:

- Zebra mussels: https://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/dreissena_polymorpha/
- Quagga mussels: https://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/dreissena_bugensis/

Report sightings at: <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>

- Why are these meetings held in December instead of during the summer when more people are able to attend? This particular meeting was held in December because Mason County had just ratified their new Shoreline Master Program in late October and we wanted to get the information on their changes and Tacoma Power's plans to Cushman lessees as soon as possible. We will consider more meetings if we find that there is interest and will consider doing them at other times of the year. Please remember that Wynnae Wright is available year-round to meet individually about your specific shoreline issues.