

Executive Staff Follow-up from April 16, 2025, LSLU Meeting
Additional Details on CAO Public Engagement
4/24/25

The Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update was functionally part of the 2024 Growth Management Act-required periodic Comprehensive Plan Update (2024 Update). As such, public notice of notice of comment opportunities, public updates via newsletter, resources and information on public web sites, and SEPA review for the 2024 Update also referenced the CAO update. The County also provided dedicated comment and engagement opportunities that were focused on the CAO and the supporting Best Available Science (BAS) review. Updates, communications, comment opportunities, and engagement on the CAO, both as part of the 2024 Update and separately, are summarized below.

Based on public comments and Councilmember questions raised in LSLU, this summary focuses on CAO engagement with 1) historically underrepresented communities and 2) natural resource commissions and committees. Other engagement with these communities and groups, as well as with other communities, groups; and the general public, also occurred throughout the 2024 Update process (both on the CAO and on other 2024 Update proposals). This summary focuses on the activities that included the CAO update.

Equitable engagement strategies were utilized throughout the Executive's 2024 Update development process, including but not limited to: translated social media posts; partnering with BIPOC social media micro-influencers; Spanish radio interviews; print materials (posters, handouts, rack cards, and placemats) distributed in historically underrepresented communities; survey incentives in historically underrepresented communities; place-based outreach efforts conducted in partnership with the members of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Equity Work Group and other community-based organizations (such as the Silent Taskforce, Utopia Washington, and White Center Community Development Association); tabling at community-led events (such as Skyway Juneteenth Celebration); and partnering with community centers in historically underrepresented communities. Translation and interpretation services were also offered. Key Executive staff summary documents and Executive surveys for the 2024 Update and CAO update were translated in 6-8 languages. Public meetings with comment opportunities hosted by the Executive provided interpretation in 6 languages. Public meetings with comment opportunities hosted by the Council offered language assistance. Detailed code language and the Best Available Science Report were not translated.

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
December 13, 2021	Presentation	Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF)	2024 Update and opportunities to be involved	Executive
January 19, 2022	Presentation	Rural Forest Commission	2024 Update and opportunities to be involved	Executive
January 21, 2022	E-newsletter ¹	General Public	Announcing kick off of 2024 Update and scoping comment period	Executive

¹ The specific distribution lists for "E-newsletter"s varied throughout the process, depending on the message sent and the step in the process. The email lists included but were not limited to: King County Comprehensive Plan; Unincorporated Area News; North Highline CSA Subarea Plan; Skyway-West Hill CSA Subarea Plan; Anti-Displacement and Equitable Development; Office of Equity, Racial and Social Justice; Businesses in unincorporated King County; Chambers and economic developers; Snoqualmie Valley CSA Subarea Plan; and Vashon-Maury Island CSA Subarea Plan.

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
January 21 to February 11, 2022	Written public comment opportunity	General Public	Scope of Work	Executive
February 10, 2022	Presentation	Agriculture Commission	2024 update and opportunities to be involved	Executive
February 28, 2022	Presentation	FFF Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC)	2024 update and opportunities to be involved	Executive
April 6, 2022	E-newsletter	General Public	Executive Recommended 2024 Update Scope of Work and Council comment opportunity	Executive
April 6 to June 7, 2022	Written public comment opportunity	General Public	Scope of work	Council
April 25, 2022	E-newsletter	General Public	Scope of work	Council
May 20, 2022	E-newsletter	General Public	Scope of work amendments, including CAO	Council
May 24, 2022	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	Scope of work amendments, including CAO	Council
June 7, 2022	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	Final scope of work, including CAO	Council
August 10, 2022	E-newsletter	General Public	SEPA threshold determination comment period, including final scope of work	Executive
August 10, 2022	Newspaper advertisement	General Public	SEPA threshold determination comment period, including final scope of work	Executive
January 30, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	Early concepts of proposals, including CAO areas of change	Executive
January 30 to February 24, 2023	Written public comment opportunity	General Public	Early concepts of proposals, including CAO areas of change	Executive
February 2023	Public Engagement	General Public, with a focus on historically	Early concepts, including CAO areas of change	Executive

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
		underrepresented communities		
February 6, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	Early concepts of proposals, including CAO areas of change	Executive
February 9, 2023	Virtual public meeting and verbal comment opportunity	General Public	Early concepts of proposals, including CAO areas of change	Executive
February 16, 2023	Virtual public meeting and verbal comment opportunity	General Public	Early concepts of proposals, including CAO areas of change	Executive
May 18, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Masterbuilders, Realtors, and Associated General Contractors of Washington	Early concepts of proposals, including CAO areas of change	Executive
June 1, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	Public Review Draft (PRD), including CAO areas of change	Executive
June 1 to July 15, 2023	Written public comment opportunity	General Public	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
June to July 2023	Public Engagement	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
June 8, 2023	Virtual public meeting and verbal comment opportunity	General Public	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
June 13, 2023,	Hybrid in-person and virtual public meeting and verbal comment opportunity	General Public, with a focus on Snoqualmie Valley	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
June 15, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Rural Forest Commission	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
June 15, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
June 22, 2023	In-person open house and verbal comment opportunity on PRD,	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
June 30, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
July 10, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public, with a focus on historically underrepresented communities	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
July 10, 2023	Virtual public meeting and verbal comment opportunity	General Public, with a focus on Vashon	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
July 13, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Agriculture Commission	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
August 10, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Agriculture Commission	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
August 17, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Rural Forest Commission	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
August to September 2023	Extended written comment opportunity	Agriculture Commission and Rural Forest Commission	PRD, including CAO areas of change	Executive
September 12, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	King Conservation District Board of Supervisors	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
September 14, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Agriculture Commission	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 14, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) Salmon Recovery Forums 7, 8, 9 leads	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 19, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Action, Futurewise, and Puget Soundkeeper	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 20, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	FFF IOC and FFF Buffer Task Force	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 21, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Rural Forest Commission	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 21, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Masterbuilders, Realtors, and Associated General Contractors of Washington	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 26, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	King Conservation District staff	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 27, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Joint Rural Area Team and CARE/SWAN	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
September 21, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Skyway Coalition	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
October 5, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	White Center Community Development Association	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
October 27, 2023	Presentation and verbal comment opportunity	Skyway Coalition, Homestead CLT, Community Land Conservancy, WA Farmland Trust, and Mithun	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
December 6, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public	Executive Recommended 2024 Update and comment period on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),	Executive

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
			including summary of BAS analysis and CAO amendment concepts	
December 6, 2023, to January 30, 2024	Written public comment opportunity	General Public	Draft EIS, including CAO areas of change	Executive
December 8, 2023	Email	Futurewise	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 8, 2023	Email	Sierra Club	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 8, 2023	Email	Washington Conservation Action	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 8, 2023	Email	Puget Soundkeeper	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 11, 2023	Email	Masterbuilders	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 11, 2023	Email	Realtors	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 11, 2023	Email	FFF IOC	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 12, 2023	Email	Joint Rural Area Team and CARE/SWAN	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 12, 2023	Email	Agriculture Commission	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 12, 2023	Email	Rural Forest Commission	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 12, 2023	Email	King Conservation District	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 14, 2023	Email	White Center Community Development Association, Skyway Coalition, Homestead CLT, Community Land Conservancy, WA Farmland Trust, and Mithun	Draft CAO amendments	Executive
December 15, 2023	E-newsletter	General Public	Council's review of 2024 Update and comment period on Draft EIS, including summary of BAS analysis and CAO amendment concepts	Council
December 2023 to December 2024	Written comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
January 10, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
January 17, 2024,	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
January 18, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal	General Public	2024 update and Draft EIS, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
	public comment opportunity			
February 1, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
February 7, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
February 18, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
February 13, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
February 21, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
February 28, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
March 1, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	Transmittal of Executive Recommended BAS report and CAO amendments to Council as part of 2024 Update	Executive
March 4, 2024	Presentation	Snoqualmie Valley Planning Committee (subset of WRIA 7 Forum members)	BAS review and CAO amendment concepts	Executive
March 5, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
March 6, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
March 7, 2024	In-person verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
March 14, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
March 20, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
March 27, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
April 3, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
April 4, 2024	In-person verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
April 11, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities, and change in CAO schedule	Council
April 17, 2024	Presentation and hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments, including specifically CAO policy changes	Council
May 8, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
May 14, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update striker, including CAO policy amendments, and 2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
May 15, 2024	Presentation and hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
May 16, 2024	In-person verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
May 29, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update striker, including CAO policy amendments, and 2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
June 5, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
	public comment opportunity			
June 6, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	Committee recommended 2024 update, including CAO policy amendments, and 2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
September 18, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update meetings and comment opportunities	Council
October 11, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update public hearing notice, including CAO amendments, and comment opportunities	Council
November 14, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update comment opportunities and striker, including CAO policy amendments, BAS review, and Final EIS on CAO policy and code changes	Council
November 27, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update comment opportunities and striker, including CAO policy amendments and BAS review	Council
December 2, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	2024 update comment opportunities and striker, including CAO policy amendments and BAS review	Council
December 3, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
December 6, 2024	E-newsletter	General Public	Transmittal of Executive Recommended BAS report and CAO amendments to Council	Executive
December 10, 2024	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity	General Public	2024 update, including BAS review and CAO amendments	Council
2022 through 2024	E-newsletters	Council Districts	2024 update, including CAO	Individual Councilmembers
February 14, 2025	E-newsletter	General Public	BAS report and CAO changes and comment opportunities	Council
February to TBD 2025	Written public comment opportunity	General Public	BAS and CAO changes	Council

Date	Activity	Audience	Content	Agency
February 19, 2025	Hybrid in-person and virtual verbal public comment opportunity on BAS review and CAO amendments	General Public	BAS and CAO changes	Council
April 11, 2025	E-newsletter	General Public	BAS report and CAO changes and comment opportunities	Council