



Public Services

128 North Second Street • Fourth Floor Courthouse • Yakima, Washington 98901
(509) 574-2300 • 1-800-572-7354 • FAX (509) 574-2301 • www.co.yakima.wa.us

LISA H. FREUND – Director

DATE: June 30, 2021

TO: SEPA Interested Agencies

FROM: Tommy Carroll – SEPA Responsible Official

SUBJ: LRN2021-00002/SEP2021-00015 – Title 16C CAO Text Amendments
**Notice of Open Record Public Hearing & Threshold Determination –
Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

Applicant: Yakima County Public Services – Planning Division
128 N. 2nd Street
4th Floor Courthouse
Yakima, WA 98901

Location: Countywide.

Proposal: This hearing is on the proposed Yakima County Code – Title 16C Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) text amendments to the flood hazard development requirements as a condition of Yakima County’s continued eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), to be adopted or show evidence of adoption to ensure Yakima County’s floodplain management regulations are compliant with the standards of Paragraph 60.3(d) of the NFIP. The adoption of these amendments coincides with the October 21, 2021, effectiveness date of updated flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) for portions of Cowiche Creek and Upper Naches River, in conformance with Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. To view the pending Cowiche Creek and Upper Naches River FIRMs, please use the following link: <https://arcg.is/0WakDe>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

An open record public hearing is scheduled before the Yakima County Planning Commission on July 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be conducted **virtually/telephonically** using the GoToMeeting platform. The public is highly encouraged to attend the meeting by using one of the following two methods:

- **Via Internet, go to the following website:**
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/194267221>
- **Via Telephone, you must call in between fifteen minutes prior to the**

scheduled hearing at the following number and enter the Access Code when prompted:

United States: +1 (872) 240-3412 Access Code: 194-267-221

If you wish to speak during the Public Hearing, there will be an allotted time for public comments. We will ask that all attendees state their name and contact information into the record. Please do not mute or unmute yourself; the host will do this for you. All participants must have their name listed in the GoToMeeting application window.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Yakima County, as the lead SEPA agency for this proposal, is issuing a DNS for comment under WAC 197-11-340(2). Your views on this proposal are welcome and comments related to this threshold determination must be submitted within 14 days by **4 p.m. on July 14, 2021**. After the comment period has ended, Yakima County will issue a Notice of Decision and retain, modify or withdraw the DNS, without an additional comment period.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All written comments may be emailed to longrangeplanning@co.yakima.wa.us or mailed to Yakima County Planning Division, 128 N. 2nd Street, 4th Floor Courthouse, Yakima, WA 98901. Comments should be submitted prior to the hearing or provided at the hearing. Be sure to include your contact information including mailing address and reference the above file numbers in your correspondence. Anyone who submits written comments will automatically become a party of record and will be notified of any decision on this project.

Copies of the development regulation text amendment, threshold determination, and link to the virtual GoToMeeting or conference line can be obtained at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/923/Planning-Commission> under the July 14, 2021, meeting section or obtained upon request.

If you have any questions on this proposal, please contact Nate Paris, Water Resource Supervisor, at (509) 574-2300 or nathan.paris@co.yakima.wa.us.

Encl: 1. Preliminary Threshold Determination – DNS

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

1. **Description of Proposal:** Yakima County shall review and revise their critical areas development regulations ensure consistency with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) eligibility requirements and is proposing text amendments to be adopted to ensure that Yakima County Code – Title 16C, Critical Areas Ordinance, floodplain management regulations are compliant with the standards of Paragraph 60.3(d) of the NFIP. The adoption of these amendments coincides with the October 21, 2021, effectiveness date of updated flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) for portions of Cowiche Creek and Upper Naches River, in conformance with Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. To view the pending Cowiche Creek and Upper Naches River FIRMs, please use the following link: <https://arcg.is/OWaKDe>.

2. **File Numbers:** LRN2021-00002/SEP2021-00015

3. **Applicant:** Yakima County Public Services
Planning Division
128 N. Street
4th Floor Courthouse
Yakima, WA 98901

4. **Location of Proposal:** Countywide

5. **Lead Agency:** Yakima County Planning Division

6. **Determination:** The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after a careful review of the completed environmental checklist, and other information on file with the lead agency. This information (including all environmental documentation) is available to the public on request and can be examined in our offices during regular business hours or online at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/923/Planning-Commission> under the July 14, 2021, meeting section or obtained upon request. Environmental documents include the SEPA checklist, this threshold determination, and Planning Commission Hearing draft of the Yakima County Code 16C – CAO text amendment.

7. **Comment and Appeal Information:** This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The Lead Agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance. You may submit comments on this proposal to the address below before **4:00 p.m. on July 14, 2021**. Agencies and those providing comments will receive a copy of the final decision. Appeal information will be provided with the final decision. For information on the comment process or other issues relating to

this proposal, please contact Nate Paris, Water Resources Supervisor, at (509) 574-2300.

8. **SEPA Responsible Official:** Thomas Carroll

9. **Designee:**


Thomas Carroll

10. **Address:**

128 N. 2nd St.
4th Floor Courthouse
Yakima, WA 98901

11. **Date:**

Jun 30, 2021

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Yakima County ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, nation origin, or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding Yakima County's Title VI Program, you may contact the Title VI Coordinator at 509-574-2300.

If this letter pertains to a meeting and you need special accommodations, please call us at 509-574-2300 by 10:00 a.m. three days prior to the meeting. For TDD users, please use the State's toll free relay service 1-800-833-6388 and ask the operator to dial 509-574-2300.