



State of Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4

Region 4 information: 16018 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98012 | phone: (425)-775-1311

October 14, 2025

City of Medina
501 Evergreen Point Rd
Medina, WA 98039

RE: WDFW's comments for Medina's Critical Area Ordinance update, Chapter 16.50

Dear Planning Staff and Commissioners,

My name is Morgan Krueger, and I serve as the Regional Land Use Lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). My coverage area includes Medina and surrounding jurisdictions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support** of Medina's proposed stream buffer width amendments within Chapter 16.50 of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO).

The decisions before you are vital to the long-term health of Medina's waterways and community, as well as the recovery of federally listed salmon populations. Riparian areas—commonly referred to as stream buffers—provide essential ecosystem services such as filtering pollutants, reducing flood risk, and stabilizing streambanks. Protecting these areas is both an environmental responsibility and an investment in public health, safety, and community resilience.

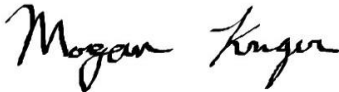
Medina's current water quality challenges are intrinsically linked to the health and management of its riparian corridors. Fairweather Creek is listed on the Department of Ecology's 303(d) list, meaning it is formally identified as impaired under the federal Clean Water Act and does not currently meet basic water quality standards. Strengthening riparian protections is a direct and scientifically supported way to address water quality impairments and improve both ecological and community outcomes.

WDFW's Best Available Science (Volume 1) and management recommendations (Volume 2) demonstrate that a 100-foot buffer is the minimum width necessary to effectively filter pollutants before they reach streams. We appreciate Medina's commitment to incorporating this standard, as well as its inclusion of vegetative requirements that ensure these areas function as intended.

The city's proposed amendments, while not fully consistent with all of WDFW's BAS recommendations, take a proactive step toward improving ecological resilience and water quality.

Thank you for your time and commitment to safeguarding Medina's natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Krueger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morgan Krueger
Regional Land Use Lead
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

CC:

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