



# MEDINA, WASHINGTON

## AGENDA BILL

Monday, Date, 2026

<p><b>Subject/Topic:</b> Critical Areas Ordinance Update</p> <p><b>Dept. Origin:</b> Development Services</p> <p><b>Category:</b> Council Business</p> <p><b>Prepared by:</b> Steven Wilcox, Dev. Services Director</p> <p><b>Attachments:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ordinance No. 1053</li><li>2. Exhibit A</li><li>3. Department of Natural Resources Comments</li></ol>	<p><b>Proposed Council Action/Motion:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Information Only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Receive and File</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Provide Direction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopt/Approve</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>
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### Proposed Council Action

The Council will be asked to adopt Critical Areas Ordinance Update No. 1053.

### Summary

The State of Washington requires that cities and counties update their Critical Areas Ordinances periodically to align with the Growth Management Act and to incorporate Best Available Science. In 2025, with assistance from our topic expert Facet and guidance by our City Attorney, the Medina Planning Commission reviewed the subject and draft code amendments.

The Planning Commission met on four occasions to discuss the Critical Areas Ordinance Update. Public Open Houses with Forums were conducted on July 30, 2025, and on October 13, 2025. A public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on November 18, 2025. Public comments were received and included within the final draft recommendation which was then submitted to the Council on December 8, 2025.

On December 8, 2025, the Council was presented with the Planning Commissions Critical Areas Ordinance Update recommendations and held a public hearing. The Council was asked to direct staff to forward the draft Critical Areas Ordinance Update to the Washington State Department of Commerce to begin their 60-day Notice period, and to begin SEPA review.

Following the Council's approval, the Critical Areas Ordinance was sent to the Department of Commerce and SEPA review was started. We received a comment from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey division. No other comments were received. The Geological Survey comments are considered minor and do not require amending the draft Critical Areas Ordinance that was reviewed by the Council on December 8, 2025. Staff is not recommending amendments to the draft previously reviewed by the Council and none are

included with the proposed adoption. Therefore, the Critical Areas Ordinance before you contain the same code amendments as were on the Council agenda on December 8, 2025.

### **Council Priorities**

This proposal furthers Council Priorities 2, 4 and 5.

1. Financial Stability and Accountability
2. Quality Infrastructure
3. Efficient and Effective Government
4. Public Safety and Health
5. Neighborhood Character and Community Building

**Budget/Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Recommendation:** Adopt Ordinance No. 1053.

**City Manager Approval:** 

**Proposed Council Motions:** "I move approval of Ordinance No. 1053 updating Medina Municipal Code Chapter 16.50 Critical Areas; amending or adding definitions within Medina Municipal Code Chapter 16.12; amending Medina Municipal Code 16.72.060 to make the reasonable use exception consistent with critical areas."