1 Adopted: 1/11/2023 2 Effective: 1/22/2023 3 4 SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL 5 Snohomish County, Washington 6 7 ORDINANCE NO. 22-065 8 9 RELATING TO GROWTH MANAGEMENT; AMENDING SCC 30.65.220 PERTAINING TO PERMITTED USES IN 10 **FLOODWAYS** 11 12 WHEREAS, counties and cities that are required to plan under the Growth Management Act 13 (GMA), chapter 36.70A RCW, must ensure their comprehensive plans and development regulations plan 14 for and accommodate affordable housing, while protecting both the environment and property rights; 15 and 16 WHEREAS, the Snohomish County ("County") GMA Comprehensive Plan (GMACP) - General 17 18 Policy Plan (GPP) has an objective to balance the protection of the natural environment with economic 19 growth, housing needs, and the protection of property rights; and 20 21 WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council ("County Council") adopted Ordinance No. 20-076 on 22 November 4, 2020, to permanently adopt the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Snohomish County 23 required by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency for compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as well as to add clarity to the County's 24 25 flood regulations; and 26 27 WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20-076 also adopted the federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps and 28 updated County special flood hazard regulations under chapters 30.43C and 30.65 and title 30.9 of the 29 Snohomish County Code (SCC); and 30 31 WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20-076 amended SCC 30.65.220(8) addressing the repair, 32 replacement, and improvement of substantially damaged residences in the floodway for consistency 33 with state and federal regulations; and 34 35 WHEREAS, changes to SCC 30.65.220(8) were a result of the NFIP Flood Damage Prevention 36 Ordinance Washington Model, Revised December 9, 2019, ("Model Ordinance") Section 5.4-2 titled: 37 "Residential Construction in Floodways" and RCW 86.16.041 which addresses rules for the repair or 38 replacement of existing residential structures; and 39 40 WHEREAS, the intent of Model Ordinance Section 5.4-2 is to prohibit construction or 41 reconstruction of residential structures in floodways, except for repairs, reconstruction, or 42 improvements to a residential structure that are not substantial improvements and that do not increase 43 the ground floor area; and 44 45 WHEREAS, Model Ordinance Section 5.4-2 was implemented through the addition of SCC 46 30.65.220(8) recognizing that repairs, replacement, or relocation of substantially damaged residences in 47 the floodway, other than farmhouses can be permitted in floodways when certain criteria are met; and

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WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20-076 unintentionally deleted SCC 30.65.220(9) which stated "Repair, reconstruction, or improvement of residential structures, where repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure does not increase the ground floor area, and is not a substantial improvement" when permitted by the applicable zone under chapter 30.22 SCC; and

WHEREAS, the unintentional deletion of SCC 30.65.220(9) by Ordinance No. 20-076 resulted in the prohibition of repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to residential structures in the floodway that have not been substantially damaged; and

WHEREAS, due to the deletion of SCC 30.65.220(9) and the lack of other code provisions allowing for repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to residential structures in the floodway, homeowners cannot currently perform repairs, reconstruction, or improvements even when such work does not increase ground floor area and is not a substantial improvement, despite such work being contemplated and allowed by the Model Ordinance Section 5.4-2; and

WHEREAS, as of May 31, 2022, there are over 6,000 homes within the floodway in unincorporated Snohomish County subject to these codes and potentially impacted by the unintentional prohibition of repairs, reconstruction, and improvement of these homes due to amendments found in Ordinance No. 20-076; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will re-adopt the language of SCC 30.65.220(9) exactly as it existed prior to the adoption of Ordinance No. 20-076 to again allow the repair, reconstruction, and improvement of residences located in the floodway, making the code consistent with Model Ordinance Section 5.4-2; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2022, the Snohomish County Planning Commission (the "Planning Commission") was briefed by Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS) staff about the proposed code amendments contained in this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 26, 2022, to receive public testimony concerning the proposed code amendments contained in this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the Planning Commission's public hearing, the Planning Commission deliberated on the proposed code amendments and voted to recommend approval of code amendments relating to flood hazard areas code correction as shown in its approval letter dated August 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2023, the County Council held a public hearing after proper notice, and considered public comment and the entire record related to the code amendments contained in this ordinance: and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing, the County Council deliberated on the code amendments contained in this ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. The County Council adopts the following findings in support of this ordinance:

1 A. The foregoing recitals are adopted as findings as if set forth in full herein.

B. This ordinance amends SCC 30.65.220 to re-adopt the former SCC 30.65.220(9) allowing the repair, reconstruction, and improvement of residential structures located withing the floodway so long as the repairs, reconstruction, and improvements do not increase ground floor area and are not substantial improvements.

C. This ordinance ensures consistency with state and federal flood regulations and re-adopts a code provision that was unintentionally deleted by Ordinance No. 20-076.

D. Model Ordinance Section 5.4-2 provides in part:

Construction or reconstruction of residential structures is prohibited within designated floodways, except for (i) repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to a structure that do not increase the ground floor area; and (ii) repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to a structure, the cost of which does not exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure either, (A) before the repair or reconstruction is started, or (B) if the structure has been damaged, and is being restored, before the damage occurred. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications that have been identified by the local code enforcement official and that are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or to structures identified as historic places, may be excluded in the 50 percent.

E. In developing the proposed amendment, the County considered the GMA goals identified in RCW 36.70A.020. In particular, the proposed amendment is consistent with and promotes:

GMA Goal 4 – "Housing. Plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock."

GMA Goal 10 – "Environment. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water."

The proposed amendment supports the housing and environmental goals because it will allow homeowners to preserve their existing homes through repair, reconstruction, and improvement. This permitted work would not negatively impact the environment because the home could not be substantially improved and the footprint could not be expanded.

F. The proposed amendment maintains consistency with the following Multicounty Planning Policy (MPP) from the Puget Sound Regional Council VISION 2050:

MPP-H-3 – Achieve and sustain – through preservation, rehabilitation, and new development – a sufficient supply of housing to meet the needs of low-income, moderate-income, middle-income, and special needs individuals and households that is equitably and rationally distributed throughout the region.

 6. The Washington State Attorney General last issued an advisory memorandum, as required by RCW 36.70A.370, in September of 2018 entitled "Advisory Memorandum and Recommended Process for Evaluating Proposed Regulatory and Administrative Actions to Avoid Unconstitutional Takings of Private Property" to help local governments avoid the unconstitutional taking of private property. The process outlined in the State Attorney General's 2018 advisory memorandum was used by Snohomish County in objectively evaluating the regulatory changes proposed by this ordinance.

K. This ordinance is consistent with the record.

 Due to Ordinance No. 20-076, homeowners are restricted from repairing, reconstructing, or improving their homes located in the floodways when no substantial flood damage has occurred. The proposed code amendments reinstate the ability of homeowners to repair, reconstruct, or improve their homes to make necessary maintenance and preserve existing housing.

2. The Model Ordinance allows for repair, reconstruction, and improvement of homes in the floodways that have not been substantially damaged and when such repair, reconstruction, or improvement will not increase the ground floor area.

3. The code amendments proposed by this ordinance will correct an unintentional deletion and reinsert code that existed prior to 2020.

Section 2. The County Council makes the following conclusions:

A. The amendments proposed by this ordinance comply and are consistent with the GMA.

B. The amendments proposed by this ordinance comply and are consistent with the GMACP.

C. The County has complied with all SEPA requirements with respect to this non-project action.

D. The public participation process used in the adoption of this ordinance complies with all applicable requirements of the GMA and title 30 SCC.

E. The amendments proposed by this ordinance does not result in an unconstitutional taking of private property for a public purpose.

Section 3. The Snohomish County Council bases its findings and conclusions on the entire record of the County Council, including all testimony and exhibits. Any finding, which should be deemed a conclusion, and any conclusion which should be deemed a finding, is hereby adopted as such.

Section 4. Snohomish County Code Section 30.65.220, last amended by Amended Ordinance No. 21-060 on October 6, 2021, is amended to read:

SCC 30.65.220 Floodways: permitted uses.

The following uses are allowed in the floodway when permitted by the applicable zone under chapter 30.22 SCC, provided the use is in compliance with the applicable general and specific floodproofing standards of SCC 30.65.110 and 30.65.120, and other applicable provisions of this chapter:

- (1) Agriculture;
- (2) Forestry, including processing of forest products with portable equipment;
- (3) Preserves and reservations;
 - (4) Park and recreational activities;
 - (5) Removal of rock, sand and gravel, when the applicant can provide clear and convincing evidence that such uses will not divert flood flows causing channel shift or erosion, accelerate or amplify the flooding of downstream flood hazard areas, increase the flooding threat to upstream flood hazard areas, or in any other way threaten public or private properties. When allowed, such removal shall comply with the provisions of chapter 30.32C SCC and the county shoreline management program;
 - (6) Utility transmission lines when allowed in underlying zones unless otherwise prohibited by this chapter. When the primary purpose of such a transmission line is to transfer bulk products or energy through a floodway en route to another destination, as opposed to serving customers within a floodway, such transmission lines shall conform to the following:
 - (a) All utility transmission lines shall cross floodways by the most direct route feasible as opposed to paralleling floodways;
 - (b) Electric transmission lines shall span the floodway with support towers located in flood fringe areas or beyond. Where floodway areas cannot be spanned due to excessive width, support towers shall be located to avoid high flood water velocity and/or depth areas, and shall be adequately floodproofed;
 - (c) Buried utility transmission lines transporting hazardous materials, including but not limited to crude and refined petroleum products and natural gas, shall be buried a minimum of four feet below the maximum established scour of the waterway, as calculated on the basis of hydrologic analyses. Such burial depth shall be maintained horizontally within the hydraulic floodway to the maximum extent of potential channel migration as determined by hydrologic analyses. In the event potential channel migration extends beyond the hydraulic floodway, conditions imposed upon floodway fringe and special flood hazard areas shall also govern placement. All hydrologic analyses are subject to acceptance by the county, shall assume the conditions of a 100-year frequency flood as verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and shall include on-site investigations and consideration of historical meander characteristics in addition to other pertinent facts and data. The use of riprap as a meander containment

mechanism within the hydraulic floodway shall be consistent with the county shoreline management program;

- (d) Buried utility transmission lines transporting non-hazardous materials including water and sewage shall be buried a minimum of four feet below the maximum established scour of the waterway as calculated on the basis of hydrologic analyses. Such burial depth shall be maintained horizontally within the hydraulic floodway to the maximum extent of potential channel migration as determined by hydrologic analyses. All hydrologic analyses shall conform to requirements in subsection (6)(c) of this section. The use of riprap as a meander containment mechanism within the hydraulic floodway shall be consistent with the county shoreline management program;
- (e) Beyond the maximum extent of potential channel migration, utility transmission lines transporting hazardous and non-hazardous materials shall be buried below existing natural and artificial drainage features. Burial depth in all agricultural areas requiring or potentially requiring subsurface drainage shall be a minimum of six feet as measured from ground surface to the top of the transmission line, or at other such depth as deemed necessary by on-site investigations performed by a qualified soils expert familiar with county soils. Burial depth in all other agricultural and non-agricultural floodway areas shall be determined on the basis of accepted engineering practice and in consideration of soil conditions and the need to avoid conflict with agricultural tillage;
- (f) All buried utility transmission lines shall achieve sufficient negative buoyancy so that any potential for flotation or upward migration is eliminated;
- (g) Above ground utility transmission lines, not including electric transmission lines, shall only be allowed for the transportation of non-hazardous materials where an existing or new bridge or other structure is available and capable of supporting the line. When located on existing or new bridges or other structures with elevations below the level of the 100-year flood, the transmission line shall be placed on the down-stream side and protected from flood debris. In such instances, site specific conditions and flood damage potential shall dictate placement, design and protection throughout the floodway. Applicants must demonstrate that such above ground lines will have no appreciable effect upon flood depth, velocity or passage, and shall be adequately protected from flood damage. If the transmission line is to be buried except at the waterway crossing, burial specifications shall be determined as in subsection (6)(d) of this section;
- (h) All floodway crossings by utility transmission lines transporting hazardous materials shall be equipped with valves capable of blocking flow within the pipeline in the event of leakage or rupture. All floodway crossings shall have valves unless otherwise indicated by standard engineering review of the site and type of transmission line as acceptable to the county with locations determined by other provisions of this chapter;
- (i) Above ground utility transmission line appurtenant structures including valves, pumping stations, or other control facilities shall not be permitted in the floodway; and

(j) Where a floodway has not been determined by preliminary Corps of Engineers'

 Ecology for the repair or replacement of a substantially damaged residential structure located in the regulatory floodway, no repair or replacement is allowed under WAC 173-158-076(1).

- (b) Before the repair, replacement, or relocation is started, all applicable requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, chapter 86.16 RCW, chapter 30.43C SCC, and this chapter must be satisfied. In addition, the following conditions must be met:
 - (i) There is no potential building location for the replacement residential structure on the same property outside the regulatory floodway;
 - (ii) The replacement residential structure is equivalent in use and size to the substantially damaged residential structure;
 - (iii) The structure being repaired, replaced, or reconstructed was legally constructed;
 - (iv) Repairs, reconstruction, or replacement do not result in an increase of the total square footage of floodway encroachment;
 - (v) The elevation of the lowest floor of the substantially damaged or replacement residential structure is a minimum of one foot higher than the base flood elevation;
 - (vi) New and replacement water supply systems are designed to eliminate or minimize infiltration of floodwater into the system;
 - (vii) New and replacement sanitary sewerage systems are designed and located to eliminate or minimize infiltration of floodwater into the system and discharge from the system into the floodwaters; and
 - (viii) All other utilities and connections to public utilities are elevated a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation and are designed, constructed, and located to eliminate or minimize flood damage.
- (9) Repair, reconstruction, or improvement of residential structures, where repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure does not increase the ground floor area, and is not a substantial improvement.

(((9))) (10) Water-dependent utilities and other installations which by their very nature must be in the floodway. Examples of such uses are: Dams for domestic/industrial water supply, flood control and/or hydroelectric production; water diversion structures and facilities for water supply, irrigation and/or fisheries enhancement; flood water and drainage pumping plants and facilities; hydroelectric generating facilities and appurtenant structures; structural and nonstructural flood damage reduction facilities, and stream bank stabilization structures and practices. The applicant shall supply convincing evidence that a floodway location is necessary in view of the objectives of the proposal and that the proposal is consistent with other provisions of this chapter and the county shoreline management program. In all instances of locating utilities and other installations in floodway locations, project design must incorporate floodproofing.

1 2	(((10))) <u>(11)</u> Dikes, when the applicant ca	n provide clear and convincing evidence that:
3	(a) Adverse effects upon adjacer	nt properties will not result relative to increased floodwater
4	depths and velocities during the base flood or other more frequent flood occurrences;	
5	(1) A	
6	(b) Natural drainage ways are minimally affected in that their ability to adequately drain	
7	floodwaters after a flooding ever	it is not impaired; and
8	(A The constant back to constant	Control the control that the control of the second state of the control of the co
9	(c) The proposal has been coordinated through the appropriate diking district where applicable,	
10	and that potential adverse effect	s upon other affected diking districts have been documented.
11	(//11)\\ /12\\ D. Islianna da liasita da acca	la and bridges
12	$((\frac{11}{11}))$ (12) Public works, limited to road	is and bridges.
13	Continue F. Communicities and Contin	If
14	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	gs. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance
15	•	Management Hearings Board ("Board"), or unconstitutional by
16	a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance. Provided, however,	
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18		rase of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional
19	by the Board or court of competent jurisdiction, then the section, sentence, clause or phrase in effect prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall be in full force and effect for that individual section,	
20	sentence, clause or phrase as if this ordinance had never been adopted.	
21	sentence, clause or prirase as it this ordin	lance had never been adopted.
22	DASSED this 11th day of January 2022	
23	PASSED this 11 th day of January 2023.	
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25		SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
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ORDINANCE NO. 22-065 RELATING TO GROWTH MANAGEMENT; AMENDING SCC 30.65.220 PERTAINING TO PERMITTED USES IN FLOODWAYS PAGE 10 OF 11