CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 1440

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON
EXPRESSING THE INTENT TO ADOPT AN UPDATE OF THE SHORELINE
MASTER PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THIS
PROPOSED SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE TO THE
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

WHEREAS, the State of Washington (90.58 RCW) has mandated that the City of Mercer Island update
the Mercer Island SMP;

WHEREAS, the update of the Mercer Island SMP has been complex: the State has published 288 pages
of laws, rules and guidance governing the process and substance of this update;

WHEREAS, the update of the Mercer Island SMP has been contentious: sharply focusing the divide
between the values of environmental advocates and the values of advocates for private property rights;

WHEREAS, the City’s proposed SMP must be approved by the State Department of Ecology (DOE);

WHEREAS, before approval, the Director of DOE must formally conclude that the proposed SMP, when
implemented over its planning horizon, typically 20 years, will result in “no net loss of ecological
functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural functions”;

WHEREAS, a Shoreline Analysis Report, conducted by qualified professionals, has concluded that all of
Mercer Island’s shorelines, with the exception of the shorelines at Luther Burbank Park, have “Low
Ecological Functions”;

WHEREAS, the City held a public open house on May 19, 2009;

WHEREAS, the City issued a Notice of Application for a Zoning Text Amendment and a SEPA
Checklist on February 22, 2010 (ZTR10-001/SEP10-002);

WHEREAS, the City issued a SEPA Threshold Determination of Non-Significance on March 15, 2010;

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island Planning Commission has conducted 29 public meetings, including two
public hearings, during the SMP update process, and issued its Findings, Conclusions and
Recommendations (Attachment A) on April 6, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island Planning Commission has conducted extensive and careful review and
analysis of the most current, accurate and complete scientific information available regarding the
shorelines of Lake Washington, within the shoreline jurisdiction of Mercer Island, and has concluded that
the proposed SMP, when implemented over the next 20 years, will result in no net loss of these ecological
functions;

WHEREAS, the Mercer Island Planning Commission’s recommendation has been carefully integrated
within the Mercer Island’s regulatory structure, and is complimentary to other Federal and State rules and
regulations;
WHEREAS, the Mercer Island Planning Commission believes that the proposed SMP meets the needs of our community by balancing the protection of the environment with the protection of private property rights; and

WHEREAS, The Mercer Island City Council has carefully considered the information in the record, and conducted a public hearing on May 2, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Mercer Island City Council agrees with the Findings and Conclusions of the Mercer Island Planning Commission, except for finding #18.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Statement of Intent to Adopt the Mercer Island Shoreline Master Program Update

The Mercer Island City Council intends to adopt Exhibits 1-5 of Attachment A upon approval from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Section 2: Authorization to Submit the Mercer Island Shoreline Master Program Update to the Washington State Department of Ecology

The City Manager is hereby authorized to submit the Mercer Island Shoreline Master Program Update (including this Resolution and all other required submittal documents) to the Washington State Department of Ecology for approval.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON, AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THE 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2011.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Jim Pearman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Allison Spietz, City Clerk