

SECTION 15. SJCC 18.20.170 (“Q” Definitions) and Ord. 2-1998 Exh. B § 2.3 are each amended to read as follows:

“Qualified professional” means a person with training and experience in the pertinent scientific discipline. With regard to Critical Areas, it means a person who is a qualified scientific expert in accordance with WAC 365-195-905. A qualified professional must be licensed and/or certified where such licensing or certification are required. When certification is not required the professional must have: (1) obtained a B.S., B.A., or equivalent degree in biology, engineering, environmental studies, fisheries, geomorphology, or related field, and (2) have at least five years of related work experience.

A. Wetlands. A qualified wetlands professional is a person who has an understanding of hydrology and advanced skills in plant identification and soils classification, has been trained in the procedures of the 1987 (federal) Wetland Delineation Manual and its updated Regional Supplement, has used those procedures to delineate a wetland, and has obtained wetland permits or worked for a qualified professional who has obtained wetland permits from the Washington State Department of Ecology or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers within the last seven years, and has the qualifications to conduct wetland studies and make recommendations for wetland mitigation. These qualifications include specialization in wetland soils, botany, or hydrology, with appropriate education and experience.

B. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas. A qualified professional for habitat must have a degree in biology or a related degree and professional experience related to the subject species.

C. Geologically Hazardous Areas. A qualified professional for a geological hazard is: (1) a geotechnical engineer, qualified civil engineer, or certified engineering geologist; (2) with experience analyzing geologic, hydrologic, and ground water flow systems and slope stability, seismicity, faulting and liquefaction; and (3) is licensed to practice in the state of Washington. When the proposed development or vegetation removal is located in an area subject to coastal geomorphological processes, the professional shall have demonstrated experience in evaluating and providing technical recommendations related to sediment and sediment transport, and effects on property and shoreline stability.

D. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas. A qualified professional for critical aquifer recharge areas means a hydrogeologist, geologist, engineer, or other scientist with experience in preparing hydrogeological assessments.