



**CHELAN COUNTY**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
316 WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 301, WENATCHEE, WA 98801  
TELEPHONE: (509) 667-6225 FAX: (509) 667-6475

**INTERPRETATION NO. 19-002**  
**Common Line Measurement**

**1. Scope**

The Chelan County Shoreline Master Program Section 3.8.2 B. allows the shoreline buffer to be reduced using the common line measurement. It states that the measurement is calculated using the distance measured from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) to the closest point of the building's foundation for each adjoining lot. The criteria within the common line is not more specific on the building type on the adjacent property from which the measurement should be taken from.

**2. Definitions**

**Common Line Setback.** A setback measured perpendicularly landward of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) which is determined by averaging the setbacks of structures existing on waterfront lots which are adjacent to the one upon which the development is to be built.

**3. Purpose**

The purpose behind this interpretation is to clarify for staff how to calculate the common line setback.

**4. Interpretation**

*In order to develop consistency in our review of common line we will:*

1. Measure from the OHWM to the primary residential structure on the adjacent properties.

This interpretation was made in consultation with the WA Department of Ecology consistent with WAC 173-26-140.

Approved by:

**Dave Kuhl**  
**Director of Community Development**

8/19/19

**Effective Date**



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*I have received, read, and understand that it is my responsibility comply with Interpretation No. 2019-002 on common line measurement which has been provided to me.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Name (Print)



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Community Development Interpretation No. 19-002, "Common line measurement"

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