SEPA ENVIROMENTAL CHECKLIST
UPDATED 2014

Purpose of checklist:
Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:
This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use “not applicable” or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:
Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:
For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements --that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

   The proposal is to amend Section 23.42.056 of the Seattle Land Use Code to permit transitional encampments for homeless individuals as an interim use on publicly owned or private property within the City of Seattle for a period of up to one year, within all zones.
2. Name of applicant:
   
   City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
   
   City of Seattle
   Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
   700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
   PO Box 34019
   Seattle, Washington 98124-4019
   Contact: Bill Mills, 684-8738

4. Date checklist prepared:
   
   August 24, 2015

5. Agency requesting checklist:
   
   City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
   
   City Council consideration is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2015.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
   
   No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
   
   The information provided in this checklist. In addition, an environmental checklist and Determination of Non-significance (DNS) were published for a similar legislative proposal in 2012. A memorandum to the file was added for changes to the 2012 proposal made in 2013 and a second memorandum was added in 2015 for further changes to the proposal, adopted as Seattle City Ordinance 124747.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
   
   Not applicable. This is a nonproject action. Individual projects developed under this proposal will be subject to environmental review if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Approval by Seattle City Council and Mayor as amendments to Seattle’s Land Use Code.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

On March 30, 2015, the City Council adopted Seattle City Ordinance No. 124747, which added Section 23.42.056 to the Land Use Code to permit transitional encampments for homeless individuals to locate as an interim use on sites owned or operated by the City of Seattle or private owners for a period of up to one year, and within the following zones: Industrial zones, Downtown zones, except for Downtown zones defined as residential, Seattle Mixed zones, Commercial 2 (C2), Commercial 1 (C1), Neighborhood Commercial 3 (NC3) and Neighborhood Commercial 2 (NC2) zones. In Section 11 of Ordinance 124747, the City Council specifically asked that DPD complete an environmental review and threshold determination on a proposal to modify the new Section 23.42.056 to allow transitional encampments without restriction by zone or property ownership. Section 23.42.056 as adopted included the following requirements:

- Creates a “Type 1” Master Use Permit (non-appealable and not subject to public notice) that would have a one year term (compared with the existing 4 week limit on Type 1);
- Requires encampment operators to have prior experience managing or operating shelters, low income housing, or homeless encampments;
- Provides that no more than three encampments would be permitted and operating at any one time;
- Requires a minimum of 12 months after a transitional encampment interim use permit has expired before a new transitional encampment could be established at the same site;
- Allows a maximum of 100 occupants and requires 100 square feet of land per occupant (already established in the Code for encampments on sites owned or controlled by religious organizations);
- Requires a plan to address site management, maintenance and security;
- Requires compliance with the same health, safety, and inspection requirements that have been established for encampments on sites owned or controlled by religious organizations;
- Establishes parking requirements for encampments if they are not located on sites owned or controlled by religious organizations (1 space for each 2 staff members on-site at peak staffing times); various exceptions to parking requirements in the existing Code.
would apply;

- Requires that encampment use must be located at least 25 feet from any residentially zoned lot – sites may be closer than 25 feet to residentially zoned lots if encampment boundary is set back at least 25 feet and landscaping, fencing or similar buffer is added;

- Provides that sites must be 5,000 square feet or larger;

- Site must be located within one-half mile of a transit stop;

- Provides that encampment sites are required to locate at least one mile from any other legally established transitional encampment interim use;

- Provides that encampment use must be located outside of wetland, wetland buffer, steep slope, steep slope buffer, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas regulated by the City’s regulations for Environmentally Critical Areas or Chapter 23.60A, the Seattle Shoreline Master Program Regulations;

- States that encampment use cannot displace or occupy an area that is used to meet required code provisions for an existing permitted use, such as area for required parking or setbacks;

- Established community outreach requirements to give neighbors advance notice of encampments, together with specific operations standards to be implemented by operators of each encampment, would be added by Director’s Rule; authority to make specific rules would be added to the Code; and

- Requires that the operator allow service providers such as social workers to access the site when a City-owned property.

The current proposal would retain all the requirements in Ordinance 124747 except for the following changes:

- Permit transitional encampment sites owned or operated by the City of Seattle, all other public entities such as King County or the State of Washington, or private owners, for a period of up to one year, within all zones.

- Remove the requirement that encampments must be located at least 25 feet from any residentially zoned lot or, if a site is closer than 25 feet to residentially zoned lots, that the encampment boundary be set back at least 25 feet, since the proposal would allow transitional encampments to locate in residential zones.

- Require screening (landscaping, fencing or similar buffer) if the encampment site is adjacent to a residentially zoned lot that is developed with a residential use, unless the encampment is located 25 feet from the lot line of the adjacent lot.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.
The proposed amendments apply to areas throughout the city of Seattle.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Per Washington Administrative Code provisions (WAC 197-11-315) Part B of the checklist is not filled out for non-project actions.

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other __________

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

2. Air
a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

3. Water
a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- [X] deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- [X] evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- [X] shrubs
- [X] grass
- [ ] pasture
- [ ] crop or grain
- [ ] Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- [X] wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- [X] water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- [X] other types of vegetation

This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed. The range of sites that could be affected by the proposal could include those plants checked on the lines above.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
5. **Animals**

a. **List** any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

   - birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
   - mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
   - fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other ________

   This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

   This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

   This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.
15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
   electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other __________

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

   Not applicable. This is a non-project action. There is no specific site or project location. No construction is proposed.

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: __signature on file

Name of signee  William K. Mills

Position and Agency/Organization  Land Use Planner Supervisor, DPD

Date Submitted: August 24, 2015
D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The proposed amendments are a nonproject action that would amend the Land Use Code to permit transitional encampments for homeless individuals as an interim use for a one-year term on public or privately-owned property in all zones. It is expected that there is no potential for increased impacts to water, air, or noise or additional release of hazardous substances. No permanent development is proposed. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have also been considered, and no changes to GHG emissions are expected as a result of this non-project action. Individual projects that may use the land use and zoning provisions of the proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of discharge to water, emissions to air, production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances, or noise, at this stage. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) as they move forward.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

No proposed measures are proposed beyond existing regulations at this time because the proposal does not involve any construction or development activity. A SEPA GHG Emissions Worksheet is required for all individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal. Any potential impacts from GHG emissions will be addressed during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The potential for increased environmental impacts to plants, animals, fish or marine life is low, as no permanent development is proposed. On a site-by-site basis, future development projects could potentially result in plant and animal impacts as a result of clearing vegetation or habitat that may be present on these sites, but any impacts are expected to be minimal. The proposal does not alter existing protections to plants, animals, fish or marine life.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

No measures are proposed beyond existing regulations at this time because the proposal does not involve any construction or development activity. The City and other regulatory agencies have existing regulations to protect these resources.
3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the City. As a result, the potential for increased depletion of energy and natural resources is low.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

No measures to protect or conserve energy are proposed beyond existing regulations at this time because the proposal does not involve any construction or development activity. The existing regulatory framework, the Land Use Code, The Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City’s SEPA ordinance will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The proposed amendments are a nonproject action that would amend the Land Use Code to permit transitional encampments for homeless individuals as an interim use for a one year term on publicly owned and privately-owned property in all zones. The existing regulatory framework, the Land Use Code, the Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City’s SEPA ordinance will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis. The existing encampment regulations in the Land Use Code do not allow location of encampments within specific Environmentally Critical Areas.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

No resource protection measures are proposed beyond existing regulations at this time because the proposal does not involve any construction or development activity.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

No permanent structures or other permanent development would be allowed under the proposal. It is unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in shoreline areas of the City or that are incompatible with existing plans. Encampments would be permitted subject to specific requirements of the existing Land Use Code in Section 23.42.056, including a maximum limit of three encampments City-wide at any one time. Further, on sites within all Single-Family residential zones, all other residential zones outside of Urban Centers and Urban Center Villages, and all NC1 zones outside of Urban Centers and Urban Center Villages, environmental review of project-specific encampment proposals is required if the total area of use exceeds 4,000 square feet. Since the minimum property area required by existing regulations will continue to be 5,000 square feet under the proposed amendments, establishing encampments on residentially zoned and NC1-
zoned properties is expected to generally require environmental review. The existing regulatory framework, the Land Use Code, the Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City’s SEPA ordinance will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis.

Analysis of the total number of sites that may be added City-wide by the proposal was conducted using the City’s Geocortex land use mapping system. The mapping system information shows that the proposal would add about 1,600 potential properties in residential and NC1 zones to the existing parcels suitable for encampments in the non-residential zones covered by the existing regulations. Of these, the Geocortex analysis shows that about 46 City-owned sites would be added City-wide to the total number of eligible City-owned sites (approximately 135 total within the non-residential zones allowed by current regulations), for a total of about 180 sites. In addition to City-owned sites, the proposed amendments would allow about 670 properties owned by public entities other than the City to be included as eligible sites. Of these, about 390 are located in the non-residential zones and another 280 within residential zones. These include sites owned by entities such as King County, Sound Transit, Seattle Housing Authority, the Port of Seattle, and similar public agencies and organizations. The proposal would also allow privately owned sites within residential and NC1 zones to host encampments. The Geocortex mapping shows that there are about 1,180 parcels that may qualify under the standards of the existing regulations in Section 23.42.056. These sites are not within critical areas and have an area of at least 5,000 square feet. They are also mapped as vacant properties. Previous analysis showed that there are about 475 vacant privately owned sites in the non-residential zones authorized to host encampments under the current regulations.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

The proposed amendments are a nonproject action that would amend the Land Use Code to permit transitional encampments for homeless individuals as an interim use for a one year term on publicly owned or privately owned property in all zones. The specific requirements for operation and location of transitional encampments under Section 23.42.056 of the Land Use Code, including limiting each encampment to 100 persons, limiting sites to at least 5,000 square feet, requiring one-half mile proximity to transit stops, setbacks of one mile from other encampments, and prohibiting location of encampments within certain Environmentally Critical Areas, as well as safety and inspection requirements, are expected to limit the number of encampment proposals that would qualify and also limit the number of eligible sites to lower totals than the number projected by mapping alone. In addition, as noted previously, the total number of encampments allowed to operate City-wide at any one time would not exceed a maximum of three, and those three sites must be separated by at least one mile. Proposed encampment sites must also observe a one-mile dispersion from any existing encampments permitted on sites owned or controlled by religious organizations per existing Land Use Code Section 23.42.054. The proposed amendments to Section 23.42.056 would require screening for any encampment site adjacent to a lot developed with a residential use. Projects developed under the proposal are subject to review under the existing regulatory framework, the Land Use Code, the Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City’s SEPA ordinance. Impacts will be addressed through the review of specific projects for compliance under the provisions of these regulations.
6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The proposal will not result in significant adverse impacts to traffic or parking or public services and utilities. No changes to the number of encampments authorized under existing Section 23.42.056 are proposed. The existing regulatory framework, the Land Use Code, The Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City’s SEPA ordinance will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis. The proposal is not anticipated to have a substantial effect on public services or utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Projects developed under the proposal would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and mitigation would be required where permitted and appropriate.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

No conflicts are anticipated.