

**SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES  
SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

This SEPA environmental review of Seattle Public Utilities’ has been conducted in accord with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (RCW 43.21C), State SEPA regulations [Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 197-11], and the City of Seattle SEPA ordinance SMC Chapter 25.05. The proposed action is considered a non-project action under SEPA. Non-project actions are broader than a single site-specific project (WAC 197-11-774, SMC 25.05.774). This type of non-project action is not categorically exempted from a SEPA Threshold Determination (SMC 25.05.305 and SMC 25.05.800); therefore, it must be analyzed to determine if there are probable significant adverse environmental impacts. The probable significant adverse environmental impacts analyzed in a non-project SEPA environmental checklist are those impacts foreseeable at this stage, before specific project actions are planned. Seattle Public Utilities has prepared this SEPA Environmental Checklist under the non-project provisions of SEPA.

**A. BACKGROUND**

**1. Name of proposed project:**

Ordinance Updating the City of Seattle Water Code

**2. Name of applicant:**

Seattle Public Utilities

**3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

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Project Delivery and Engineering Branch  
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**4. Date checklist prepared:**

October 14, 2020

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

Seattle Public Utilities

**6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

The proposed ordinance is expected to be considered by the Seattle City Council in December 2020. Council review may include a public hearing. The Code revisions are proposed to take effect in 2021.

**7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

The proposal is a non-project action that is not dependent on any other current or future action. Additional Code revisions may be proposed from time to time in the future, at the initiative of the General Manager/CEO of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). SPU may also propose additional actions, with independent utility from the currently proposed action, to further improve water system infrastructure requirements. SPU is currently considering one such additional independent action: a proposal to revise current department policies on water-service connections and water availability in construction-permit applications and other requests and consolidate the revisions into a single Director’s Rule WTR 440, Requirements for Water Service. Adoption of Director’s Rule WTR 440 is not dependent on Code revisions, and the ordinance to update the City of Seattle Water Code is not dependent on Director’s Rule WTR 440.

**8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**

No environmental information has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

**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.**

The proposal is a non-project, non-site-specific action that would take effect within the Seattle Direct Water Service Area. The proposal is intended to update and improve water system infrastructure requirements administered by Seattle Public Utilities. There are no other applications pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting this proposal. Future public and private development projects may be subject to separate project-specific SEPA environmental review.

**10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

The legislation associated with this proposal will need to be approved by Seattle City Council ordinance following standard legislative rules and procedures.

**11. Give a 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.**

Seattle Public Utilities proposes to amend Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 21.04 – Water Rates and Regulations and SMC 21.12 – Miscellaneous Provisions. The proposal is a non-project, non-site-specific action that would take effect throughout the Seattle Direct Water Service Area.

Objectives for updating sections of the Code are:

- Improve and clarify existing Code language;
- Update outdated and inconsistent terminology and practices in the Code, which was originally adopted in 1893 and 1935.

- 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 geographic area affected by this proposed non-project action is mainly within the City of Seattle, Washington but includes areas outside of the City of Seattle that are within Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area, as depicted in Attachment A. Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area has a land area of 90.5 square miles (234.4 square kilometers) and is located at latitude 47° 62’ North and longitude 122° 33’ West. Projects affected by the proposal may occur anywhere within Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area limits. Answers to questions throughout this Environmental Checklist assume the affected geographical area for the proposal could be anywhere within Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area limits.

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

**1. Earth**

- a. General description of the site:** *[Check the applicable boxes]*

Flat     
  Rolling     
  Hilly     
  Steep Slopes     
  Mountainous  
 Other: (identify)

The geographic area affected by this proposed non-project action is Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. The topography includes all types of terrain, from flat land to steep slopes. Most of this area has been substantially graded, developed, or otherwise disturbed.

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

Slopes in Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area range from 0% to greater than 40%. The steepest slopes occur primarily on the sides of the major hills in the city, including Queen Anne Hill, Capitol Hill, West Seattle, and Magnolia.

- 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.**

Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area has numerous soil types, including mineral soils dominated by clay, silt, or sand, as well as organic soils such as peats and mucks (see, for example, <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm> ). No agricultural soils or prime farmland are located within Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. As a densely urbanized area, much of its native soils have been extensively altered by filling, grading, and other activity.

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

The Seattle area is known to be in an active seismic area, as is the entire Puget Sound region. The City’s geologically hazardous areas are defined by SDCl as environmentally critical areas (ECA) ([http://gisrevprxy.seattle.gov/wab\\_ext/DSOResearch\\_Ext/](http://gisrevprxy.seattle.gov/wab_ext/DSOResearch_Ext/)). Unstable soils and surfaces occur primarily in two contexts within the affected geographic area. The first

context includes steep slopes and landslide-prone areas, where a combination of shallow ground water and glacial sediments deposited in layers with variable permeability increases the risk of landslides. The second context includes areas of fill or alluvial soils where loose, less cohesive soil materials below the water table may lead to the potential for liquefaction during earthquakes.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would require filling or grading. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review as appropriate.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction, development, or use that would cause erosion. Future, specific development proposals subject to the provisions of this proposal may involve clearing, construction, or uses that cause erosion. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review as appropriate.

**g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would convert pervious to impervious surfaces or create new impervious surfaces. The proposed Code updates cover the entire Seattle Direct Water Service Area, which is a highly urbanized area with a high percentage of impervious surfaces. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project specific environmental review as appropriate.

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

The proposed non-project action does not involve construction activity, and contains no proposed measures related to reducing or controlling erosion or other impacts at any specific location.

**2. Air**

**a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal [e.g., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke, greenhouse gases (GHG)] during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would directly produce emissions. As such, the proposal would not directly affect odors, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or climate change. Potential emissions impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project specific environmental review as appropriate.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would be affected by emissions or odors.

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

No measures are proposed.

**3. Water**

**a. Surface:**

**(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 so, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

The proposed non-project action would affect the entire Seattle Direct Water Service Area. Most of this area is located within the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (Watershed Resource Inventory Area [WRIA] 8). The Duwamish Waterway and Elliott Bay, located in southwestern Seattle, are part of the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9). Seattle is characterized by a variety of surface water features, including marine areas, rivers, lakes, and creeks. Each type is briefly summarized below:

Marine: Seattle’s west side is situated adjacent to Puget Sound, a major marine embayment.

Rivers: Portions of south Seattle drain to the lower reaches of the Duwamish River (also known as the Duwamish Waterway). The River receives flow from the South Park basin, Norfolk basin, Longfellow Creek, and other smaller urban creeks, and drains to Elliott Bay in south Puget Sound.

Lakes: Freshwater lakes and ponds, within or adjacent to the City, include the Lake Union/Ship Canal system, which links Lake Washington and Puget Sound through the Hiram Chittenden Locks. Other freshwater lakes include Green, Haller, and Bitter Lakes in the north portion of the City (also located in the Lake Union/Ship Canal drainage basin). Seattle also contains numerous small ponds and wetlands.

Creeks: Runoff from Seattle’s developed cityscape drains to creek systems of varying sizes. Major creeks in the western regions of the City drain directly to Puget Sound and include Piper’s and Fauntleroy creeks. Longfellow Creek is a main creek in the southwest portion of the city that drains to the Duwamish River. Thornton Creek, Taylor Creek, and other smaller creeks drain runoff from the eastern portions of the City to Lake Washington.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would require work over, in, or adjacent to the surface waters. Individual projects that may be subject to provisions of this proposal may be located over, in, or

adjacent to these waters. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review as appropriate.

- (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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development or any fill and dredge in or near surface waters or wetlands. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project specific environmental review as appropriate.

- (4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? If so, give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Because this is a non-project action, there would be no construction or development that would withdraw or divert surface waters. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through existing regulations and/or separate site specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would lie within a 100-year floodplain. Major streams and the Duwamish River have associated 100-year floodplains within the affected geographic area. Individual projects that may be subject to provisions of this proposal may be located over, in, or adjacent to these waters and their associated floodplains. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review as appropriate.

- (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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would discharge waste material to surface waters. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review as appropriate.

**b. Ground:**

- (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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would withdraw groundwater. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

- (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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would discharge waste material to ground waters. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

**c. Water Runoff (including storm water):**

- (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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would generate runoff. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would generate waste materials that could enter ground or surface waters. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

- (3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would have impacts to surface, ground, runoff water, and drainage. No measures are proposed at this time. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project specific environmental review.

**4. Plants**

**a. Types of vegetation found on the site: [check the applicable boxes]**

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is the Seattle Direct Water Service Area. A wide variety of native and non-native plant species and associated vegetation are found in the Seattle area. Generally, the Puget Sound basin is home to a wide diversity of plant species that depend upon marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments. The Seattle area has a broad variety of vegetation, including upland forest (deciduous, coniferous, and mixed), shrublands, riparian forests, and wetlands. This flora includes species native to the region, as well as many non-native species. Seattle's Direct Water Service Area is a densely developed urban area having few remaining areas of native vegetation and high-

quality habitat. These remaining fragments of quality native vegetation are found in parklands and open spaces. The plants found in most urban and suburban areas are those native and non-native species that tolerate or benefit from habitat degradation and disturbance.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deciduous trees:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alder; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> maple; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> aspen; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cottonwoods, willow, etc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evergreen trees:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fir; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cedar; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pine; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: spruce, hemlock, cedar, etc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrubs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grass	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Crop or grain	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wet soil plants:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cattail; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> buttercup; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bulrush; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> skunk cabbage; <input type="checkbox"/> other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water plants:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> water lily <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eelgrass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> milfoil <input type="checkbox"/> other: (identify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other types of vegetation:	Various other vascular, non-vascular, native, and non-native plant species.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would remove or alter vegetation. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

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

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. No federally-listed endangered or threatened plant species or State-listed sensitive plant species are known to occur within the municipal limits of this area. Most of the Seattle area has been intensively disturbed by development and redevelopment over the last 100 years. Seattle’s original vegetation has been extensively cleared, excavated, filled, paved, or occupied by streets and other built structures. There is no habitat for threatened or endangered plants.

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

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is in Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. No landscaping or other measures are proposed at this time. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project specific environmental review.

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

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is the Seattle Direct Water Service Area. Many species of noxious and invasive species are found within King County and the City of Seattle. See, for example, the noxious weed lists of the King County Noxious Weed Board (<http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/laws/list.aspx>).

**5. Animals**

- a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site: [check the applicable boxes]**

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is the Seattle Direct Water Service Area . Many species of birds, mammals, and fish are present. Generally, the Puget Sound basin is home to an extremely wide diversity of animal species that depend upon marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments. This fauna includes species native to the region, as well as many non-native species. The Seattle area is an intensely developed urban area having few remaining areas of native vegetation and high-quality habitat. These remaining fragments of quality wildlife habitat are found in parklands and open spaces throughout the planning area. The wildlife found in most urban areas are those native and non-native species that tolerate or benefit from habitat degradation or close association with humans.

**Birds:**            Hawk            Heron            Eagle            Songbirds  
 Other: osprey, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, purple martin, owl (various species), pileated woodpecker, belted kingfisher, waterfowl species, Canada goose. Also, typical urban species associated with urban development such as starling and pigeon.

**Mammals:**        Deer            Bear            Elk            Beaver  
 Other: California sea lion, river otter, muskrat, raccoon. Also, a variety of urban-adapted species such as possum and rat.

**Fish:**            Bass Salmon        Trout            Herring  
 Shellfish        Other: perch, rockfish, etc.

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site:**

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is the Seattle Direct Water Service Area in Washington. In King County, five wildlife species are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but these species are not likely to be found in the Seattle Direct Water Service Area. These include Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*; Threatened), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*; Endangered), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*; Endangered), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*; Threatened), and northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*; Threatened). King County contains federally designated critical habitat for marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl; no designated critical habitat is located in Seattle. Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was removed from the federal list under ESA on August 8, 2007, but is federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Bald eagles are known to reside in Seattle.

Fish species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA and found in freshwater tributaries of Puget Sound (PS) include Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, Threatened, PS), steelhead (*O. mykiss*, Threatened, PS), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*, Threatened, PS). Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*) is a Candidate species for listing as Threatened. All of these species reside in or near the planning area. Lake Washington contains federally designated critical habitat for bull trout and Chinook salmon. Because much of Seattle has been previously developed and the original habitats significantly altered or eliminated, the potential for threatened or endangered animal species to be present in Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area is low.

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

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is the Seattle Direct Water Service Area. The Puget Sound region is known to be an important migratory route for many animal species. Portions of the planning area provide migratory corridors for bald eagles traveling to and from foraging areas in Puget Sound or Lake Washington. Marbled murrelets travel through the planning area between marine waters and their nests in late successional/old growth forests in the Cascade Mountains. Bull trout, steelhead, and Chinook, chum, pink, and coho salmon use the Puget Sound nearshore. Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon use Lake Washington and Lake Union as migration corridors. Anadromous trout and salmon migrate through the area river and stream systems, including urban streams in Seattle. The Puget Sound region is also within the Pacific Flyway—a flight corridor for migrating waterfowl, migratory songbirds, and other birds. The Pacific Flyway extends from Alaska to Mexico and South America.

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

No measures to preserve or enhance wildlife are proposed.

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

Many species of invasive animal species are found within King County and the City of Seattle, including nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), rat (*Rattus* spp.), pigeon (*Columba livia*), New Zealand Mud Snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), and Asian gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*).

**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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would require energy to operate. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would affect potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

**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:**

The proposed non-project action does not include any energy conservation features or other measures to reduce or control energy impacts. Potential impacts of future, specific

development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

**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:**

The proposed non-project action does not include any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or other activities that would encounter possible site contamination. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

- (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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or other activity that would cause exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or project-specific environmental review.

- (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.**

The proposed non-project action does not involve the storage, use, or production of toxic or hazardous chemicals. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

- (4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

The proposed non-project action does not require any special emergency services. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action has no associated environmental health hazards. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**b. Noise**

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

The proposed non-project action would not be affected by noise. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**(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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include any construction or development that would generate noise. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

Because the proposed non-project action would not itself generate noise, no measures to reduce or control noise are proposed. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**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.**

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. Generally, this area is characterized by urban uses. Existing uses include single-family and multifamily residences, commercial, industrial, recreation, and open space. Most city properties have been developed at urban densities and existing uses are often mixed. Downtown areas often include many high-rise developments. Individual projects that may be subject to the provisions of this proposal may be located in any of these land uses. Project-specific impacts on land and shoreline use would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

**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?**

The proposed non-project action would not convert agricultural or forest land to other uses. There are no designated agricultural or forest lands in Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area.

**(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?**

The proposed non-project action would not affect or be affected by agricultural or forest land business operations. There are no designated agricultural or forest lands in Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area.

**c. Describe any structures on the site.**

Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area urban area is developed with a wide range of structures, ranging from single-family residences to high-rise office towers to large industrial structures. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include demolition of any structures. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

Zoning in Seattle includes a range of residential, commercial, and industrial designations. Zoning designations are found in Seattle’s Land Use Code, Title 23 of the SMC. Basic zone designations are listed below, followed by their abbreviations. [Note: each different height area is a separate “zone”.]

**Designation (Abbreviation)**

- Residential, Single-family 9,600 (SF 9600)
- Residential, Single-family 7,200 (SF 7200)
- Residential, Single-family 5,000 (SF 5000)
- Residential Small Lot (RSL)
- Residential, Multifamily, Lowrise Duplex/Triplex (LDT)
- Residential, Multifamily, Lowrise 1 (L1)
- Residential, Multifamily, Lowrise 2 (L2)
- Residential, Multifamily, Lowrise 3 (L3)
- Residential, Multifamily, Lowrise 4 (L4)
- Residential, Multifamily, Midrise (MR)
- Residential, Multifamily, Highrise (HR)
- Residential-Commercial (RC)
- Neighborhood Commercial 1 (NC1)
- Neighborhood Commercial 2 (NC2)
- Neighborhood Commercial 3 (NC3)
- Seattle Mixed (SM)
- Commercial 1 (C1)
- Commercial 2 (C2)
- Downtown Office Core 1 (DOC1)
- Downtown Office Core 2 (DOC2)
- Downtown Retail Core (DRC)

Downtown Mixed Commercial (DMC)  
 Downtown Mixed Residential (DMR)  
 Pioneer Square Mixed (PSM)  
 International District Mixed (IDM)  
 International District Residential (IDR)  
 Downtown Harborfront 1 (DH1)  
 Downtown Harborfront 2 (DH2)  
 Pike Market Mixed (PMM)  
 General Industrial 1 (IG1)  
 General Industrial 2 (IG2)  
 Industrial Buffer (IB)  
 Industrial Commercial (IC)

Individual projects subject to the provisions of this proposed non-project action may be located in any of these zones. Project-specific information on zoning would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

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

The geographic area affected by the proposed non-project action is Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. Current comprehensive plan designations in the City of Seattle can be found in the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, adopted on July 25, 1994, and last amended in October 2015. Current comprehensive plan designations in the City of Shoreline can be found in the Shoreline Comprehensive Plan, adopted on December 10, 2012. Individual projects that may be subject to the provisions of the proposed non-project action may be located in any of these Comprehensive Plan designations. Project-specific information on Comprehensive Plan designations would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

**g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

The proposed non-project action would apply throughout Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area, which contains both freshwater and marine shorelines, resources that are regulated by the City’s shoreline master program (SMP) and the City of Shoreline’s Master Program (Master Program). Shoreline resources regulated under the SMP and Master Program include all marine waters, larger streams and lakes, associated wetlands and floodplains, and upland areas called shorelands that extend 200 feet landward from the edges of these waters. Individual projects subject to the provisions of this proposal may be located in the Shoreline Management District or Jurisdiction. Project-specific information on land and shoreline use would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

**h. Has any part of the site been classified as an “environmentally critical” area? If so, specify.**

The proposed non-project action would apply throughout Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area, including in environmentally critical areas. Individual projects subject to the provisions of the proposed non-project action may be located in environmentally critical areas. Project-specific information on site classification would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

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

The proposed non-project action would not create a completed project in which to reside or work. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

No people would be displaced by the proposed non-project action. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include any proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not change existing or projected land use. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:**

There are no designated agricultural or forest lands in Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area.

**9. Housing**

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

The proposed non-project action would not provide housing. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action would not eliminate housing. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

No measures to reduce or control housing impacts are proposed. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**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?**

The proposed non-project action does not include construction or development. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action would not alter or obstruct views. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

No measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts are proposed.

**11. Light and Glare**

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

The proposed non-project action does not include construction or development that would produce light or glare. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include construction or development that would produce light or glare. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

Light or glare would not affect the proposed non-project action. Potential impacts of light or glare on future, specific development proposals would be addressed through separate project-specific environmental review.

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

No measures to reduce or control light and glare are proposed.

**12. Recreation**

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

The proposed non-project action would be in effect throughout Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. Seattle Parks and Recreation and Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services both operate and maintain a large number of city parks, trails, gardens, playfields, swimming pools, and community centers. In addition to these public facilities, public and private schools, outdoor associations, and commercial businesses provide residents of and visitors to Seattle with a variety of organized recreational facilities and activities, such as school athletic programs, hiking and gardening groups, and private health clubs and golf courses. Seattle is particularly rich in recreational opportunities focused on the area’s natural features. Seattle’s many parks and shorelines offer abundant recreational opportunities, including water contact recreational activities (such as swimming, wading, snorkeling, and diving); water-related and non-water-related recreational activities (such as walking, hiking, playing, observing wildlife, and connecting with nature); and recreational activities that involve consumption of natural resources (such as fishing and noncommercial shellfish harvesting). Project-specific information on site-specific recreational opportunities would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

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

The proposed non-project action does not include construction or development that would displace any recreational activities. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

No measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation are 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? If so, specifically describe.**

The proposed non-project action would be in effect throughout Seattle’s Direct Water Service Area. There are a number of landmarks, properties, or districts in Seattle and Shoreline that are listed on, or proposed for, national, state, and local preservation registers. In addition, while Seattle today comprises a highly urbanized and developed area, it is also an area with potential for Native American cultural artifacts. Project-specific information on site-specific historic buildings, structures, and sites would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

- 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.**

There are a number of landmarks, properties, or districts in Seattle that are listed on, or proposed for, national, state, and local preservation registers. In addition, while Seattle today comprises a highly urbanized and developed area, it is also an area with potential for Native American cultural artifacts. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be identified and addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

- 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 Archaeology and Historic Preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

The proposed non-project action does not involve construction or disturbance of any site. No methods were used to assess potential impacts to cultural and historic resources. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

- 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.**

The proposed non-project action does not include construction or development, so there are no activities that would require the avoidance, minimization, or compensation for loss, changes to, and disturbance to historic and cultural resources. Individual projects developed pursuant to the provisions of this proposal would be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and to the State of Washington's and City's regulations related to the protection of historic and cultural resources.

**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.**

The proposed non-project action would be in effect throughout Seattle's Direct Water Service Area. The area has dense grids of urban streets (residential and arterials) that provide connections to major routes, including Interstate 5 and State Route 99, which run north and south through the City, and Interstate 90 and State Route 520, which connect Seattle to points east across Lake Washington. More specific information on site-specific public streets and highways would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

- 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?**

Seattle's Direct Water Service Area is served by bus, trolley, and light rail public transit. Site-specific information on the local public transit would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

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

The proposed non-project action would not construct or eliminate parking spaces. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

- 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).**

The proposed non-project action does not require any improvements to roads or other transportation infrastructure. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposed non-project action would take effect throughout Seattle's Direct Water Service Area. The Direct Water Service Area is served by railroads, sea ports, and airports. Project-specific information on proximity to and use of water, rail, and/or air transportation would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

- 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 non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

The proposed non-project action would not generate vehicle trips. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

- 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.**

The proposed non-project action would not affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural or forest products. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

No measures to reduce or control transportation impacts are 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.**

The proposed non-project action would not result in an increased need for public services. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

No measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services are proposed.

**16. Utilities**

- a. Check utilities available at the site, if any: [check the applicable boxes]**

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None             |   |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity      | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural gas    | <input type="checkbox"/> Water         | <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary sewer | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic system |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (identify) |   |  |   |

The proposed non-project action would be in effect throughout the Seattle Direct Water Service area. All areas have electricity, telephone, water and refuse service. Most (but not all) areas have cable/fiber optics, sanitary sewers, and natural gas. Project-specific information on site-specific utilities would be determined during the design, environmental review, and permitting of individual projects.

- 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.**

**None**

The proposed non-project action sets water service requirements for future development of projects in Seattle's Direct Service Area but does not include construction or development of any utilities at this time.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Michelle Lange*  
Project Manager

Attachment A – Vicinity Map

Note: Section D. *Supplemental Sheet for Non-Project Actions* is required if the proposal applies to a program, planning document, or code change.

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS**

**(Do not 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 proposal would not result in direct impacts and is unlikely to result in indirect or cumulative impacts related to discharges to water; emissions to air; production, storage, release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

The proposal does not produce such increases. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

The proposal would result in no direct impacts and is unlikely to result in indirect or cumulative impacts related to plants, animals, fish or marine life.

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

The proposal does not produce such measures. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

The proposal would not deplete energy or natural resources.

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

The proposal would not have a negative impact on energy or natural resources; therefore, no protective measures are proposed. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**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 proposal would not have a negative impact on environmentally sensitive areas.

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

The proposal would not have a negative impact on environmentally sensitive areas; therefore, no protective measures are proposed. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**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?**

The proposal would result in no direct impacts and is unlikely to result in indirect or cumulative impacts related to land or shoreline use.

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

No avoidance or reduction measures are proposed because no shoreline or land use changes are expected. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

**6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

The proposal would have no direct impact on the demands on transportation or the need for public services or utilities.

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

No measures are proposed to reduce the demands on transportation, public services and utilities. Potential impacts of future, specific development proposals would be addressed through regulations and/or separate project-specific environmental review.

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

There are no known conflicts or additional requirements.



## Seattle Public Utilities Water Service Area

Service Area	Urban Growth Boundary	Service Area Boundary
Seattle Retail Service Area	Urban Growth Boundary	Service Area Boundary
Wholesale Customer	County Boundary	Seattle City Limits
Cascade Water Alliance Member	Municipal Watershed	
Potential New Customer		
Other		