



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Department of Planning and Development
D. M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Application Number: 3008211
Applicant Name: Brenda Snyder for P-Patch Trust
Address of Proposal: 4200 Baker Ave Northwest

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

Land Use Application to allow 5,536 sq. ft. open space for a community garden (19 P-Patch garden plots) in an environmentally critical area with stepped pathways and five to ten ft high retaining walls. Project includes 100 cu. yds. of grading.

The following approval is required:

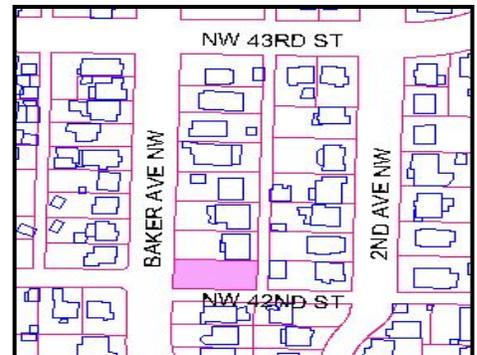
SEPA – Environmental Determination – SMC Chapter [25.05](#)

- SEPA DETERMINATIONS:** Exempt DNS MDNS EIS
 DNS with conditions
 DNS involving non-exempt grading, or demolition, or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND DATA

Project Description

The proposed development involves grading of a vacant single family lot in the Fremont neighborhood to provide for 19 P-Patch garden plots, including stairs, walls, ramps and small plazas, compost bins, rainwater collection system, small toolshed and extensive landscaping.



Site and Vicinity

The project site is located at the corner of Baker Avenue Northwest and Northwest 42nd Street in the Fremont neighborhood. The 5,536 sq. ft. site is undeveloped and heavily vegetated with invasive blackberry, ivy, and a few trees at the perimeter. The site slopes steeply from the alley on the east down to Baker Ave. NW where it drops abruptly in the last 20 feet at approximately 90% slope.

The site is zoned Single Family 5000 (SF5000) as is the surrounding neighborhood. Development in the immediate vicinity reflects its zoning, with a variety of one and two-story early 20th century homes.

Public Comment

DPD received no comments during the comment period which ended February 27, 2008.

ANALYSIS – SEPA

The proposal site is located in an environmentally critical area, thus the application is not exempt from SEPA review. However, SMC 25.05.908 provides that the scope of environmental review of projects within critical areas shall be limited to: 1) documenting whether the proposal is consistent with the City's Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) regulations in SMC 25.09; and 2) Evaluating potentially significant impacts on the critical area resources not adequately addressed in the ECA regulations. This review includes identifying additional mitigation measures needed to protect the ECA in order to achieve consistency with SEPA and other applicable environmental laws.

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the Seattle State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11, and the Seattle SEPA Ordinance (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05).

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant dated October 2007 and annotated by the Land Use Planner. The information in the checklist, pertinent public comment, and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The Department of Planning and Development has analyzed the environmental checklist and geotechnical report submitted by the project applicant; and reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the file. As indicated in this analysis, this action will result in adverse impacts to the environment. However, due to their temporary nature and limited effects, the impacts are not expected to be significant.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, and certain neighborhood plans and other policies explicitly referenced, may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority. The Overview Policy states, in part, "*Where City regulations have been adopted to address and environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation*" subject to some limitations. Short-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposal. No adverse long-term impacts on the environmentally critical area are anticipated.

Short-term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts on the identified critical area are expected: 1) temporary soil erosion; and 2) increased vibration from construction operations and equipment. These impacts are not considered significant because they are temporary and/or minor in scope (SMC 25.05.794).

Several adopted codes and/or ordinances provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. The Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code regulates site excavation for foundation purposes and requires that soil erosion control techniques be initiated for the duration of construction. The ECA ordinance and DR 33-2006 and 3-2007 regulate development and construction techniques in designated ECA areas with identified geologic hazards. The Building code provides for construction measures and life safety issues. Compliance with these applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most short-term impacts to the environment and no further conditioning pursuant to SEPA policies is warranted.

Due to the fact that grading will be undertaken during construction, additional analysis of earth and grading impacts is warranted.

Earth/Soils

The ECA Ordinance and Directors Rule (DR) 33-2006 require submission of a soils report to evaluate the site conditions and provide recommendations for safe construction in areas with landslide potential and/or a history of unstable soil conditions. A Geotechnical Engineering Study prepared by GeoEngineers, Inc. of Seattle, Washington, and dated October 29, 2007 and supplemented on April 8, 2007, was submitted with this application and has undergone separate geotechnical review by DPD. The construction plans, including shoring of excavations as needed and erosion control techniques are receiving separate review by DPD. Any additional information showing conformance with applicable ordinances and codes (ECA ordinance, The Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code, DR 33-2006, and 3-2007) will be required prior to issuance of building permits. Applicable codes and ordinances provide extensive conditioning authority and prescriptive construction methodology to assure safe construction techniques are utilized; therefore, no additional conditioning is warranted pursuant to SEPA policies.

Long-term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of this proposal including: increased surface water runoff due to greater site coverage by impervious surfaces, and loss of plant and animal habitat.

Several adopted City codes and/or ordinances provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. Specifically these are: the ECA Ordinance, the Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code which requires provisions for controlled tightline release to an approved outlet and may require additional design elements to prevent isolated flooding. Compliance with these applicable codes and ordinances is adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation of most long-term impacts and no further conditioning is warranted by SEPA policies.

DECISION

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

[X] Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21.030(2) (c).

CONDITIONS

Prior to Issuance of Building Permit

1. The applicant shall provide, at building permit application, a “No Protest” agreement for future Right-of-Way improvements on Northwest 42nd Street to city standards.

Signature: _____ (signature on file) _____ Date: May 19, 2008
Marti Stave, Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development
Land Use Division

MS:bg