



City of Seattle

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: 3010637
Applicant Name: Favero Greenforest
Address of Proposal: 5355 SW Pritchard Street

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to plant 58 new trees. Restoration for nine trees previously removed in an environmentally critical area.

The following approval is required:

SEPA – Environmental Determination (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05. and 25.09.320)

- SEPA DETERMINATION: [ ] Exempt [ ] DNS [ ] MDNS [ ] EIS
[X] DNS with conditions
[ ] DNS involving non-exempt grading, or demolition, or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND DATA

Site and Area Description

The lot is zoned single family with a minimum lot size of 7200 square feet. (SF7200). The property is in a steep slope environmentally critical area. Other properties in the area are zoned single family residential as well. The lot is located to the north of SW Lander and northwest of SW Admiral in the West Seattle Alki Area. There are no structures on the property.



### Proposal Description

The applicant proposes a planting restoration effort of a hillside slope. The proposal is a response to a violation, cutting trees in a steep slope area. The case number is 1019160. The applicant did not cut the trees or cause them to be cut, but is responsible to successfully close the violation case. The plants to be planted will be those that are recommended by an arborist and agreed upon by the city.

### Public Comments

Two comment letters were received during the official comment period which ended on November 25, 2009. The comments were from interested parties that questioned the number of trees proposed to be planted and requested that the trees be short trees in order to maintain views from the upland properties. Planner note: The City of Seattle does not regulate view from properties and the City does not manage or regulate private restrictive covenants on properties.

### **ANALYSIS – SEPA**

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the annotated environmental checklist prepared on August 25, 2009 and supplemental information in the project file submitted by the applicant. The information in the checklist, the supplemental information, and the experience of the lead agency with the review of similar projects forms the basis for this analysis and decision. Review is limited to issues pertinent to steep slope ECA impacts and mitigation.

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 an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation”* subject to some limitations. Under such limitations or circumstances (SMC 25.05.665 D) mitigation can be considered. Thus, a more detailed discussion of some of the impacts is appropriate. Short-term and long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposal.

### **Short-term Impacts**

Temporary or construction-related impacts are expected. These impacts are not considered significant because they are temporary and/or minor in scope (SMC 25.05.794). City codes and/or ordinances apply to the proposal and will provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. Specifically these are: 1) Building Code (construction measures in general) and 2) Stormwater, Drainage and Grading Code (temporary soil erosion). Compliance with these applicable codes and ordinances will be adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation and further mitigation by imposing specific conditions is not necessary for these impacts. However, the proposal site is located in environmentally critical areas. Therefore, additional discussion of earth impacts is warranted.

### Earth / Soils

The ECA Ordinance and Director’s Rule (DR) 33-2006 require submission of a soils report to evaluate the site conditions and provide recommendations for safe construction in areas with

steep slopes, liquefaction zones, and/or a history of unstable soil conditions. Pursuant to this requirement the applicant submitted a geotechnical engineering study. The study has been reviewed and approved by DPD's geotechnical experts, who will require what is needed for the proposed work to proceed without undue risk to the property or to adjacent properties, and ensure that the proposal complies with the Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code. No additional conditioning is warranted pursuant to SEPA policies.

### Construction impacts

Construction activities including construction worker commutes, truck trips, the operation of construction equipment and machinery, and the manufacture of the construction materials themselves result in increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming. While these impacts are adverse, they are not expected to be significant due to the relatively minor contribution of greenhouse gas emissions from this project.

### Long-term Impacts

The long-term impacts are expected to be very minimal due to the restoration of native plants. Any long term impacts will be mitigated by the City's adopted codes and/or ordinances. Specifically these are: Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code (storm water runoff). The other impacts not noted here as mitigated by codes or conditions are not sufficiently adverse to warrant further mitigation by condition.

Operational activities, primarily vehicular trips associated with the project and the projects' energy consumption, are expected to result in increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming. While these impacts are adverse, they are not expected to be significant due to the relatively minor contribution of greenhouse gas emissions from this project.

### DECISION - SEPA

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 43.21C.030 (2)(C).
- [ ] Determination of Significance. This proposal has or may have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2) (C).

**CONDITIONS – SEPA**

*For the life of the project*

1. The owner(s) and/or responsible party(s) shall maintain the native plant landscaping per plan.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature on file) Date: January 7, 2010

Holly J. Godard,  
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Department of Planning and Development

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