



**City of Seattle**

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**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**

**Project Number:** 3013547  
**Applicant:** Thomas Sconzo  
**Address of Proposal:** 1025 S Elmgrove Street

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL**

Shoreline Substantial Development Application to allow a one story, 3,158 sq. ft. addition to existing 11,000 sq. ft. manufacturing and storage building for a total of 14,158 sq. ft.). Parking for nine vehicles is provided on the site.

The following approvals are required:

**Shoreline Substantial Development Permit** – (SMC Chapter 23.60) to allow an addition in a UI Urban Industrial (UI) shoreline environment.

**SEPA Environmental Threshold Determination** - (SMC Chapter 25.05)

**DPD SEPA DETERMINATION:**

Determination of Non-significance

- No mitigating conditions of approval are imposed.
- Pursuant to SEPA substantive authority provided in SMC 25.06.660, the proposal has been conditioned to mitigate environmental impacts

**Site and Vicinity**

The site is located in south Seattle, on the west side of the Duwamish River. Most of the parcel is located in Seattle but the eastern 20 feet is located within unincorporated King County.

The parcel is located on the southeast edge of an Industrial Buffer (IB U/45) zone and Greater Duwamish Manufacturing Industrial Center. Directly to the south is a Single Family 5000 (SF5000) zone. To the east is King County land which is residentially zoned. The northeast portion of the site is within the Urban-Industrial Shoreline environment and is considered an upland site.

The 20,523 square foot site has an approximately 11,000 square foot structure on it which was permitted and built in 2007. The permitted use is General Manufacturing.

### Project Description

The proposed 3,158 square foot warehouse addition is being built on the eastern undeveloped portion of the site. It will be attached to the existing structure. The portion of the site located outside of Seattle City Limits will remain undeveloped.

### Public Comment

The public comment period ended on August 3, 2012. One public comment was received.

## **ANALYSIS — SHORELINE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

Section 23.60.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code provides criteria for review of a shoreline substantial development permit and reads: A substantial development permit shall be issued only when the development proposed is consistent with:

- A. *The policies and procedures of Chapter 90.58 RCW;*
- B. *The regulations of this Chapter; and*
- C. *The provisions of Chapter 173-27 WAC.*

Conditions may be attached to the approval of a permit as necessary to assure consistency of the proposed development with the Seattle Shoreline Master Program and the Shoreline Management Act.

## **THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF CHAPTER 90.58.RCW**

Chapter 90.58 RCW is known as the Shoreline Management Act of 1971. It is the policy of the State to provide for the management of the shorelines of the state by planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses. This policy contemplates protecting against effects to public health, the land use and its vegetation and wild life, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life, while protecting public right to navigation and corollary incidental rights. Permitted uses in the shoreline shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize, insofar as possible, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and any interference with the public's use of the water.

The Shoreline Management Act provides definitions and concepts, and gives primary responsibility for initiating and administering the regulatory program of the Act to local governments. The Department of Ecology is to primarily act in a supportive and review capacity, with primary emphasis on insuring compliance with the policy and provisions of the Act. As a result of this Act, the City of Seattle and other jurisdictions with shorelines, adopted a local shoreline master program, codified in the Seattle Municipal Code at Chapter 23.60.

Development on the shorelines of the state is not to be undertaken unless it is consistent with the policies and provisions of the Act, and with the local master program. The Act sets out procedures, such as public notice and appeal requirements, and penalties for violating its provisions.

The proposal is subject to the Shoreline Policies of SMC 23.60.004 because the site is located within the shoreline district and the cost of the project exceeds \$6,614. The proposed development has been designed to ensure minimum impact to the public health, land and waters of the state, and their aquatic life. The location of the proposed work on the shoreland will not interfere with the public rights of navigation and corollary rights, thus providing for the management of the shorelines by planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses. Therefore, the subject application is consistent with the procedures outlined in RCW 90.58.

#### **A. THE REGULATIONS OF CHAPTER 23.60**

Chapter 23.60 of the Seattle Municipal Code is known as the “Seattle Shoreline Master Program.” In evaluating requests for substantial development permits, the Director must determine that a proposed use meets the approval criteria set forth in SMC 23.60.030 (cited above). Development standards of the shoreline environment and underlying zone must be considered, and a determination made as to any special requirements (shoreline conditional use, shoreline variance, or shoreline special requirements use permit) or conditioning that is necessary to protect and enhance the shorelines area (SMC 23.60.064).

Pursuant to SMC 23.60.064C, in evaluating whether a development which requires a substantial development permit, conditional use permit, variance permit or special use authorization meets the applicable criteria, the Director shall determine that the proposed use: 1) is not prohibited in the shoreline environment and the underlying zone and; 2) meets all applicable development standards of both the shoreline environment and underlying zone and; 3) satisfies the criteria for a shoreline variance, conditional use, and/or special use permits, if required.

#### **Development Standards<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code (SMC 22.800) places considerable emphasis on protecting water quality. This generally takes the form of best management practices being required on building permits. This measure will be adequate to ensure protection of the shoreline from the construction that is proposed.

The proposal is permitted outright in SMC 23.60.840 governing the UI shoreline environment and is therefore subject to:

1. *the general development standards for all shoreline environments (SMC 23.60.152);*
2. *the development standards for uses in the UI environment (SMC 23.60.870); as well as*
3. *the development standards for General Industrial zones (SMC 23.50).*

1. *General Development Standards for all Shoreline Environments (SMC 23.60.152)*

*All uses and developments shall be subject to the following general development standards:*

- A. *The location, design, construction and management of all shoreline developments and uses shall protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water on and adjacent to the lot and shall adhere to the guidelines, policies, standards and regulations of applicable water quality management programs and regulatory agencies. Best Management Practices such as paving and berming of drum storage areas, fugitive dust controls and other good housekeeping measures to prevent contamination of land or water shall be required.*
- B. *Solid and liquid wastes and untreated effluents shall not enter any bodies of water or be discharged onto the land*
- C. *Facilities, equipment and established procedures for the containment, recovery and mitigation of spilled petroleum products shall be provided at recreational marinas, commercial moorage, vessel repair facilities, marine service stations and any use regularly servicing vessels.*
- D. *The release of oil, chemicals or other hazardous materials onto or into the water shall be prohibited. Equipment for the transportation, storage, handling or application of such materials shall be maintained in a safe and leak proof condition. If there is evidence of leakage, the further use of such equipment shall be suspended until the deficiency has been satisfactorily corrected.*
- E. *All shoreline developments and uses shall minimize any increases in surface runoff, and control, treat and release surface water runoff so that receiving water quality and shore properties and features are not adversely affected. Control measures may include, but are not limited to, dikes, catch basins or settling ponds, interceptor drains and planted buffers.*
- F. *All shoreline developments and uses shall utilize permeable surfacing where practicable to minimize surface water accumulation and runoff.*
- G. *All shoreline developments and uses shall control erosion during project construction and operation*
- H. *All shoreline developments and uses shall be located, designed, constructed and managed to avoid disturbance, minimize adverse impacts and protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas including, but not limited to, spawning, nesting, rearing and habitat areas, commercial and recreational shellfish areas, kelp and eel grass beds, and migratory routes. Where avoidance of adverse impacts is not practicable, project mitigation measures relating the type, quantity and extent of mitigation to the protection of species and habitat functions may be approved by the Director in consultation with state resource management agencies and federally recognized tribes.*

- I. *All shoreline developments and uses shall be located, designed, constructed and managed to minimize interference with or adverse impacts to beneficial natural shoreline processes such as water circulation, littoral drift, sand movement, erosion and accretion.*
- J. *All shoreline developments and uses shall be located, designed, constructed and managed in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to surrounding land and water uses and is compatible with the affected area.*
- K. *Land clearing, grading, filling and alteration of natural drainage features and landforms shall be limited to the minimum necessary for development. Surfaces cleared of vegetation and not to be developed shall be replanted. Surface drainage systems or substantial earth modifications shall be professionally designed to prevent maintenance problems or adverse impacts on shoreline features.*
- L. *All shoreline development shall be located, constructed and operated so as not to be a hazard to public health and safety.*
- M. *All development activities shall be located and designed to minimize or prevent the need for shoreline defense and stabilization measures and flood protection works such as bulkheads, other bank stabilization, landfills, levees, dikes, groins, jetties or substantial site regrades.*
- N. *All debris, overburden and other waste materials from construction shall be disposed of in such a way as to prevent their entry by erosion from drainage, high water or other means into any water body.*
- O. *Navigation channels shall be kept free of hazardous or obstructing development or uses.*
- P. *No pier shall extend beyond the outer harbor or pierhead line except in Lake Union where piers shall not extend beyond the Construction Limit Line as shown in the Official Land Use Map, Chapter 23.32, or except where authorized by this chapter and by the State Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

The proposal meets the applicable general development standards for the shoreline environment.

2. Development Standards for UI Shoreline Environments (SMC 23.60.870)

The development standards set forth in the Urban Industrial (UI) Shoreline Environment relate to critical habitat protection, height, lot coverage, view corridors, setbacks, water-related uses on waterfront lots and public access. The proposal conforms to all applicable development standards for the UI environment

*SMC 23.60.840 – Uses Permitted Outright in the UI Environment*

The proposal warehouse use is consistent with allowed uses in the Urban Industrial environment.

3. Development Standards for Industrial Zone Uses (SMC 23.50)

The project proposal must meet the applicable development standards of the underlying General Industrial 1 (IG1) zone.

## **B. THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 173-27 WAC**

WAC 173-27 establishes basic rules for the permit system to be adopted by local governments, pursuant to the language of RCW 90.58. It provides the framework for permits to be administered by local governments, including time requirements of permits, revisions to permits, notice of application, formats for permits, and provisions for review by the state's Department of Ecology (DOE). As the Seattle Shoreline Master Program has been approved by DOE, consistency with the criteria and procedures of the SMC Chapter 23.60 is also consistency with WAC 173-27 and RCW 90.58.

### **Summary**

Development requiring a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit can only be approved if it conforms to the policies and procedures of the WAC and RCW and with the regulations of Chapter 23.60 of the Seattle Shoreline Master Program.

The project as proposed meets the specific standards for development in the UI environment. It also conforms to the general development standards, as well as the requirements of the underlying zone.

The Director's authority under Seattle's Shoreline Master Program is to ensure that development proposals are consistent those policies and procedures, and conforms to specific development standards of the underlying zones. Having established that the proposal is consistent with the Seattle Shoreline Program, it is hereby conditionally approved.

## **DECISION - SHORELINE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

The Shoreline Substantial Development Permit is **GRANTED**.

### **ANALYSIS - SEPA**

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 on June 25, 2012 and revised on August 24, 2012. The Department of Planning and Development has analyzed and annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the file and any pertinent comments which may have been received regarding this proposed action have been considered. As indicated in the checklist, this action may result in adverse impacts to the environment. However, due to their temporary nature or limited effects, the impacts are not expected to be significant.

The shoreline review determined that the project will result in no increase in impervious surface or veg. removal within the 100-ft ECA shoreline habitat buffer.

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.

Codes and development regulations applicable to this proposed project will provide sufficient mitigation for short and/or long term impacts. Applicable codes may include the Stormwater Code (SMC 22.800-808), the Grading Code (SMC 22.170), the Street Use Ordinance (SMC Title 15), the Seattle Building Code, and the Noise Control Ordinance (SMC 25.08). Puget Sound Clean Air Agency regulations require control of fugitive dust to protect air quality.

### Short Term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts are expected: temporary soil erosion; decreased air quality due to increased dust and other suspended air particulates during excavation, filling and transport of materials to and from the site; increased noise and vibration from construction operations and equipment; increased traffic and parking demand from construction personnel traveling to and from the work site; consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources; disruption of utilities serving the area; and conflict with normal pedestrian movement adjacent to the site. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse short-term impacts to the environment.

Greenhouse gas emissions- 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.

No further conditioning or mitigation is warranted pursuant to specific environmental policies or the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665).

### 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; increased bulk and scale on the site; loss of plant and animal habitat; and increased light and glare. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse long-term impacts to the environment.

Greenhouse gas emissions- 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.

No further conditioning or mitigation is warranted pursuant to specific environmental policies or the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665).

### **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.

- 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).

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW [43.21C.030](#) (2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC [197-11-355](#) and Early review DNS process in SMC 25.05.355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

### **CONDITIONS - SEPA**

None required.

### **CONDITIONS - SHORELINE**

None required

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature on file) Date: January 24, 2013  
Beth Hartwick, Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

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