



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: 3014854
Applicant Name: Akasha Woolery
Address of Proposal: 1801 17th Avenue South

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into two parcels of land in an environmentally critical area. Proposed parcel sizes are: A) 4,990 sq. ft. and B) 4,685 sq. ft. Existing structures to be demolished.

The following approval is required:

Short Subdivision - to subdivide one existing parcel into two parcels of land.
(Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 23.24)

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

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Zoning: Lowrise 2 (LR2) & Single Family 5000 (SF5000)

Uses on Site: One single family residence.

Site Description

This 9,675 square foot (sq. ft.) project site is located partially in a Single Family 5000 (SF5000) Zone and partially in a Lowrise 2 zone (LR2) in the Beacon Hill neighborhood. The parcel is situated on the

west side of 17th Avenue South one-half block north of South Holgate Street. An existing single family residence is located on the site.

Vehicular access to the site is via 17th Avenue South. 17th Avenue South is an unimproved non-arterial street with a paved roadway, but no curbs, gutters, street trees or sidewalks.

The topography of the site is sloping upward to the west with slopes that are mapped in excess of 40%. The subject property is designated Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) due to steep slopes and potential slides. Existing vegetation consists of grass, shrubs and some mature trees.

Surrounding property to the north is zoned LR2. Property to the south is zoned SF5000. Existing development north and south of the proposal consists of single family homes varying in age and architectural style on a variety of lot sizes.

Proposal

The proposal is to subdivide one parcel of land into two parcels. Proposed parcel sizes are indicated in the summary above. Proposed Parcels A and B will have direct vehicular and pedestrian access to 17th Ave. South. The existing single family residence on proposed Parcel B will be removed. Proposed Parcel B is wholly within the SF5000 zone. Proposed Parcel A is largely within the LR2 zone with a small portion on the south edge in the SF5000 zone.

The subject of this analysis and decision is restricted to the proposed division of land.

Public Comment

The required public comment period for this project ended on March 20, 2013. DPD received no written comments regarding this proposal.

ANALYSIS – SUBDIVISION

General short subdivision standards: Pursuant to SMC 23.24.040, the Director shall, after conferring with appropriate officials, use the following criteria to determine whether to grant, condition, or deny a short plat:

1. *Conformance to the applicable Land Use Code provisions, as modified by this chapter;*
2. *Adequacy of access for pedestrians, vehicles, utilities and fire protection as provided in Section 23.53.005, Access to lots, and Section 23.53.006, Pedestrian access and circulation;*
3. *Adequacy of drainage, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal;*
4. *Whether the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land;*
5. *Conformance to the applicable provisions of Section 25.09.240, Short subdivisions and subdivisions, in environmentally critical areas;*

6. *Whether the proposed division of land is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees;*
7. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouse, rowhouse, and cottage housing developments as permitted in Single-Family, Residential Small Lot, and Lowrise zones and for single-family dwelling units in Lowrise zones, or any combination of the above types of residential development, as permitted in the applicable zones; and;*
8. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.046, Multiple single-family dwelling units on a single-family lot, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating two or more lots from one lot with more than one existing single-family dwelling unit.*
9. *Every lot except unit lots and lots proposed to be platted for individual live-work units in zones where live-work units are permitted shall conform to the following standards for lot configuration, unless a special exception is authorized under subsection 23.24.040.B:*
 - a. *If a lot is proposed with street frontage, then one lot line shall abut the street for at least 10 feet; and*
 - b. *No lot shall be less than 10 feet wide for a distance of more than 10 feet as measured at any point; and*
 - c. *No proposed lot shall have more than six separate lot lines. The lot lines shall be straight lines, unless the irregularly shaped lot line is caused by an existing right-of-way or an existing lot line; and*
 - d. *If the property proposed for subdivision is adjacent to an alley, and the adjacent alley is either improved or required to be improved according to the standards of Section 23.53.030, then no new lot shall be proposed that does not provide alley access, except that access from a street to an existing use or structure is not required to be changed to alley access. Proposed new lots shall have sufficient frontage on the alley to meet access standards for the zone in which the property is located.*

Conclusion

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments from DPD and other City Departments, and review and analysis by the Land Use Planner, the above criteria have been met. The short subdivision meets all minimum standards or applicable exceptions set forth in the Land Use Code. This short subdivision will provide pedestrian and vehicular access (including emergency vehicles), and public and private utilities. Adequate provisions for drainage control, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal will be provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions. The proposed plat maximizes the retention of existing trees. The public use and interest are served by the proposal since all applicable criteria are met and the proposal creates the potential for additional housing opportunities in the City.

DECISION –SHORT SUBDIVISION

The proposed Short Subdivision is **GRANTED**.

CONDITIONS

None required.

ANALYSIS – SEPA

The proposal site is located in an environmentally critical area, as noted above. Proposals located in landslide prone areas (i.e. known landslide areas, potential landslide areas, and steep slopes), wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas may require environmental review (SMC 25.05.908), thus this application is not exempt from SEPA review. However, the scope of environmental review of projects within these critical areas is 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. 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 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. 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

While this review is restricted to the division of land only, the following temporary or construction-related impacts may be expected at some future date: 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). City codes and/or ordinances apply to the proposal and will provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. Specifically these are: 1) Street Use; 2) Building Code (construction measures in general); 3) Regulations for Environmentally

Critical Areas, and 4) 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.

Earth / Soils

The ECA Ordinance and Director's Rule (DR) 18-2011 require submission of a soils report to evaluate the site conditions and provide recommendations for safe construction in landslide prone areas. Pursuant to this requirement the applicant submitted a geotechnical engineering study by Earth Solutions NW dated March 18, 2013. 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. Geotechnical issues will be reviewed in detail with the building permit applications and any design changes or conditions can be required under the authority of the ECA Ordinance. No additional SEPA mitigation is warranted.

Long Term Impacts

Long term or use-related impacts on the environmentally critical area are also anticipated as a result of this proposal, including: increased surface water runoff due to greater site coverage by impervious surfaces; loss of plant and animal habitat. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse long-term impacts to the environment.

No additional conditioning is warranted pursuant to SEPA policies.

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).

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 available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355 and early review.

CONDITIONS

None required.

Signature: _____ (signature on file) Date: August 19, 2013
Marti Stave, Senior Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development

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