



**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**

**Application Number:** 3015007  
**Applicant Name:** Jeff Babienko  
**Address of Proposal:** 952 East Seneca Street

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Land Use Application to change the use of 19,572 sq. ft. in a three-story existing building from mini warehouse to eating and drinking establishment.

The following approval is required:

**SEPA – Environmental Determination-** Chapter 23.05 Seattle Municipal Code

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

**BACKGROUND DATA**

The site is located at the corner of East Seneca Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East one block east of Broadway in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. It also lies within the First Hill Urban Center Village. It is bounded on the north by East Union Street and on the south by East Madison Street. The 7,790 sq. ft. site contains an existing building with approximately 23,370 sq. ft. of ministorage space on three floors.

The site is zoned Neighborhood Commercial 3 Pedestrian with a 65-foot height limit (NC3P-65) as are all properties in the vicinity. Nearby zones include Neighborhood Commercial zoning with varying height limits. There are several newer mixed use buildings along Broadway to the west and smaller retail enterprises to the north and east. To the south and west of the site is the Major Institution Overlay District for Seattle University and Swedish Hospital.

### Proposal

The applicant proposes to convert all three floors from ministorage to an eating and drinking establishment.

### Public Comment

No comment letters were received from the public during the comment period that ended on

### **ANALYSIS – SEPA**

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the 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 March 25, 2013. The Department of Planning and Development has analyzed and annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant; reviewed 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. However, due to the temporary nature or limited effects, the impacts are not expected to be significant.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665 D) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, 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 regulation applicable to this proposed project will provide sufficient mitigation from short and/or long term impacts. Applicable codes may include the Stormwater Code (SMC22.800-808), the Grading Code (SMC22.170), the Street Use Ordinance (SMC Title 15), the Building Code, and Noise Control Ordinance (SMC 25.08).

### Short-Term Construction Impacts

The short-term, construction related impacts anticipated from the proposal are as summarized in the following list:

- *Air Quality* --- Increased dust and particulate matter due to construction activities and hauling of waste materials.
- *Transportation* --- An increase in vehicular traffic adjacent to the site due to construction vehicles.
- *Noise* --- Increased noise during construction

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.

Codes and development regulations applicable to this proposed project will provide sufficient mitigation and no further conditioning or mitigation is warranted pursuant to the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665).

### Long-Term Impacts

The long-term use-related impacts anticipated to result from approval of this proposal are summarized in the following list:

- *Parking and Traffic --- anticipated increased trip generation*

The change of use of the building from mini-warehouse use to eating and drinking establishment will increase traffic to and from the site. However, the site is located within the First Hill Urban Center Village where no parking is required. Additionally, the site is within 1,320 feet of two streets with frequent transit service (Broadway and East Madison). Therefore, no mitigation is required to reduce traffic impacts, pursuant to SMC 25.05.675R.

Compliance with these applicable codes is adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation for the long-term impacts resulting from the project.

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 (SMC25.05.665).

### **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 requirements 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 43.21C.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).

**SEPA CONDITIONS**

None required.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature on file) Date: July 1, 2013  
Marti Stave, Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

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