



**City of Seattle**  
Edward Murray, Mayor

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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:** 3016873  
**Applicant Name:** Sloan Ritchie of Cascade Built  
**Address of Proposal:** 225 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue East

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Land Use Application to subdivide one development site into three unit lots in an environmentally critical area. The construction of residential units has been approved under Project #6363478. This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots.

The following approval is required:

**Unit Lot Subdivision** - to create three unit lots.  
(Chapter 23.24, Seattle Municipal Code)

**SEPA - Environmental Determination** pursuant to SMC 25.05

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Zoning: Lowrise 1

Subject Site Size: 4,800 square feet

Environmentally Critical Areas: Potential Slide Area

Public Comment: The public comment period ended on April 2, 2014. No public comment was received.

**ANALYSIS – SHORT SUBDIVISION (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.*

Summary – Short Subdivision

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 lots to be created by this short subdivision will meet all minimum standards or applicable exceptions as set forth in the Land Use Code. This unit lot 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 have been provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions. The subject site is located in an environmentally critical area as a potential slide area. Based on review of the building permit, number 6363478, impacts to the critical area for the unit lot have been reviewed and considered. The proposed plat appears to maximize the retention of existing trees. Tree and other landscaping requirements were also considered under the building permit review. 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.

**ANALYSIS, UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION (SMC 23.24.045)**

- A. *The provisions of this section apply exclusively to the unit subdivision of land for townhouses, 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.*
- B. *Except for any site for which a permit has been issued pursuant to Section 23.44.041 or 23.45.545 for a detached accessory dwelling unit, sites developed or proposed to be developed with dwelling units listed in subsection 23.24.045 A above may be subdivided into individual unit lots. The development as a whole shall meet development standards applicable at the time the permit application is vested. As a result of the subdivision, development on individual unit lots may be nonconforming as to some or all of the development standards based on analysis of the individual unit lot, except that any private, usable open space or private amenity area for each dwelling unit shall be provided on the same unit lot as the dwelling unit it serves.*
- C. *Subsequent platting actions, additions or modifications to the structure(s) may not create or increase any nonconformity of the parent lot.*
- D. *Access easements and joint use and maintenance agreements shall be executed for use of common garage or parking areas, common open space (such as common courtyard open space for cottage housing), and other similar features, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*
- E. *Within the parent lot, required parking for a dwelling unit may be provided on a different unit lot than the lot with the dwelling unit, as long as the right to use that parking is formalized by an easement on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

*F. The fact that the unit lot is not a separate buildable lot, and that additional development of the individual unit lots may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot shall be noted on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

#### Summary – Unit Lot Subdivision

Review of this application shows that the proposed short subdivision conforms to the applicable standards of SMC 23.24.045. Structures reviewed under a separate building permit, number 6363478, conform to the development standards at the time the permit application was vested to code. To assure that future owners have notice that additional development may be limited, a note has been added to the face of the plat stating, *The lots created by unit lot subdivision are not separate building lots. Additional development on any individual unit lot in this unit lot subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code.* A joint use and maintenance agreement is also included on the face of the plat.

#### **DECISION – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

The proposed Unit Lot Subdivision is **GRANTED**.

#### **ANALYSIS – SEPA**

The proposal site is located in an environmentally critical area identified as a potential slide area. 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 documenting whether the proposal is consistent with the City's Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) regulations in SMC 25.09, and evaluating potentially significant impacts on the critical area resources not adequately addressed in the ECA regulations.

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the *State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)*, *Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11*, and the *Seattle SEPA Ordinance (SMC 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 (DPD) has analyzed and annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant, and 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.

Construction and operation activities are expected to result in temporary soil erosion or an increase 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 because they are temporary and/or minor in scope (SMC 25.05.794). No further SEPA conditioning is warranted (SMC 23.05.675.A.).

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 *SEPA Overview Policy* states, in part, “Where City regulations have been adopted to address environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation” subject to some limitations (SMC 25.05.665). Applicable codes may include the following: *Stormwater Code* (SMC 22.800-808); *Grading Code* (SMC 22.170); *Street Use Ordinance* (SMC Title 15); *Seattle Building Code*; and *Noise Control Ordinance* (SMC 25.08). 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.

### **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 (Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

[X] *Determination of Non-Significance.* DPD has determined that this proposal does 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 the subdivision of this property for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and is consistent with ECA regulations. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). his 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.

### **CONDITIONS – SEPA**

None.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature on file) Date: June 30, 2014  
Carly Guillory, Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

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