



**City of Seattle**  
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

**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:** 3018714  
**Applicant Name:** Amy Helmick of Playhouse Design  
**Address of Proposal:** 5007 Renton Avenue South

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL**

Land Use Application to allow a 5-unit townhouse structure and one single family residence (six units total) in an environmentally critical area. Parking for six vehicles to be provided in attached garages. Existing building to be demolished. Review includes future unit lot subdivision.

The following approval is required:

**SEPA – Environmental Determination** – Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 25.05

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

**SITE AND VICINITY**

Site Zone: Lowrise-2 (LR2), Columbia City Residential Urban Village

Nearby Zones: (North) LR2  
(South) Single Family (SF) 5000  
(East) LR2  
(West) LR2

Lot Area: 8,534 square feet

Existing Uses: The subject site currently contains a multi-family structure containing three units with surface parking for three vehicles.



Environmental Critical Area: Steep Slope

Surrounding Development

Development along Renton Avenue South consists primarily of one- and two-story single-family and multi-family structures. The architectural context is diverse and includes traditional, craftsman, contemporary, and modern aesthetics.

Access

Vehicular access is provided from West Olympic Place via a driveway at the east property line. Two units face and take pedestrian access via West Olympic Place. Pedestrian access to the rear units is provided via a shared pedestrian walkway along the west property line.

Public Comment

Public comment was not received during the comment period that ended March 29, 2015.

**ANALYSIS – SEPA (WAC 97-11 and SMC 25.05)**

The proposal site is located in an environmentally critical area (ECA). 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 documenting whether the proposal is consistent with the City's ECA regulations (SMC 25.09), and evaluating potentially significant impacts on the critical area resources not adequately addressed in the ECA regulations (SMC 25.09). 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), 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; 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 *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 an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation” subject to some limitations (SMC 25.05.665).

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

Temporary or construction-related impacts on the environmentally critical area are anticipated. Examples of impacts may include: 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/or vibration from construction operations and equipment; increased traffic and parking demand from construction personnel traveling to and from the work site; and/or consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources; disruption of utilities serving the area; an increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming;. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse short-term impacts to the environment.

### Long Term Impacts

Long term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of this proposal. Examples of such impacts may include: increased surface water runoff due to greater site coverage by impervious surfaces; increased bulk and scale on the site; increased traffic in the area and an increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming; increased demand for parking; increased demand for public services and utilities; and increased light and glare. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse long-term impacts to the environment.

## **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) 43.21.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 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21.030(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 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.

Signature: retagonzales-cunneutabby for \_\_\_\_\_ Date: August 24, 2015  
Carly Guillory, Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

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### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ISSUANCE OF YOUR MASTER USE PERMIT**

#### Master Use Permit Expiration and Issuance

The appealable land use decision on your Master Use Permit (MUP) application has now been published. At the conclusion of the appeal period, your permit will be considered “approved for issuance”. (If your decision is appealed, your permit will be considered “approved for issuance” on the fourth day following the City Hearing Examiner’s decision.) Projects requiring a Council land use action shall be considered “approved for issuance” following the Council’s decision.

The “approved for issuance” date marks the beginning of the **three year life** of the MUP approval, whether or not there are outstanding corrections to be made or pre-issuance conditions to be met. The permit must be issued by DPD within that three years or it will expire and be cancelled (SMC 23-76-028). (Projects with a shoreline component have a **two year life**. Additional information regarding the effective date of shoreline permits may be found at 23.60.074.)

All outstanding corrections must be made, any pre-issuance conditions met and all outstanding fees paid before the permit is issued. You will be notified when your permit has issued.

Questions regarding the issuance and expiration of your permit may be addressed to the Public Resource Center at [prc@seattle.gov](mailto:prc@seattle.gov) or to our message line at 206-684-8467.