



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Department of Construction and Inspections

Nathan Torgelson, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR
OF THE SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTIONS**

Application Number: 3019353
Applicant Name: John Pasco
Address of Proposal: 2816 Boyer Ave E

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Shoreline Substantial Development Application to allow three new floating homes. Project includes demolition of covered boat moorage and associated pier, relocation of gangway, construction of two finger piers and installation of six pilings for new floating homes. Parking to be established for the new floating homes (3 spaces) at 2812 Boyer Avenue E. under project #3020187. Environmental Review includes 3020187.

The following approvals are required:

Shoreline Substantial Development Permit - to allow three new floating homes in an Urban Residential (UR) shoreline environment

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

SEPA DETERMINATION: Exempt DNS MDNS EIS

DNS with conditions

DNS involving non-exempt grading, or demolition, or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND AND PROPOSAL

The property is located in a Single Family 5000 (SF 5000) zone in an Urban Residential (UR) Shoreline Environment. The moorage site includes submerged lands along Portage Bay. The applicant proposes to construct three new floating homes. The project includes the demolition of

a covered boat moorage structure with associated pier, relocation of an existing gangway to access the floating homes, construction of two fully grated finger piers that will be accessory to two single family residences on land (2812 and 2814 Boyer Ave. E.) and installation of six pilings for the new floating homes. An existing floating home walkway located partially on a neighboring property will be shared for the new floating homes rather than constructing a new walkway. The project will result in a net increase in overwater coverage that results in shoreline habitat impacts that will require habitat mitigation. The applicant has submitted a mitigation plan (Cedarock Consultants, 2016) to address these impacts that includes removal of submerged debris to reduce habitat for fish that prey on migrating salmonids. This project was vested to the previous Shoreline Master Program (SMC 23.60) due to submission of complete building permit application prior to implementation of the City's current Shoreline Master Program in June 2015.

Public Comment

Notice of the proposed project was published on May 11, 2015. The public comment period ended on June 9, 2015. Several public comments were received, including comments from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

ANALYSIS - SHORELINE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT

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.

A. 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 seeks to protect against adverse effects to the public health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life, while protecting generally public rights of navigation and corollary incidental rights. Permitted uses in the shorelines shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize, insofar as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and any interference with the public's use of the water. Construction of the new floating homes will occur using Best Management Practices for the protection of the aquatic environment. Habitat mitigation will be provided to address impacts of the project's new overwater coverage, as described in more detail below and in application material. The subject application is consistent with the procedures outlined in RCW 90.58.

B. The Regulations of this Chapter

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 ensuring compliance with the policy and provisions of the Act. As a result of this Act, the City of Seattle adopted a local shoreline master program, codified in the Seattle Municipal Code at Chapter 23.60 that also incorporates the provisions of Chapter 173-27, WAC. Title 23 of the Municipal Code is also referred to as the Land Use and Zoning Code. 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 which have also been set forth in the Land Use Code.

In evaluating requests for substantial development permits, the Director must determine that a proposed use and subsequent development meets the relevant criteria set forth in the Land Use Code. The Shoreline Goals and Policies, part of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, and the purpose and location criteria for each shoreline environment must be considered. A proposal must be consistent with the general development standards of SMC 23.60.152, the specific standards of the shoreline environment (SMC 23.60.540) and underlying zoning designation, any applicable special approval criteria, and the development standards for specific uses. Standards for floating homes are found at Seattle Shoreline Management Program (SMC 23.60.196).

Seattle Comprehensive Plan - Shoreline Policies

The proposal is subject to the Shoreline Policies of (SMC 23.60.004), because the site is located within the shoreline district and requires a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit because the cost of the project exceeds \$6,416.00. Floating home moorages, because of their historic role in Seattle, are designated as a water dependent use, but the increase of floating home moorages or the increase in use of the shoreline or water area by floating homes is not necessarily encouraged - Seattle Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Goal 231 (LU231). The purpose of the Urban Residential (UR) environment as set forth in Section SMC 23.60.220.C.6 is to protect residential areas, such as floating home moorages.

The proposed project must meet the standards of the underlying Residential Single Family 5000 zone, the general development standards for all shoreline environments (SMC 23.60.152) and the development standards for the UR shoreline environment (SMC 23.60.540). The Director may attach to the permit or authorize any conditions necessary to carry out the spirit and purpose of, and ensure the compliance with, the Seattle Shoreline Master Program (SMC 23.60.064).

SMC 23.60.152 - Development Standards for all Environments

These general standards apply to all uses in the shoreline environments. The standards require that design and construction of all uses be conducted in an environmentally sound manner, consistent with the Shoreline Management Program and with best management practices for the specific use or activity.

This project is proposed to occur in the aquatic and shoreline environment of Portage Bay that provides habitat for Chinook salmon. The project site serves as a migration corridor as well as potentially rearing area for juvenile Chinook salmon from the Cedar River and other water bodies in Water Resource Inventory Area 8. Additionally, predators of juvenile Chinook are known to inhabit areas under overwater structures and may use these areas as cover while preying on juvenile Chinook. Overwater coverage reduces the amount and quality of natural habitat of juvenile Chinook salmon and provides habitat for predator species of juvenile Chinook.

The project proponent has agreed to a mitigation plan that includes the removal of existing overwater coverage, in-water structures, and man-made submerged debris along the subject site as described in submitted plan set and Mitigation Plan (Cedarock Consultants, 2016). Submerged debris in the nearshore environment of Portage Bay and Lake Union is known to provide habitat for predators of migrating salmon in this area. The removal of this debris and in-water structures will improve habitat conditions for migrating salmonids and adequately mitigate for the project's impacts.

In order to address the potential negative impacts of artificial light in the water on salmonids that may utilize aquatic habitat at this location, all exterior light fixtures shall be fully shielded to prevent light spillage beyond the perimeter of the float, and shall use low-wattage light bulbs for life of project, as conditioned below.

As proposed and as conditioned below, the project complies with the general development standards.

SMC 23.60.540, 23.60.196 and 23.60.196.C - Development Standards for UR Environments, Floating Homes and Nonconforming Floating Home Moorage

The proposal is located at an existing non-conforming floating home moorage. Pursuant to SMC 23.60.540.A.1, floating home moorages are permitted outright on waterfront lots in the UR Environment in Lake Union or Portage Bay. The subject property is classified as a waterfront lot and is located within an Urban Residential (UR) environment, as designated by the Seattle Shoreline Master Program. All development must conform to the development standards in the UR shoreline environment, as well as the underlying Single Family 5000 zone. Standards such as height, lot coverage, and public access have been met or are not affected by this proposal. Regulated public access is not required for a floating home.

The development must also conform to the general standards for non-conforming floating home moorages in SMC 23.60.196.C, including those standards for expansion of a nonconforming moorage. The project has been reviewed by Seattle DCI and found to meet all applicable development standards for new floating homes in SMC 23.60.196, including those standards for height, total water coverage, setbacks between homes, and float area.

C. 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 SMC Chapter 23.60 is also consistency with WAC 173-27 and RCW 90.58.

Conclusion

SMC Section 23.60.064.E provides authority for conditioning of shoreline substantial development permits as necessary to carry out the spirit and purpose of and assure compliance with the Seattle Shoreline Code, Chapter 23.60, and with RCW 90.58.020 (State policy and legislative findings). To be consistent with shoreline general development standards for protection of the aquatic environment (SMC 23.60.152), the project will be required to employ Best Management Practices during construction and installation and to control artificial light spillage

into the water that can negatively impact salmonids that utilize this area by the design and placement of exterior lights.

Thus, as conditioned below, the proposal is consistent with the criteria for a shoreline substantial development permit and may be approved.

DECISION - SHORELINE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Shoreline Substantial Development Permit is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED** subject to the conditions listed at the end of this report.

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 April 9, 2015. The information in the checklist and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The Department of Construction and Inspections has analyzed and annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the file. As indicated in the annotated checklist, this action will result in adverse impacts to the environment. A discussion of likely adverse impacts and how they may be appropriately mitigated follows below.

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. Under such limitations/circumstances (SMC 25.05.665D.1) mitigation can be considered. Thus, a more detailed discussion of some of the impacts is appropriate.

Short-term Impacts

Portions of the property under project 3020187 (2812 Boyer Ave.) where the garage will be constructed for parking spaces for the floating homes are designated as steep slope areas, including the area for the proposed garage, which is proposed to be located approximately 7 feet from the northern and southern property lines. A cut of up to approximately 15 feet will be needed on the western side of the proposed garage. The applicant has submitted a Geotechnical Engineering report addressing soil composition for the development proposal including excavation for the parking garage, site preparation, grading, erosion and groundwater control, and drainage recommendations. The report concluded that the proposed garage can be founded on a conventional footing foundation that bears on competent soils, although some over excavation may be needed on the eastern edge of the garage to reach competent soils. Based on

soil and groundwater conditions found in test boring, the report provides recommendations for excavations and shoring procedures during construction and a drainage system for the garage. Details for these recommendations are contained in the report from Geotech Consultants. Review of the submitted report and approval of the resultant plans and construction methods will be subject to the standards of the Stormwater, Grading, and Drainage Control Code, as well as the Environmentally Critical Area Ordinance. No further SEPA conditions are necessary.

With respect to activities reviewed under project 3019353, there is a small potential for adverse impacts during construction activities at the subject site, such as debris or deleterious material or liquids falling or entering into the water. While these impacts are adverse, they are not expected to be significant and should be mitigated by following standard Best Management Practices, as conditioned below.

Long-term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of approval of this proposal including: increased carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions; increased demand for public services and utilities; increased height, bulk, and scale on the site, and increased project energy consumption. Several adopted City codes and/or ordinances provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. Specifically these are: the City Energy Code which will require insulation for outside walls and energy efficient windows; and the Land Use Code which controls site coverage, setbacks, building height and use, parking requirements, shielding of light and glare reduction, and contains other development and use regulations to assure compatible development.

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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 with conditions. 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).

SEPA AND SHORELINE CONDITIONS

During Construction

1. The owner(s), builder(s), or responsible party(s) shall follow a Best Management Practices plan developed to prevent debris and other deleterious material from entering the water during construction.

Prior to Building Permit Final

2. Applicant shall implement and complete mitigation requirements to address additional overwater coverage as described in Mitigation Plan (Cedarock Consultants 2016) submitted during project review and contained in project file. Documentation of fully completed mitigation shall be provided to Seattle DCI.

For Life of project

3. All exterior light fixtures shall be fully shielded to prevent light spillage beyond the perimeter of the float, and shall use low-intensity light bulbs.

Ben Perkowski, Senior Land Use Planner
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

Date: August 8, 2016

BP:drm

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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 Seattle DCI 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 or to our message line at 206-684-8467.