



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: 3022792
Applicant Name: Bradley Khouri
Address of Proposal: 2602 14th Avenue West

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into two parcels of land in an environmentally critical area. Proposed parcel sizes: A) 3,000.8 sq. ft. and B) 3,000.8 sq. ft. Existing structures to be demolished.

The following approvals are required:

Short Subdivision - to create two parcels. (Chapter 23.24, Seattle Municipal Code)

SEPA - Environmental Threshold Determination (SMC Chapter 25.05)

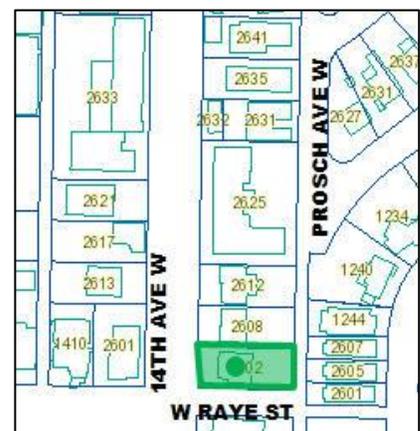
SEPA DETERMINATION:

Determination of Non-significance

- No mitigating conditions of approval are imposed.
- Pursuant to SEPA substantive authority provided in SMC 25.06.660, the proposal has been conditioned to mitigate environmental impacts.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site Zone: Lowrise 1 (LR1)



Nearby Zones: LR1 (North)
Lowrise 3 (LR3) (South)
LR1 (East)
LR3 (West)

Site Description: The subject property, located on 14th Ave W, consists of one 6,001.6 square foot (sq. ft.) parcel containing a single family residential structure. The site abuts an unimproved, vegetated portion of W Raye St to the south and an improved alley to the east.

Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA): The entire site is mapped as an ECA Potential slide area and ECA Abandoned landfill. Portions of the site contain Environmentally Critical Areas – Steep Slopes. The applicant applied for and received a Limited Steep Slope Exemption under permit #6512350, as follows:

“SMC 25.09. Environmentally Critical Areas (ECAs) review is required for building permit applications. Based on a review of the submitted information and the City GIS system, Seattle DCI concludes that the project appears to quality for the criteria established in the Critical Areas Regulations, SMC 25.09.180.B2b. Specifically, the submitted information for the steep slope developmental allowance application demonstrated that steep slopes at the site appear to have been created by previous legal grading activities associated with property development and street improvement. For this reason, Seattle DCI will waive the required ECA Steep Slope Variance associated with Seattle DCI Application No. 6512350. This approval is conditioned upon the approval of subsequent building permit applications for a design that demonstrates that the proposed development will be completely stabilized in accordance the recommendations by the geotechnical engineer as well as with provisions of the ECA Code and Grading Code. All other ECA Submittal, General, and Landslide-Hazard, and development standards still apply for this development. Please note that the site is also mapped as landfill buffer zone and potential landslide due to geologic conditions, which the preceding considerations do not directly apply.”

Public Comment: The public comment period commenced on December 3, 2015. Public comments were received regarding short- and long-term impacts to alley and surrounding parking, drainage, setbacks, timing, hours of construction and related noise, vegetation in the unimproved W Raye St right-of-way.

I. 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 either have sufficient frontage on the alley to meet access standards for the zone in which the property is located or provide an access easement from the proposed new lot or lots to the alley that meets access standards for the zone in which the property is located.*

Conclusion – Short Subdivision

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments from Seattle DCI 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 short subdivision is designed to maximize 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.

The proposed short subdivision and associated Environmentally Critical Area exemption comply with SMC 25.09.240. Future construction will be subject to the provisions of SMC 23.45, which sets forth development standards for multi-family zones and tree ordinance regulations of SMC 25.11.

DECISION –SHORT SUBDIVISION

The proposed Short Subdivision is **GRANTED** with conditions.

II. 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 dated 11/23/2015. The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) has annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the project file submitted by the applicant or agents; and any pertinent comments which may have been received regarding this proposed action have been considered. The information in the checklist, the supplemental information, and the experience of the lead agency with the review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

City codes and ordinances apply to the proposal and will provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. Specifically these are: 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 Regulations for Environmentally Critical Areas (SMC 25.09).

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 on the environmentally critical area are expected: 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). Future construction plans including shoring of excavations as needed and erosion control techniques will be reviewed by Seattle DCI at time of building permit application. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse short-term impacts to the environment, however the following warrants further discussion:

Earth / Soils

The ECA Ordinance and Director's Rule (DR) 5-2016 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 (Geotechnical Report, December 2015, PanGeo Inc.). The study has been reviewed and approved by SDCI'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. The existing Grading and Stormwater Codes will sufficiently mitigate adverse impacts to the ECAs. No additional conditioning is warranted pursuant to SEPA policies (SMC 25.05.675.D).

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.

- 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 43.21.030(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 – SHORT SUBDIVISION

Prior to Recording

The owner(s) and/or responsible party(s) shall:

1. Complete and record with the King County Recorder no-protest agreements to future street improvements on W Raye St and 14th Ave W.
2. Add the following note to the plat: “All structures on the lot shall be designed and built to accommodate the grade of the future street improvements.”

CONDITIONS – SEPA

None.

BreAnne McConkie, Land Use Planner Date: July 28, 2016
Department of Construction and Inspections

BM:bg

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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.)