

# City of Seattle

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

**A. BACKGROUND:**

**1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Utility landscaping amendments

**2. Name of Applicant:**

City of Seattle

**3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

Dave LaClergue  
City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development  
700 Fifth Avenue, Room 2000  
P.O. Box 34019  
Seattle, Washington 98104-4019  
206-733-9668

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

June 2, 2010

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development

**6. Proposed timing or schedule (include phasing if applicable):**

The amendments are anticipated to be considered by the City Council in summer 2010. Council review will include a public hearing.

**7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activities related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain:**

The Land Use Code is regularly updated as required. The proposed amendments are part of ongoing efforts to update the Land Use Code.

**8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:**

Information in this checklist, the proposed Ordinance, and Director's report was considered in formulating and analyzing the subject proposal.

9. **Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain:**

Yes. Seattle Public Utilities is currently applying for one solid waste transfer station, will be applying for a second in the next two years, and Seattle City Light is likely to propose a new electrical substation in the South Lake Union neighborhood.

10. **List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:**

The proposed amendments will require adoption by the City Council.

11. **Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.**

**Proposal Description**

The proposed Land Use Code amendments would apply new landscaping and screening standards to solid waste transfer stations and utility services uses. These changes are proposed to reduce neighborhood impacts of large utility facilities.

Highlights of the proposed amendments include:

1. Apply a Seattle Green Factor landscaping standard to solid waste transfer stations. Green Factor is a scoring system for landscape amenities. The proposed language would require generous landscaping including trees and shrubs, with incentives for green roofs and walls, bioretention, permeable paving, and tree preservation.
2. Establish minimum setbacks in some zones for fences and free-standing walls around utility services uses, which include electrical substations, combined sewer overflows, pumping stations, and trolley transformers. Require landscaping in these setback areas.
3. Establish standards for architectural detailing and/or setbacks for utility services use fences/walls in other zones.

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:**

1. **Earth**

- a. **General description of site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.**

All types of terrain are present in Seattle, including flat, rolling, hilly and steep topography.

- b. **What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Land area in Seattle is generally flat, although some areas contain slopes exceeding 40%. Individual projects that may utilize the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and environmentally critical areas.

- c. **What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Soils found in Seattle include silt, sand, gravel, clay, peat, till, hardpan, sandstone, debris, and slag. Individual projects that may utilize the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and environmentally critical areas regulations.

**d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. While Seattle area soils are generally stable, there are indications of unstable soils in specific locations. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and environmentally critical areas regulations.

**e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of filling or grading depends upon existing site conditions and usually is part of the site preparation. Individual projects that may utilize the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

**f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase development pressures or change the amount of clearing that would occur on any site. Potential impacts of specific development projects will be addressed through existing regulations and/or separate site-specific environmental review.

**g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of impervious surface coverage depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) as they move forward.

**h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of erosion depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. Individual projects that may utilize the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth at this stage. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

There are established policies and regulations to limit the potential of erosion and landslide impact of specific development proposals. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on surface water resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions. The proposed Green Factor is expected to complement existing stormwater regulations to mitigate water quality and run-off impacts.

**2. Air**

**a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. No changes to odor standards are proposed. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal to air resources, including greenhouse gases, are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions

**b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Off-site sources of emissions or odors could exist in the vicinity of individual projects that may utilize the provisions of this proposal.

**c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

There are established policies and regulations to minimize or prevent adverse air quality impacts of specific development projects.

**3. Water**

**a. Surface Water:**

**1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

There are several water bodies in and around the city such as Elliott Bay, Lake Union, Green Lake and Lake Washington.

**2) Will the project require any work over, in or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The City of Seattle Shoreline Master Program is currently under revision and will regulate all uses within a 200 foot buffer of the shoreline.

**3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The proposed legislation is unlikely to affect the amount of fill or dredge required for site preparation as compared to that allowed under existing regulations. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and other requirements.

**4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Zoning and development regulation changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to affect surface water withdrawal or diversion in the city as compared to that allowed under existing regulations. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and other requirements.

**5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will

be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and other requirements.

**6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

Not applicable. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on surface water resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

**b. Ground Water:**

**1) Will groundwater be withdrawn or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development regulation changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to result in the withdrawal of or discharge to ground water as part of the site development for an individual project. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and other requirements. New development will need to include adequate sanitary sewer connection and capacity, and stormwater controls.

**2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground for septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The city, including zones affected under this proposal, is served by sewer mains. The proposed legislation will not change existing regulations on septic tanks or waste material discharge. Future development projects will need to include adequate sanitary and stormwater sewer capacity and controls, and will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and the City's stormwater and drainage requirements.

**c. Water Runoff (including storm water):**

**1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The amount of runoff and method of collection depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. Individual projects will be subject to the City's stormwater and drainage requirements and environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review.) Future development projects will need to meet treatment requirements prior to connection to City storm sewer systems. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal related to water runoff are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

**2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will be subject to the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City's stormwater and drainage requirements and environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review.) Future development projects will need to demonstrate that stormwater and wastewater requirements have been met. The indirect

effects of this non-project proposal related to water runoff are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

**d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground or runoff water impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. There are established policies and regulations to protect wetlands, riparian corridors, lakes, drainage basins, wildlife habitats, slopes, and other property from adverse drainage impacts of specific development projects. New construction will need to comply with the City's Stormwater Code provisions and provide for mitigation of erosion, if required. Individual projects will also be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review). The proposed Green Factor landscaping provisions are expected to complement Stormwater Code to mitigate water quality and run-off impacts.

**4. Plants**

**a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:**

- Deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- Evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- Shrubs
- Grass
- Pasture
- Crop or grain
- Wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
- Water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- Other types of vegetation

Most vegetation types listed above could be found in the city.

**b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The amount of vegetation removal depends upon existing site conditions and project-specific site design. The proposed legislation is unlikely to affect the amount of vegetation removed or altered compared to that allowed under existing regulations.

Individual development projects that may use the proposed legislation provisions will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, Significant Trees Ordinance, and other regulations. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on vegetation are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

**c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site:**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The proposed legislation is unlikely to have a different affect on threatened or endangered plant species than existing regulations. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposed legislation will be subject to the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, which requires identification of threatened or endangered species on or near individual project sites.

**d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development standards and design guidelines are in place and proposed that support the use of native plants and other vegetation on specific development projects where appropriate. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur

over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of landscaping or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation at this stage. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), and will be subject to the City's existing requirements for screening and buffers. The proposed landscaping provisions are expected to encourage attractive and ecologically functional landscapes. Green Factor standards provide incentives for native plants and other sustainable site design choices.

**5. Animals**

**a. Circle any birds and animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:**

Seattle is developed and urban in character. Birds observed in Seattle include hawk, eagle, songbirds, crow, starling, seagulls, pigeons, heron, Canadian Geese, and other birds. Mammals observed include squirrels, raccoons, opossums, small rodents, and household pets.

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of specific animals present at this stage.

**b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual development sites have not been determined. Some future development may be near areas, such as Lake Washington, where endangered species are known to be found, including Chinook salmon and bull trout. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on animals are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

**c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The city is developed and urban in character.

Seattle is within the "Pacific Flyway," one of the four principal north-south migration routes for birds (including Canadian Geese, heron, and other birds) in North America. The Pacific Flyway encompasses the entire Puget Sound Basin. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot currently be evaluated in terms of impacts on migration routes. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), and the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance for habitat and migration route protection.

**d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Policies are in place to encourage the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat for specific development projects where appropriate.

Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to preserve or enhance wildlife at this stage. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), and the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance for habitat protection.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**

- a. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing etc.**

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The area is served by electric and natural gas utilities. New development is likely to use these sources of energy. Future development projects that may use the proposed legislation are unlikely to require different types of energy sources under the new provisions than under the existing provisions.

Individual projects and development consistent with this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of energy requirements at this stage. Such projects will be subject to subsequent environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

- b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity; however in the affected areas we do expect some building height and density increases, possibly reducing solar access on neighboring parcels.

Projects and development consistent with this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of impacts to adjacent properties at this stage. Individual development projects that utilize the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to environmental review and design review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) for energy related impacts.

- c. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of energy conservation features or measures to reduce or control energy impacts at this stage. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and will need to meet the City's energy code requirements.

7. **Environmental Health**

- a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Zoning or development regulation changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to result in environmental health hazards as part of the site development for an individual project.

Individual projects that may utilize the provisions of this proposal will be subject to the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review,) and other requirements.

- 1) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. In general, emergency service providers including the Fire and Police Departments will review the effects of increased development and propose enhanced services

as necessary as part of their planning for future service needs. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in an increased need for emergency services. See discussion in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of special emergency services required at this stage. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and other requirements.

**2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in an increase of environmental health hazards.

Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards at this stage. Such projects will be subject to project-specific environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review), building code, and other public health and safety requirements. See discussion in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

**b. Noise**

**1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Ambient noise typical of urban areas exists in the city. The extent of existing traffic and other noise affecting a given development project, will be assessed through project-specific environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

**2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase noise impacts.

Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of noise impacts at this stage. Such projects will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) as they move forward. See discussion in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

**3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Existing noise standards and regulations in the Land Use Code and noise ordinance would be retained and would not change as part of this proposal.

Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to reduce or control noise impacts at this stage. Such projects will be subject to project-specific environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

## 8. Land and Shoreline Use

### a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

There will be no change of land uses as a result of this proposed code change. Solid waste transfer stations and utility services uses will continue to be allowed in the same zones. As redevelopment occurs in the city, some less intensive uses such as vacant land may be replaced with utility facilities just as is expected under the current provisions.

### b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Agricultural uses are not prevalent in the city.

### c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The city contains a wide range and extensive number of structures and is urban in form.

### d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Not applicable. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase the rate of demolition.

### e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Affected zones are in the following categories: single-family residential, multifamily residential, commercial and neighborhood commercial, Seattle Mixed, downtown, and industrial

### f. What is current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Comprehensive plan designation of the areas affected includes single-family and multifamily residential, commercial/mixed use, downtown, and industrial.

### g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Sites that could be affected by provisions in the proposed legislation occur in almost all of Seattle's shoreline environment designations. Most of the large utilities under discussion do not occur in the shoreline jurisdiction however, combined sewer overflows are the only likely exception.

### h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Some areas in the city are classified as environmentally sensitive. See also the City's critical areas maps.

### i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.

### j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable. The indirect affects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase the rate and extent at which residences or businesses are displaced.

### k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable. The indirect affects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase the rate or extent at which residences or businesses are displaced.

### l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans.

**9. Housing**

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The proposed provisions have no influence on the number of utility services uses planned for residential zones.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce of control housing impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal, not related to residential development.

**10. Aesthetics**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not include any construction or development activity.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not include any construction or development activity.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

The proposed provisions will provide a greater level of landscaping, architectural detailing, and other aesthetic interest for large utility facilities. The ordinance is intended to reduce the negative visual impacts of these uses.

**11. Light and Glare**

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Existing light and glare standards are not proposed to be changed. Projects and development that use the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) for light and glare impacts.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Projects and development that use the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to regulations and environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) for light and glare impacts.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Ambient light and glare typical of urban areas exist in Seattle. The extent of light and glare affecting a given development project will be assessed through project-specific environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and other regulations.

**d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Established policies and regulations to minimize or prevent hazards and other adverse light and glare impacts of specific development projects will not change. Projects and development that utilize the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) and other regulations for light and glare impacts.

**12. Recreation**

**a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. There are parks and other designated and informal recreational opportunities within the city.

**b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal which is not likely to change the potential displacement of any existing recreational uses. Projects and development that use the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) for recreation impacts.

**c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Projects and development that use the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review) for impacts on recreation.

**13. Historical and Cultural Preservation**

**a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

This is a non-project proposal. Individual projects and development that use the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to the City's regulations related to historic and archaeologically significant landmarks as well as environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

**b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Individual projects and development that utilize the proposed legislation's zoning and development regulation changes will be subject to the City's regulations related to historic and archaeologically significant landmarks as well as environmental review (if they meet or exceed thresholds for environmental review).

**c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. The indirect impacts of this non-project proposal on historic and cultural resources are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions. There are established policies and regulations to maintain and preserve significant historic sites and structures and to provide the opportunity for analysis of archaeological sites during review of specific development projects. Projects involving structures or sites which have been designated as historic landmarks are subject to compliance with the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance.

**14. Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe the proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

The city is served by the entire street system, including arterials with access to highways.

- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Generally, Seattle is well served by public transit in terms of both frequency of transit stops and headways.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

Not applicable. The direct and indirect effects of this non-project proposal are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and is not expected to require new roads or streets. New development on streets not meeting City standards will be responsible for improvements pursuant to the Land Use and Street Use Codes, the Street Improvements Manual and other applicable requirements.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action. Indirect effects of the proposal are not likely to affect water, air, or rail transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and is not expected to create new vehicular trips.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action.

**15. Public Services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. The proposed amendments are not expected to change potential demand for public services. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on public services are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity.

**16. Utilities**

- a. Utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.**

Parcels throughout Seattle are extensively developed and are typically served by all the utilities listed above except for septic systems.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The utility projects most likely to be affected by the proposed legislation include facilities operated by Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle City Light, and Seattle Department of Transportation.

**C. SIGNATURE**

Signature provided following section D below.

#### **D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS**

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering the questions, be aware of the extent of the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

**1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city. As a result it is expected that the potential for increased impacts to water, air (including greenhouse gas emissions), or noise or additional release of hazardous substances is expected to be minor.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Not applicable. The existing regulatory framework, i.e., the Land Use Code, The Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City's SEPA ordinance will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis.

**2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?**

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city. As a result, the potential for increased environmental impacts to plants, animals, fish or marine life is minor. By increasing landscaping requirements, the proposals may slightly increase certain kinds of habitat for birds, insects, and small animals. On a site-by-site basis, future development projects could potentially result in plant and animal impacts as a result of clearing vegetation or habitat that may be present on these sites.

**Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

Not applicable. The existing regulatory framework, i.e., the Land Use Code, The Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City's SEPA ordinance will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis.

**3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city. As a result, the potential for increased depletion of energy and natural resources is minor.

**Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

Not applicable.

**4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened, or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?**

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city. As a result, the potential for increased development in any protected areas is minor.

**Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

The existing regulatory framework, i.e., the Land Use Code, The Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, Landmarks Preservation Ordinance and the City's SEPA ordinance will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis.

**5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land and shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city. As a result, the proposal is unlikely to have major effects to land and shoreline use. The effects to land and shoreline use from the proposed amendments are described below.

Land and Shoreline Use

This is a non-project proposal, so specific environmental impacts can not be predicted. Generally speaking, the environmental impacts of the proposed code change will primarily be associated with slight increases in total landscaped areas for specific utilities uses. Because there are no major changes in zoning designations or requirements, there are not anticipated to be significant increases in incompatibility with adjacent uses.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

Development above SEPA thresholds will continue to be reviewed on a project basis and any land use related impacts identified and mitigated as part of the project's SEPA decision.

**6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

None of the proposed amendments are expected to result in significant adverse impacts to traffic or parking or public services and utilities. The proposal will not increase or decrease the number of utility services uses, nor will it affect the traffic volumes at these facilities.

**Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands are:**

Not applicable. Future development in affected zones could be expected to occur on a project-by-project basis. Public services and utilities can be accommodated when change is of an incremental nature.

**7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.**

No conflicts are anticipated with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for protection of the environment. While the proposals are focused primarily on aesthetics, they may provide modest improvements to ecological function at a site level.

**SIGNATURE:**

I, the undersigned, state that to the best of my knowledge the above information is true and complete. It is understood that the lead agency may withdraw any declaration of non-significance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part.

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Dave LaClergue

June 2, 2010  
Date

This checklist was reviewed by:

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William K. Mills, Senior Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

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Date