

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

**A. BACKGROUND**

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

Nighttime Amplified Sound Rule

**2. Name of applicant:**

City of Seattle, Department of Finance and Administrative Services

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

Applicant's Contact:  
Denise M. Movius

Contact address (on behalf of the applicant):  
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4250  
PO Box 34214  
Seattle, WA 98124-4214

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

April 1, 2011

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

City of Seattle

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

Adoption of rule in Spring 2011

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

No.

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

None known, except for correspondence evaluating C-weighted noise levels.

**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.**

Not relevant to this non-project proposal.

**10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your**

proposal, if known.

City departmental approval as a regulatory rule.

- 11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the site of the project. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

The City Council directed the administrator responsible for noise control and enforcement to promulgate rules establishing standards for amplified noises that are plainly audible to a person of normal hearing. In particular, the rules pertain to setting limits that will be measurable and enforceable with respect to amplified noise and the elements of the noise that may affect nearby locations. These include noise effects as they may be experienced in outdoor locations and within receiving dwelling units. Noise mitigation means and delegation of enforcement to the Seattle Police Department and the Department of Finance and Administrative Services is also addressed in the proposed rule.

- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

The rule would apply throughout the City of Seattle.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

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

This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to Section B.1.a above.

- 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.**

See the response to Section B.1.a above.

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

See the response to Section B.1.a above.

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

See the response to Section B.1.a above.

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

See the response to Section B.1.a above.

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

See the response to Section B.1.a above.

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

The proposal has no relationship to erosion or other earth 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.**

None. This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

No.

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

None.

## 3. Water

### a. Surface:

- 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.**

This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

- 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. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

- 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.**

None. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

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

No. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

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

No. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

- 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.**

No. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

**b. Ground:**

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

No. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from 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.**

None. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

**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.**

None. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

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

No. See the response to Section B.3.a.1 above.

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

None proposed.

**4. Plants**

**a. Check or circle 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

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

None. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

None. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

None.

**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:**

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

**birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: \_\_\_\_.  
**mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: squirrels  
**fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: None.

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

See the response to B.5.a above.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route?**

See the response to B.5.a above.

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

None.

**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.**

None. This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.6.a above.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?**

See the response to B.5.a above.

**List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:**

None.

## 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.**

None for this non-project proposal.

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

None.

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

None.

### b. Noise

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

None. This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city. See the response to D.1 in the Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions at the end of this checklist for more discussion about noise.

- 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 site.**

See the response to B.7.b.1 above.

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

None.

## 8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

**h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area?**

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

See the response to B.8.a above.

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

None.

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

None.

**9. Housing**

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

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific

characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.9.a above.

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

None.

**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?**

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.10.a above.

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

None.

**11. Light and Glare**

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

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.11.a above.

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

See the response to B.11.a above.

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

None.

## 12. Recreation

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

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.12.a above.

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

None.

## 13. Historic 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?**

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.13.a above.

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

None.

## 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.**

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

See the response to B.14.a above.

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

See the response to B.14.a above.

- 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).**

See the response to B.14.a above.

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

See the response to B.14.a above.

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

See the response to B.14.a above.

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

None.

## 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.**

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

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

None.

**16. Utilities**

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

This is a non-project proposal. This question pertaining to site-specific characteristics has no relationship to this non-project proposal for the entire city.

- 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 immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

See the response to B.16.a above.

**C. Signature**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Denise M. Morris

Date Submitted: 4/11/2011

This checklist was reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any comments or changes made by the Department are entered in the body of the checklist and contain the initials of the reviewer.

\_\_\_\_\_

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

**(Do not use this sheet for 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 these questions, be aware of the extent 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?**

This non-project proposal would not result in impacts to water, air, or toxic/hazardous substances. The proposal would not result in probable significant adverse noise impacts. Instead, the proposal would enable enforcement of an established noise standard that will likely result in decreased noise-related emissions and impacts from nightlife sources. Therefore, no potential for adverse noise impacts is identified.

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

None proposed.

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

This non-project proposal would result in no impacts with respect to plants, animals, fish or marine life.

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

None proposed.

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

This non-project proposal would result in no direct impacts with respect to energy or natural resource depletion.

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

None.

- 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 rezones would not result in adverse impacts to environmentally critical areas or the other listed types of environmentally-sensitive features.

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

None.

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

The proposal would result in no direct impacts to land and shoreline use as it is a non-project proposal. The proposed rules would aid in maintaining and improving compatibility between land uses where individuals or establishments use amplified sound and neighboring residents/occupants. The rule provides procedures, a noise standard, and enables remedies that will allow improved coexistence between residential and non-residential land users.

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

None.

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

The proposal would not result in transportation, public service, or utility impacts as this non-project proposal will have no implications for typical municipal utilities or service providers. By enabling enforcement of a specific noise standard, the proposal is likely to result in fewer demands on City resources that engage in amplified sound enforcement activities.

**Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

None proposed.

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

It is believed that the proposal would not result in conflicts with local, state or federal laws or requirements for protection of the environment.