

City of Seattle

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND:

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Amendments to the Shoreline Master Program, including Comprehensive Plan Policies, Regulations, Map, and Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Plan.

2. Name of Applicant:

City of Seattle

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

Department of Planning and Development
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, Washington 98104-4019
Contact: Margaret M. Glowacki, Senior Land Use Planner
(206) 233-7191

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 18, 2012

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

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

City Council action expected Fall 2012.

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

Further activities connected with the proposal are to adopt Director's Rules required or authorized by the proposal for best management practices and Habitat Evaluation Procedures in the future.

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

The following environmental information has been prepared and is directly related to this proposal:

Seattle Shoreline Characterization report; 2008
Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Plan 2011
Shoreline Cumulative Impacts Report 2012
SMP Director's Report 2012
Best Available Science Report and Director's Report prepared for Ordinance 122050 (the 2006 ECA regulations)
Technical information May 2012.

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:

This is a non-project action that applies to the Shoreline District and critical areas within it. Permit applications for development within Shoreline District, as described in #12, would be processed according to the SMP regulations in effect at the time the application vests.

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

The proposed amendments will require approval by the Mayor, adoption of the proposed regulations by City Council, and the approval of Washington Department of Ecology.

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

This is a non-project proposal. The proposal is to update the city of Seattle Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in response to the Washington state legislature's requirement that cities and counties with shoreline jurisdictions, including the City of Seattle, update their SMPs to comply with the requirements of ch. 90.58 RCW and the 2003 Shoreline Master Program Guidelines WAC 173-26, including the requirements to protect critical areas defined in ch. 36.70A RCW, to achieve "no net loss of ecological functions," to provide for preferred uses as set out in ch. 90.58.RCW and to provide public access to the shorelines.

This SMP update is considered a comprehensive update to the existing SMP for Shoreline Development. Seattle adopted its first SMP in 1972 and last comprehensively amended its SMP in 1987. SMPs are required by state law to be updated by amendment periodically (RCW 90.58.080). The City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan will be amended to incorporate proposed new SMP goals and policies, the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 23.60 will be amended to incorporate the updated SMP regulations, and the City's Land Use Map will be amended to show revised shoreline environments to which the regulations apply. The Shoreline Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Plan, which guides the City in its non-regulatory restoration actions, and the Cumulative Impact Analyses, which are used to determine if the regulations meet the no net loss of ecological functions requirement, are also part of the SMP update.

The purpose of the update is to:

1. Update the shoreline goals and policies, and regulations and maps;
2. Meet the requirements of the 2003 SMP Guidelines WAC 173-26;

3. Include environmentally critical areas (ECA) regulations in the SMP for ECAs that occur within the Shoreline District (see #12)
4. Create a plan to guide the non-regulatory ecological restoration activities in the City

For additional information regarding the proposal see the Director's Report, on file with this document, which provides detailed information regarding the proposed changes to the SMP.

- 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.**

This is a non-project action affecting the water-bodies of Puget Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Union/Ship Canal, Duwamish River, Green Lake, any associated wetlands and floodplains of these water-bodies and land within 200-ft of these water-bodies in the City of Seattle. This area is called the Shoreline District, consists of 11 shoreline environments, and is shown on Map A. The northern portion of this area is located in the Cedar River Watershed (Watershed Resource Inventory (WRIA) 8), and the southern portion of this area is located in the Green/Duwamish River Watershed (WRIA 9). There are approximately 44 miles of marine shorelines and 51 miles of freshwater shorelines. Additionally, the Shoreline District extends into and over the entire water body, if the entire water body is located within Seattle, and extends from the OHW into and over any water body to the middle of the waterbody where it meets up with neighboring jurisdiction.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

1. Earth

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

Not Applicable. This non-project action affecting the Shoreline District; see responses to section 11 above and to part D following.

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

This non-project action affecting the Shoreline District includes multiple parcels some that contain steep slopes greater than 40%.

- 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; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

2. Air

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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.

Not applicable; see above

- 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.**

Not applicable; see 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.**

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see 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.**

Not applicable; see 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.**

Not applicable; see 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.**

Not applicable; see 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.

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:** Not applicable; see above

- 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
- N/A

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

5. Animals

- a. Underline any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:** Not applicable; see above.

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

- 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; see above.

7. Environmental Health

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

b. Noise

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

Not applicable; see above.

- 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; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

9. Housing

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

c. Proposed measures to reduce aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not applicable; see above.

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; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

12. Recreation

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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; see above.

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? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable; see above.

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; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

14. Transportation

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see 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).

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

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; see above.

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

Not applicable; see above.

16. Utilities

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

Not applicable; see above.

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; see above.

C. 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.

Signature: _____
Margaret M. Glowacki
Senior Land Use Planner, Department of Planning and Development

Date submitted: May 18, 2012 _____

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 would result in no direct impacts, and are intended to reduce polluting discharges to water and release of toxic or hazardous substances. The proposal does not address emissions or noise, which are regulated by other laws.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

The amendments specifically require avoiding such impacts as part of mitigation sequencing and by specific regulations to prevent or use best management practices to control them.

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

The proposed amendments would result in an increase in protection of plants and priority freshwater and salt water habitat, which in turn will benefit animals, birds, fish and marine life. Additionally the proposed amendments would result in maintaining or increasing protection of animals, birds, fish and marine life.

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

The proposed amendments require greater protection of plants and priority freshwater and salt water habitat, and include more specific requirements to mitigate adverse impacts to plants, animals, fish and marine life. Regulations include specific standards for vegetation protection and removal, land disturbing activity, habitat protection, and wetland and water protection, as well as a requirement to use mitigation sequencing, starting with avoiding impacts, to achieve no net loss of ecological functions.

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

The proposed changes would result in no direct impacts and do not address the consumption of energy or natural resource.

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

None proposed.

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 proposal is a required by state law. The City of Seattle, along with all other local jurisdictions that contain shorelines of the state, is required to update its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) to meet the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act (ch. 90.58 RCW) and the 2003 Shoreline Mater Program Guidelines, WAC 173-26. Included in WAC 173-26 is the requirement to include or incorporate by reference regulations to protect GMA critical areas, to develop land use policies and regulations for the state's shorelines that will achieve no net loss of ecological functions, and to include mitigation sequencing in the updated SMP regulations. The SMP update is also required to include additional protection for historic and cultural sites and to provide for public access to the water, which includes public access provided by public parks located on waterfront lots.

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

The proposed amendments maintain current protection or provide greater protection of plants and priority freshwater and salt water habitat, which includes habitat for threatened Chinook salmon. The proposed amendments include more detailed, specific requirements to mitigate adverse impacts to plants, animals, fish and marine life to meet the no net loss of ecological functions standard and include mitigation sequencing, which requires projects with adverse impacts to first avoid any adverse impacts and then the requirement to minimize the adverse impacts to ecological functions. The proposed amendment authorizes the Director to adopt rules for best management practices to protect the environment. Also the Restoration and Enhancement Plan, which is non-regulatory, guides restoration and enhancement actions and is designed to achieve overall improvements in shoreline ecological functions over time, when compared to the status upon the adoption of the amendment.

The proposed amendments provide greater protection for historic and cultural sites, including the requirement that if an application includes excavation in areas documented by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation as containing archaeological resources, an applicant is required to include a site inspection and a draft written report prepared by a qualified professional archaeologist. Local tribes and the appropriate agencies are required to be consulted during the planning process, and work is required to stop if artifacts are found during the development of a proposed project. Additionally, an applicant is required to notify the City, affected tribes, and the State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation if artifacts are found during development of a site.

The proposed amendment maintains current protection of public parks on waterfront lots.

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?**

Land and Shoreline Use

The proposed amendments are to: (1) the City's Comprehensive Plan, containing goals and policies for the City's Shoreline District; (2) the City's shoreline regulations, governing use and development in Seattle's Shoreline District in 11 different shoreline environments based on current ecological functions and land use patterns; (3) the map of the shoreline district, showing where each environment is located; and creation of a new Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Plan.

The City of Seattle has identified growth targets (housing and job targets) for each of six urban centers. Although the proposal may have some impact on the City's growth targets, the impact is expected to be minimal. The City of Seattle has an estimated 40 year capacity for growth. Reasonable use must always be allowed on any parcel, irrespective of the shoreline environment designation. Finally, although the Comprehensive Plan contains growth targets, it also has policies that govern the Shoreline District, requiring a balancing of the three main goals of the Shoreline Management Act to provide for preferred uses, protect ecological functions and provide for public access within the Seattle's Shoreline District.

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

The proposed amendments are to the City's Shoreline Master Program, including the shoreline regulations, the shoreline goals and policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan and the shoreline map, plus a new Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The shoreline goals and policies direct the City to balance the competing goals of the SMA as stated above, the regulations govern use within Seattle's Shoreline District to achieve this balance and the restoration plan provides guidance for non-regulatory actions to achieve no net loss over time.

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

The proposal is unlikely to result in significant direct, indirect or cumulative impacts related to transportation or public services/utilities. The proposed changes address regulatory processes and status; no adverse transportation or service/utility impacts are identified.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands 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.

See the answer to A-11. The proposal responds to a statutory requirement to update the Shoreline Master Program, and one of the goals of the statute is to provide for coordinated protection of shorelines of the state, which include the shorelines of the following water-bodies: Puget Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Union/Ship Canal, Duwamish River, Green Lake, and any associated wetlands and floodplains of these water-bodies, in the City of Seattle. The City's compliance with Washington State Department of Ecology's statewide administrative regulations for preparing these documents minimizes any risk of conflict with other local, state or federal requirements for protection of the environment.