

City of Seattle

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND:

- 1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**
2015 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)-amendment's to the Right of Way Improvements Manual Director's Rule 7-2012.
- 2. Name of Applicant:**
City of Seattle
- 3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**
Susan McLaughlin
(206) 733-9649

City of Seattle Department of Transportation
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2300
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, Washington 98124-4996
- 4. Date checklist prepared:**
October 26, 2015
- 5. Agency requesting checklist:**
City of Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
- 6. Proposed timing or schedule (include phasing if applicable):** January 15, 2016
- 7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activities related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain:**
No, there are no plans for future activities related to this proposal.
- 8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:**
None.
- 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 applicable.
- 10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:**
The proposed Director's Rule requires approval by the SDOT Director.

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 is to address measures to minimize impervious surfaces, loss of native vegetation, and other measures to minimize stormwater runoff in compliance with the City of Seattle's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit. The permit requirement is to review, revise, and make effective changes to City of Seattle codes and other enforceable documents that will make Low Impact Developments the preferred approach to site planning and development or redevelopment or land disturbing activity.

Changes have been identified in Chapters 2, 4 and 5 of the Right of Way Improvements Manual to comply with the NPDES permit. These changes will require Director's Rule 7-2012 to be superseded, which is applicable to Chapter 4 (as well as sections 2.11 and 2.12 of Chapter 2).

The following is a summary of the changes to Chapter 4:

- Title renamed to Drainage and Sewers
- Minor text changes in introduction
- Links to updated Standard plans and Specifications corrected in 4.17.1
- Content deleted in 4.17.2 to avoid conflict and/or duplication of 2016 Stormwater Code guidance (previous language was consistent with and referenced 2009 Stormwater code)
- Section 4.17.3 added on bioretention – infiltrating and non-infiltrating facilities and rain gardens
- Section 4.17.4 added on permeable pavements
- Standard clearances matrix added to section 4.17.4
- Content deleted in 4.17.5 to avoid duplication with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Client Assistant Memo (CAM) 1180 (CAM referenced 4.17.5)
- Content deleted in 4.17.6 and simplified in section 4.17.7, specifically for sanitary and combined sewers.
- Reference updates made in 4.17.9 to correct code and/or SPU and SDOT CAM, and Department of Planning and Development Tip guidance

Minor text changes have also been made in the following sections, which are not required to be adopted via Director's Rule:

- Section 2.3: minor text change to allow GSI in alleys through the Street Improvement Plan (SIP) approval process.
- Section 5.3: minor addition of working 'drainage and water' as utilities requiring coordination during the inspection process.
- Section 5.9: text added to ensure compaction of soil is avoided, where GSI facilities are planned.
- Section 5.13: text added to specify that landscaping and GSI elements are recognized in street right of way improvements, when a surety bond is required. Also included is language relative to vegetation distress to ensure inspections include this assessment.

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 proposal that would apply within City of Seattle rights-of-way throughout the city.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

1. Earth

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

Not applicable. This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. Seattle's public right-of-way exists on flat, rolling, hilly and steep slopes,

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

Not applicable. This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way.

- 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 non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way, which contains all types of soil classifications.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity and applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity and applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. Indirect insignificant adverse effects of this non-project proposal may occur at the individual project level.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity and applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. Indirect nonsignificant effects of this non-project proposal may occur at the individual project level.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity and applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. Indirect insignificant adverse effects of this non-project proposal may occur at the individual project level.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth, if any:**
Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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 to this non-project proposal. Indirect insignificant adverse effects of this non-project proposal may occur at the individual project level.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**
Not applicable to this non-project proposal.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**
This non-project proposal will not result in significant adverse emissions or other impacts to air.

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.**
Several water bodies are near public right-of-way within the City of Seattle. Designated shoreline street ends abut navigable waterways, including Lake Washington, the Duwamish River, Lake Union, Portage Bay, and Elliott Bay.
- 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.**
This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way, which includes right-of-way adjacent to water bodies.
- 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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**
Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

- 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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

- 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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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

This non-project proposal will not result in significant adverse surface water, groundwater or storm water runoff impacts. The GSI/natural drainage changes proposed in this Director's Rule are intended to reduce or control surface, ground, or runoff water 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 terrestrial vegetation types listed above could be found in and adjacent to the public right-of-way in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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

This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. Threatened and endangered plant species are not known to exist within Seattle city limits.

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

This non-project proposal would require minimizing the loss of native vegetation in land disturbing activities within the public right of way. This proposal will not have probable significant adverse impacts to vegetation in the public right-of-way.

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:

- **birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:** Birds that are likely to be found in the area include common urban species such as crows, pigeons, doves, starlings, and house sparrows.
- **mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:** Mammals that may be found in the project area would include rats, squirrels, and raccoons.
- **fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:** The proposal would not permit uses on the water.

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

Lake Washington, Elliott Bay, the Duwamish, and the Ship Canal/Lake Union – have bull trout, Chinook salmon, and steelhead

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

Seattle is within the Pacific Flyway, one of the four principal north-south migration routes for birds (including Canada geese, herons, and other birds) in North America. The Pacific Flyway encompasses the entire Puget Sound Basin. In addition, Seattle's waterways serve as migratory corridor for a variety of marine and freshwater species.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

Seattle's public right-of way is developed and urban in character. Provisions of this non-project proposal will not result in probable significant adverse impacts to birds, mammals, or fish; birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway; or threatened or endangered species.

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 to this non-project proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

- 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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal will not have probable significant adverse impacts to energy use.

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 to this non-project proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction.

b. Noise

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. Ambient noise typical of urban areas exists in Seattle's public right-of-way.

- 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 to this non-project proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.**
Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way.
- c. Describe any structures on the site.**
Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**
Not applicable to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**
This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. City of Seattle's rights-of-way are located in all City zoning designations.
- f. What is current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**
This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. City of Seattle's rights-of-way are located in all City comprehensive plan designations.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**
This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. City of Seattle's rights-of-way are located in all City shoreline master program designations.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**
This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way. Some of Seattle's rights-of-way are located in environmentally sensitive areas.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**
This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**
This non-project proposal will not have displacement impacts.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:**
Not applicable. This non-project proposal will not have displacement impacts.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**
Not applicable. This non-project proposal will not have any land use implications.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**
This non-project proposal will not provide housing units.

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

This non-project proposal will not eliminate any housing units.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

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 to this non-project proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

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

Ambient light and glare typical of urban areas presently exist in Seattle's public right-of-way and will not affect the proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

12. Recreation

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

There are parks and other designated and informal recreational opportunities within and near Seattle's public rights-of-way areas.

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

This non-project proposal will not displace any existing recreational uses.

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

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not result in probable significant adverse impacts requiring the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce or control 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.**
There are seven historic districts and over 350 designated landmarks within the City of Seattle. Seattle's rights-of-way lie within historic districts and contain or abut designated landmarks.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site?**
This non-project proposal applies to all of Seattle's public right-of-way and may abut landmarks with historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**
The indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not result in probable significant adverse impacts requiring the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce or control historical and cultural preservation.

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 non-project proposal will apply to all of Seattle's public right-of-way.
- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**
This non-project proposal will apply to all of Seattle's public rights-of-way, which is served by public transit throughout the city.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**
Not applicable to this non-project proposal. The indirect impacts of this non-project proposal will not result in probable significant adverse impacts to existing parking availability.
- 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).**
The indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not require new roads or streets.
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**
This non-project proposal will apply to all of Seattle's public right-of-way; however, it will not impact water, rail, or air 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 to this non-project proposal.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not result in probable significant adverse impacts requiring the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce or control impacts on transportation.

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.

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not result in an increased need for public services.

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

Not applicable to this non-project proposal. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not result in probable significant adverse impacts requiring the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce or control impacts on public services.

16. Utilities

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

Seattle's public rights-of-way are extensively developed and are 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 to this non-project proposal. This proposal does not involve construction activity.

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: _____

Date submitted: 10/26/15

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 changes to the Right of Way Improvements Manual would not result in any probable significant adverse impacts to the public right-of-way. As a result, it is expected that the potential for increased impacts to water, air, or noise or additional release of hazardous substances is expected to not be significant. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have also been considered, and no changes to GHG emissions are expected as a result of this non-project action.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

As discussed above, it is not probable for indirect impacts of this non-project proposal to be significant. Individual proposed projects that may be approved under the proposal would be reviewed for their potential impacts.

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

The proposal is to reduce native vegetation loss, minimize impervious surfaces, and reduce stormwater runoff, with the intent of benefiting plant, animal, fish and marine life.

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

As discussed above, it is not probable for indirect impacts of this non-project proposal to be significant. Any potential impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life will be addressed during review of Street Use applications on a project-specific basis.

This proposal will not have probable significant adverse impacts to vegetation in the public right-of-way.

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

The Director's Rule would not result in any probable significant adverse impacts to energy or natural resources. As a result, the potential for increased depletion of energy and natural resources is not significant.

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

As discussed above, the potential for indirect impacts of this non-project proposal will not result in significant adverse impacts. Any potential impacts to energy or natural resource use will be addressed during review of Street Use applications on a project-specific basis.

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 Director's Rule would not result in any significant adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive areas or other protected areas. Street Use permits would be reviewed

and approved for each proposal on a project-specific basis to ensure that each project complies with the development standards for environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection.

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

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not result in probable significant adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive areas or other protected areas, therefore no measures are necessary.

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 Director's Rule would not result in any probable significant adverse impacts to existing land or shoreline uses.

In addition, the non-project proposal is consistent with the policies stated in the Land Use element of the Comprehensive Plan. This includes a policy strategy to limit disturbance to existing slopes and maintain and enhance existing vegetative cover in order to control erosion, water runoff, and siltation of streams, lakes, Puget Sound, and the City's stormwater facilities.

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

The potential for indirect impacts of this non-project proposal will not result in significant adverse impacts. Any potential impacts to land or shoreline use will be addressed during review of Street Use applications on a project-specific basis.

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

The effects of this non-project proposal and later program implementation would not result in any probable significant adverse impacts related to demands on transportation or public services and utilities. Although there may be instances of public services and inspections associated with the use of and construction within the right-of-way, along with the associated enforcement of permit compliance by SDOT, this is not expected to result in a substantial increase in the need for services or create probable significant adverse impacts on public services.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands are:

The potential for indirect impacts of this non-project proposal will not result in significant adverse impacts. Any potential impacts to transportation or public services and utilities will be addressed during review of Street Use applications on a project-specific basis. For example, any increase in demand for public services can be addressed through permit and citation penalty fees or conditions added as part of the approval of individual projects.

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. This proposal is consistent with the requirements of the City's NPDES permit to review, revise, and make effective changes to City of Seattle codes and other enforceable documents that will make Low Impact Developments the preferred approach to site planning and development or redevelopment or land disturbing activity.

