

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Amendments to Chapter 22 and 23 of the Seattle Municipal Code to support the use of low impact development practices.

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

Seattle, Washington 98104

Contact: Margaret Glowacki, Senior Land Use Planner

(206) 386-4036

4. Date checklist prepared:

June 30, 2015

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

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

The proposed code changes may be considered by the City Council in fall 2015.

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.

The Director's Report is available for public review.

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 affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

The proposed amendments will require approval by the City Council and the Mayor.

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

As part of the City of Seattle's current Stormwater Code update cycle, Washington Department of Ecology (ECY) requires the City to update all "development-related codes, rules, standards, or other enforceable documents" to support the use of low impact development. The Office of Sustainability and the Environment is coordinating the process, with several departments reviewing their respective codes to remove impediments to LID.

ECY permit language

b. Low impact development code-related requirements:

i. No later than June 30, 2015, or by an alternative date if established in accordance with S5.C.5.a.iii, Permittees shall review, revise, and make effective their local development-related codes, rules, standards, or other enforceable documents to incorporate and require Low Impact Development (LID) Principles and LID Best Management Practices (BMPs).

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 that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. **General description of the site:**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle with a variety of characteristics.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

2. Air

- a. **What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

- 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 action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action that affects multiple parcels throughout the city. There are surface water bodies on or near some parcels.

- 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. This is a non-project action that does not require work over, in, or adjacent to surface 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. The proposal is a non-project action that does not include fill or dredge material.

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

No.

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 action that affects multiple parcels throughout the city. There may be some parcels that lie within a 100-year floodplain.

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 proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

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. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle. However, the regulations support the use of low impact development to reduce stormwater runoff.

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

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle. However, the regulations support the use of low impact development to reduce stormwater runoff.

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
- orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

Not applicable. A variety of vegetation can be found throughout Seattle.

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

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the Seattle.

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

None known and this is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout Seattle.

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

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

e. **List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in the City of Seattle.

5. Animals

a. **List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.**

As a non-project action, this question is not applicable. A variety of birds and animals can be found throughout Seattle.

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

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout the City. However, Chinook salmon a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act is found within Seattle.

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

This is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout Seattle. Migration routes for certain anadromous fish and species of birds exist within the city.

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

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout the City.

- e. **List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout Seattle.

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. This is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout Seattle. The proposed regulations do not address energy or natural resources.

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

No.

- 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 is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout Seattle.

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 is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout Seattle.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Not applicable.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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 affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

- 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 affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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

Not applicable.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

Agriculture was a historic use of some parcels with the City of Seattle.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No.

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

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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

The sites affected by this non-project action include many different zones, including Single family residential, Multifamily residential, and Commercial.

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

Not applicable. The proposed amendments affect parcels throughout the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle with different shoreline designations.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

This non-project action will affect all currently designated environmentally critical areas within the City of Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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

Not applicable. See the Director's Report and Ordinance regarding the specifics of the proposal that demonstrate that the proposal does not affect uses or specific existing and projected plans.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout the City of Seattle.

9. Housing

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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 action; no structures are proposed.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action; no structures are proposed.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action; no structures are proposed.

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.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

12. Recreation

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

Not applicable. The proposed regulations may affect parcels or portions of parcels in parks. Any specific impacts will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis.

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

See answer to 12a.

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

None. The proposed regulations may affect parcels or portions of parcels in. Any specific impacts will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.**

Not applicable. Any specific impacts to buildings, structures, or sites that are listed or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers will be identified on a project-by-project basis.

b. **Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action affecting parcels throughout Seattle. See answer 13a.

c. **Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

None. Any specific impacts to cultural and historic resources will be identified on a project-by-project basis.

- d. **Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.**

Not Applicable, see answers to 13a, b and c.

14. Transportation

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels throughout the City

- b. **Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

- c. **How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?**

None.

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

No.

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

Not applicable. However, some of the parcels that will be affected by the proposed regulations are in the immediate vicinity of water or rail transportation.

- f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

None.

- g. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

No.

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

Not applicable.

15. Public Services

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

No.

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

Not applicable.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action affecting multiple parcels in Seattle.

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.

None.

C. Signature

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

Signature:

Margaret Glowacki
Senior Land Use Planner
City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

Date Submitted: 06/30/2015

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject 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?

The intent of the proposal is to help reduce stormwater runoff and to have no impact on air emissions, the production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances or noise.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases: None proposed.

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

The intent of the proposal is to help decrease the amount of stormwater runoff; therefore, may improve the water quality of streams, rivers, lakes and the Puget Sound and positively impact fish and

marine life. Additionally, vegetation may be preserved through this proposal thereby positively impacting plants and any animals that rely on these plants for habitat.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life: Help reduce stormwater runoff and preserve vegetation.

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

The proposal would result in no direct impacts to energy or natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources: 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 proposal will not directly affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for government protection. Because the intent of the proposal is to help reduce stormwater runoff and preserve vegetation the proposal will positively affect environmentally sensitive areas.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts: Not applicable.

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 will not affect land and shoreline use.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts: Not applicable.

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

The proposed amendments would not increase demand on transportation or public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s): Not applicable.

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

The proposal does not conflict with local, state, or federal laws. The proposal is in response to the Washington State Department of Ecology's requirements for updating the City of Seattle's Stormwater Code.