

Seattle Pacific University

Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

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Major Institution Master Plan Environmental Impact Statement Process

- In 1971, Washington State enacted the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).**
- SEPA requires that the environmental impacts of a proposed action (development project or a plan) be considered as part of the decision-making process.**

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- **The typical SEPA analysis involves an Environmental Checklist.**
 - This SEPA Checklist asks roughly 80 questions of 16 environmental parameters associated with the natural and built environments.
 - The Checklist is reviewed by City staff and possibly by other agencies.
 - There is no prescribed public review process.
- **For development projects or plans that are likely to result in probable, significant environmental impacts an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared.**

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Three Major Steps in the EIS Process:

- EIS Scoping
- Draft EIS
- Final EIS

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EIS Scoping

- This is the first step in the EIS process.
 - SDCI issues the Determination of Significance and commences EIS Scoping process; and
 - EIS Scoping is anticipated to be 14-days.
 - **CAC to submit comments regarding alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS and possible environmental elements.**

- The purpose of scoping is to narrow the focus of the EIS to just address:
 - probable significant environmental issues; and
 - identify the range of alternatives that should be analyzed in the EIS.

- Scoping provides notice to agencies, organizations and the public that an EIS will be prepared for the proposed MIMP.

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DRAFT EIS

- **The Draft EIS is SDCI's initial comprehensive analysis of probable significant environmental impacts of the alternatives. Key sections of the Draft EIS include:**
 - **Fact Sheet**
 - ***Section I* – Summary**
 - ***Section II* -- Description of the Proposed Master Plan and Alternatives**
 - ***Section III* – Affected Environment, Significant Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

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Section III could potentially contain detailed analysis of the following environmental parameters (dependent upon the results of the Scoping Process):

- Earth
- Air Quality
- Plants
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Aesthetics
- Historic & Cultural Preservation

Analysis in Section III describes

- existing conditions
- impacts of the Proposed Master Plan and alternatives
- mitigation measures
- unavoidable adverse impacts

- **CAC to review and submit comments regarding the prelim Draft EIS.**
- **The Draft EIS is distributed to agencies (federal, state, regional, City), organizations, and the public for a review and comment period.**
- **CAC to review and submit comments regarding the Draft EIS.**
- **A public meeting will be held following issuance of the Draft EIS to gather comments regarding the Draft EIS.**

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FINAL EIS

- **The Final EIS is the third and final part of the EIS process.**
- **The Final EIS combines the Draft EIS with:**
 - changes or clarifications to the scope of the project since the Draft EIS was issued;
 - revisions or clarifications to the analysis of impacts that was contained in the Draft EIS; and
 - responses to written comments and public testimony that was received on the Draft EIS from agencies, organizations and individuals
- **CAC to review and submit comments regarding the *prelim* Final EIS.**
- **The Final EIS is distributed to the same recipients of the Draft EIS and notice of availability is sent to organizations and individuals that commented on the Draft EIS.**
- **CAC to review and submit comments regarding the Final EIS.**

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Summation

- **The EIS is an objective, impartial evaluation of the environmental consequences of the proposed project.**
- **EA Engineering is the City's consultant and will be working with SDCI to prepare the EIS for SPU's proposed MIMP.**
- **The EIS is:**
 - a planning tool that is used by SPU and SDCI, other agencies and the public in the decision-making process;
 - it identifies and evaluates probable significant environmental impacts of each of the alternatives;
 - it identifies measures that, if implemented, could mitigate the impacts that are identified in the Final EIS;
 - it identifies unavoidable adverse impacts of the project; and,
 - it evaluates direct, indirect, cumulative and construction-related impacts.
- **The EIS does not authorize a specific action -- nor does it recommend for or against a particular course of action.**