

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

## ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

## ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:***

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

## ***A. Background***

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [Downtown Design Review Overlay Removal](#)
2. Name of applicant: [City of Kelso, WA](#)
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [Mike Murray, Community Development](#)

4. Date checklist prepared: [November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022](#)
5. Agency requesting checklist: [City of Kelso, WA. Community Development Department.](#)
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation in December or January. City Council review and adoption by January or February of 2023.](#)
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [Not applicable. Non-project action.](#)
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [Not applicable. Non-project action.](#)
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. [None.](#)
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [City Council adoption of Ordinance.](#)
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.) [Removal of the Downtown Design Review requirements \(Section 17.22.180 of the Kelso Unified Development Code\) from chapter 17 of the Kelso Municipal Code. The proposal includes removing Downtown Design Review Overlay from the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and the zoning map. The purpose is to remove outdated requirements to encourage development in the downtown district of Kelso.](#)
12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [The overlay district area is primarily located within SE ¼ of T8N, R2W, Section 27](#)

## ***B. Environmental Elements***

### ***1. Earth***

- a. General description of the site: (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_ [The overlay is flat to rolling](#)

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?  
Not applicable. Non-project action.
- 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. Non-project action.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. No
- 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. Non-project action.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. Not applicable. Non-project action.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? Not applicable. Non-project action.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: Not applicable. Non-project action.

## 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. Non-project action.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. Not applicable. Non-project action.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: Not applicable. Non-project action.

## 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.  
The Cowlitz River is adjacent to the overlay area.
  - 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. Non-project action.

- 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. Non-project action.**
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **No. the area is protected by a levee system**
- 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. Non-project action.**

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. Non-project action.**
- 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. Non-project action.**

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. Non-project action.**
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

#### 4. **Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: **Typical urban landscape plants**

- \_\_\_\_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

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. **None known**

## 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. **songbirds, salmon, trout**

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:  
 mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:  
 fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **There are threatened and endangered fish species in the Cowlitz River.**
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **Pacific Flyway**
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. **None known**

## 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. Non-project action.**

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?  
If so, generally describe. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 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. Non-project action.**

## **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. **No.**
- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.  
**Not applicable. Non-project action.**
  - 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. Non-project action.**
  - 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. Non-project action.**
  - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.  
**Not applicable. Non-project action.**
  - 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:  
**Not applicable. Non-project action.**

### **b. Noise**

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 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. Non-project action.**
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

## **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. **Commercial Businesses Typical of a downtown area**

- 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? **No**
- 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: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **The primary underlying zoning district is the General Commercial District with some land in the Residential Mixed Density and Open Space districts**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Commercial (LGC, RC)**
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **High Intensity**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. **The shoreline of the Cowlitz River is a critical area**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

## **9. Housing**

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

### **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. Non-project action.**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

### **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. Non-project action.**
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

### **12. Recreation**

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Movie theater, restaurants, walking trail, and river orientated activities**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 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. Non-project action.**

### **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? If so, specifically describe. **Most of the buildings are over 45 years old. None are listed on historic registers.**
- 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. Non-project action.**

- 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. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 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. Non-project action.**

#### **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. Non-project action.**
- 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? **Yes. The area is serviced by a bus system**
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 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). **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 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. Non-project action.**
- 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? **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- 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. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

#### **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. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **Not applicable. Non-project action.**

### 16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other \_\_\_\_\_ **Typical utilities for a downtown area.**
- 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. Non-project action.**

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signee Mike Murray\_\_\_\_\_

Position and Agency/Organization Community Development Building and Planning Services Manager / City of Kelso, WA \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

### D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

**(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)**

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

- 1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?  
**The proposal consists of comprehensive plan map, zoning map, and text amendments to remove the Downtown Design Review Overlay. “The purpose of this overlay is to promote development activities that are consistent with the historic character of downtown Kelso. This includes design guidelines for new construction and substantial alterations of existing structures as well as restriction on certain ground floor uses on**

Pacific Avenue between Oak and Maple Streets.” [KMC 17.22.180] The standards are primarily for aesthetics and design conformity. Elimination of these standards should have negligible negative effects on the environment including water, emissions to air, release of hazardous substances and production of noise

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Any project proposed under the city’s regulations will be reviewed in compliance with local and state requirements on an individual basis.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life? See answer to No.1. the proposal is likely to not affect plants and wildlife

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

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? No extraordinary depletion of energy or natural resources are expected. See answer to No.1.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are: Projects will still be subject to building codes and other requirements intended to help conserve energy

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 Downtown Design Review Overlay is adjacent to the Cowlitz River. The elimination of design review standards primarily regarding aesthetics & design conformity should have no significant adverse effect on the Cowlitz River shoreline.

In the overlay area there are no buildings on any historic register. Most building have substantially modified over the years. Elimination of the overlay should have no substantial on the historical nature of downtown.

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

Projects near the shoreline are still subject to the city’s shoreline regulations as well as other state and federal regulations. Property owners, if they choose so, can still apply to be placed on a historic register

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?

A levee and a railroad mainline are located between the shoreline of the Cowlitz River and the developed portions of overlay district. Development on the river side of the

levee and mainline is unlikely. The elimination of the overlay district should not impact the shoreline.

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

Development is still subject to shoreline regulations and the regulations of the underlying zoning districts.

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

See answer to question number one. Elimination of the overlay district should not increase demands on transportation, public utilities and services.

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

None

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. None Known