



CITY OF BLAINE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Checklist

Washington Administrative Code 197-11-960

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Total Fees \$ _____

Receipt # _____

STAMP IN DATE

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies, including the City of Blaine, use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Please answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can. You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions pertain to governmental regulations such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have are having difficulties answering these questions, please contact the Department of Community Development at the City of Blaine for assistance.

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. You may be asked to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D). For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively. You maybe asked to provide more information where answers appear incomplete.

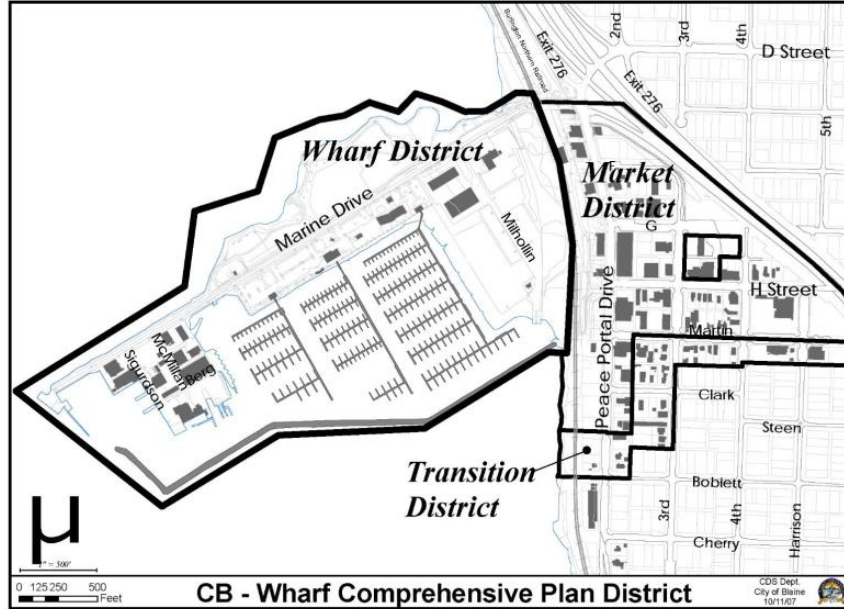
A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
2019 Docket of Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments
2. Name of applicant:
City of Blaine
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Stacie Pratschner, AICP, RPA / Community Development Director
City of Blaine Community Development Services Department
435 Main Street, Suite 3000
Blaine, WA 98230
4. Date checklist prepared:
October 24, 2019
5. Agency requesting checklist:
City of Blaine
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Planning Commission Public Hearing: 12/5/19
City Council Deliberations / Potential Adoption: 12/23/19
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
The City considers proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, Map, and Development regulations through the annual docketing process.

Development projects that occur in the future will be subject to changes to the plan, map, or development regulations made through this year's docket and subject to project-specific SEPA review, as applicable.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
None known.
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 known.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
The proposal includes four city-initiated amendments, and one amendment request from the Port of Bellingham. The Department proposes that the four city-initiated amendments be deferred until 2020. The Port's request would amend and update the 2007 Blaine Wharf District Master Plan. The proposal will undergo a public hearing and review by the Blaine City Planning Commission and requires approval of the City Council via 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 here.
The proposal, submitted by the Port of Bellingham, includes text and map amendments to the Wharf District Master Plan, the goal and policy document for the Central Business Wharf District in northeast Blaine. The District contains approximately 2 miles of continuous shoreline and supports marine water-dependent businesses; city facilities; a

marina; and parks. Changes include updating references to the newly adopted SMP; updates to the Implementation Table; renaming the end pier to Jorgenson Pier; modifying the public access trail; and reducing the size of Planning Area 7.

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.



B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one or more): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? and note any prime farmland.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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 is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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 (legislative proposal).
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

- 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 (legislative proposal).
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
-

2. Air

- a. What types 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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 (legislative proposal).
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
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3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The Wharf District is adjacent to Drayton Harbor to the south; Semiahmoo Bay to the east; and the Strait of Georgia to the north.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet of) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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 (legislative proposal).

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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

4. Plants

a. Check or circle 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

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Plover

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Blackberries

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

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

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

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

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

Plover.

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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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 (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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 (legislative proposal).

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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 is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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 is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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 is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
The Wharf District supports parks; city facilities; a marina; and marine-dependent businesses.
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversized equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- c. Describe any structures on the site.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
The Wharf District supports both Public and Central Business-Wharf zoning designations.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
CBD – Central Business District.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
SMA-W: Special Management Area – Wharf.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
The District supports marine shoreline that serves as a habitat for migrating birds.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- M. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
 - b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
 - c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
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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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
 - b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
 - c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
 - d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
-

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
The Wharf District is home to Marine Park, playgrounds, and a public pier.
 - b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
 - 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
-

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.
The M.V. Plover Ferry is listed on DAHPs WISAARD site as a registered property point.
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Is 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.
Coast Salish peoples have utilized the shoreline area for fishing and shellfish harvesting for thousands of years. No ground disturbing activities are proposed as part of this non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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.
The Wharf District is served by Marine Drive.
- 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?
No public transit serves the Wharf District.
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
The businesses and facilities in the District are served by city utilities.
- 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, this is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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: Stacie J. Pratschner, AICP, RPA
(Please Print) _____

Position and Agency/Organization: City of Blaine Community Development Director

Date Submitted: 10.24.19

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

Do not use this section if you are building something or physically changing the landscape.

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?
It is not anticipated that this proposal would cause these increases to occur. Development proposals will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and location regulations and mitigation measures at the time of permit application.
2. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:
Any specific development projects that might occur following adoption of this proposal are subject to applicable federal, state and local regulations, and subject to mitigation measures if required at the time of development.
3. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?
This non-project legislative action itself would not affect plant, animal, or fish life. Specific development projects that might occur as a result of this proposal would be subject to SEPA, and the performance standards and concurrency requirements of Title 17.
4. Proposed measures to protect conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:
Specific development projects that might occur as a result of this proposal would be subject to SEPA, permit processes, and mitigation measures as applicable.
5. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?
The proposal itself will not require energy or natural resources. Specific development projects that might occur as a result of this proposal would be subject to SEPA and permit processes if applicable. Development projects that occur as a result of this proposal would likely use some energy or natural resources.

6. Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:
Any proposed development is required to comply with applicable regulations to protect or conserve energy and natural resources.
7. 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 itself would not directly use or affect the areas listed above
8. Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:
Specific development projects that might occur as a result of this program or utilizing provisions of this program are subject to applicable federal, state and local regulations and subject to mitigation measures if required at the time of development.
9. 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?
Any future development proposals within the regulated shoreline areas of will be required to comply with the City of Blaine Shoreline Master Program.
10. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:
Any future development proposals within the regulated shoreline areas of will be required to comply with the City of Blaine Shoreline Master Program.
11. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?
Concurrency for public facilities and services is ensured by the implementation of the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
12. Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:
13. Concurrency for public facilities and services is ensured by the implementation of the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
14. 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.