

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:

City of West Richland 2020 Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Periodic Review

2. Name of applicant:

City of West Richland, WA

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Applicant:

Emily Weimer

Senior Planner

City of West Richland

3100 Belmont Blvd, West Richland, WA, 99353

(509) 967-5902

eweimer@westrichland.org

Contact:

Nicole Stickney, AICP (Contract Planner)

AHBL, Inc.

5804 Rd 90 Suite H, Pasco, WA 99301

(509) 380-5883

nstickney@ahbl.com

4. Date checklist prepared:

September 2, 2020

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of West Richland

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

Following a public hearing to be held by the West Richland Planning Commission on October 8, 2020, the City Council is expected to adopt the amended Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in December 2020, with an anticipated effective date of January 2020 (pending and following acceptance by the Department of Ecology).

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. The proposed action is a nonproject action.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The following information is available from a previous update to the SMP:

- **Shoreline Inventory and Characterization, prepared by AHBL and Herrera Environmental, dated October 7, 2013.**
- **Cumulative Impacts Analysis prepared by AHBL, dated February 14, 2014**
- **No Net Loss Report prepared by AHBL, dated April 23, 2014**

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.

There are no known applications or proposals that are pending approval that would affect the City of West Richland's Shoreline Master Program.

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

The City of West Richland and the Washington State Department of Ecology must approve any changes and adopt the SMP prior to any of the proposed changes becoming effective..

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.)

The City proposes to amend its SMP consistent with Shoreline Management Act (SMA) requirements to review, and, if necessary, revise its SMP at least once every eight years. The amendments are intended to ensure consistency between the City's SMP and laws and guidelines that may have changed since the City last updated its SMP.

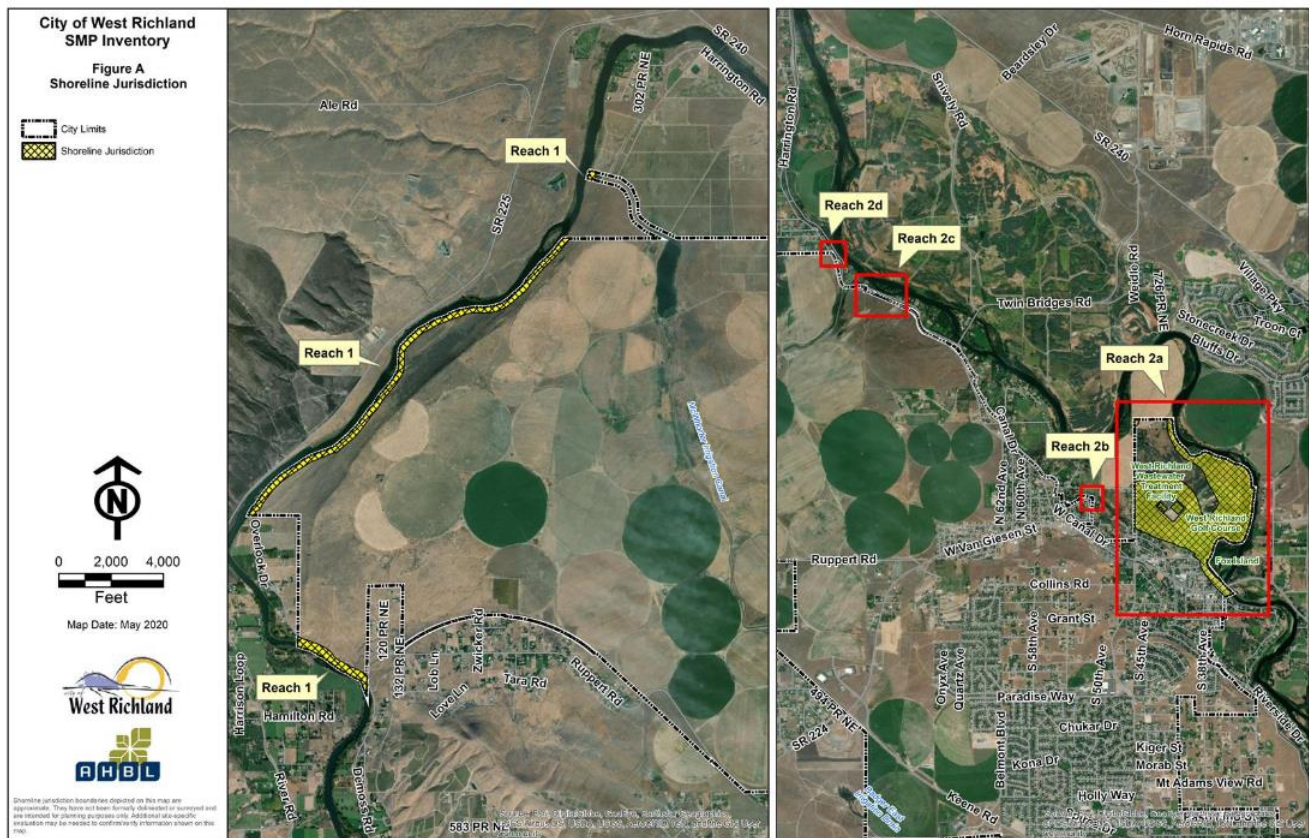
The following provides a summary of key changes proposed to the SMP:

- **Added text to define "associated wetlands"**
- **Added a figure to show a "Conceptual depiction of West Richland Shoreline Jurisdiction"**
– The figure is meant to indended to provide a good illustration to accompany the text
- **Amended maximum structure heights** - In the "High Intensity" Shoreline Environment Designation, the maximum building height is now listed to be 40 feet
- **Added additional detail to permit processing public notice requirements** – Previously there was language included in ~~WRMC Title 12~~ that has been moved to the SMP **WRMC Title 14 - Administration of Development Regulations** Correction made 9/16/2020
Mikole Strickney
- **Amended definition of "development"** – Added to definition that development *"does not include dismantling or removing structures if there is no other associated development or re-development."*
- **New section "exception to local review"** – Added Chapter 6 Section H. This section lists certain development or activities that do not require shorelines permits or local review.
- **Filing of permit decisions and appeals** - Clarified how permit decisions are filed/mailed to Ecology and how appeals may be filed for SSDP, CUP and Variances in Chapter 6, Section I.3 and I.5.
- **Amended definition of "non-conforming use of development"** – Replaced existing definition with separate definitions for "nonconforming use", "nonconforming development or nonconforming structure" and "nonconforming lot".

- **Process for periodic reviews of SMP** - Added specific reference to RCW and WAC in Chapter 6 Section L.d. Also clarified in Chapter 6, section M.2.b that SMPs become effective 14 days after Ecology files a Notice of Action.
- **90-day review of WSDOT projects** – Added provision in Chapter 6, section J.g. that WSDOT projects in the shoreline jurisdiction should be reviewed in 90 days.
- **Housekeeping** – Various minor edits may have been made, such as updating references or minor grammatical changes.
- **Maps** – There are no map designation changes, although the maps have been updated with newer aerial images in the “background.”

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.

Within the City of West Richland, the SMP applies to land within shoreline jurisdiction. The maps below show the approximate shoreline jurisdiction.




B. Environmental Elements

No discussion of the individual Environmental Elements is required for GMA actions per WAC 197-11-235.3.b.

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: Nicole Stickney

Position and Agency/Organization: AHBL Project Manager/ Consultant to West Richland

Date Submitted: September 2, 2020

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 2020 Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Periodic Review is not expected to increase discharges to water or air, or produce or release toxic or hazardous substances, or create noise impacts. Because this is a periodic review and not a comprehensive review, there are no changes to allowed uses, development standards or shoreline environments.

Future development proposals along the shoreline may have specific impacts that will be reviewed and mitigated through project SEPA Environmental Review and adherence with the SMP regulations.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

No measures are proposed at this time.

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

The City's SMP Periodic Review is not anticipated to have any negative impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life. The SMP is intended to improve ecological systems in the shoreline jurisdiction over time, and this update will not result in a loss of any ecological protections. Individual projects could have minimal impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life. Any impacts that may result from these projects will be mitigated adequately through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the specific project.

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

No measures are proposed at this time.

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

The 2020 SMP Periodic Review Amendments will not have any impact on energy or natural resources that necessitate mitigation measures.

Individual projects could have minimal impacts on energy or natural resources consumption. Any impacts that may result from these projects will be mitigated adequately through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the specific project.

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

No measures are proposed at this time.

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 existing regulations in the City's SMP and Critical Areas Ordinance will not be affected by this periodic update. It is not anticipated that the SMP update will have any impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. If any individual project proposals are located near one of the environmentally sensitive areas, the appropriate mitigation will occur through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the proposed improvements.

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

No measures are proposed at this time.

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 2020 SMP Periodic Review Amendments do not modify any permitted or conditionally permitted uses in the SMP, nor will any shoreline environments be changed, and therefore have no effect on land and shoreline uses.

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

None.

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

The 2020 SMP Periodic Review Amendments will not increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities. If there are any impacts to transportation or public services and utilities, the appropriate mitigation will occur through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the proposed improvements.

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

No measures are proposed at this time.

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

The purpose of the 2020 SMP Periodic Review Amendments are to align the SMP with recent updates to state law and state environmental protections. The City's SMP Update will result in improved protections for the environment in the shoreline jurisdiction and is not intended to conflict with any other local, state, or federal laws or requirements.