

# 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:  
La Center Critical Area Code Update (LCMC 18.300)
2. Name of applicant: City of La Center

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
305 NW Pacific Highway, La Center, WA 98629. Contact: Jeff Swanson, (360) 975-9466,  
[jswanson@ci.lacenter.wa.us](mailto:jswanson@ci.lacenter.wa.us)
4. Date checklist prepared:  
September 16, 2019
5. Agency requesting checklist:  
City of La Center
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
Adoption by La Center City Council by December 31, 2019
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.
  - BergerABAM, Technical Report. "Best Available Science Research: La Center Critical Areas Code Update", December 2018
  - Washington Department of Commerce, Acknowledgement letter, 60-day comment period, Commerce Material ID # 25742, January 31, 2019
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.  
No
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
La Center City Council to adopt amendments to LCMC 18.300 by 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.)

The non-project action will amend the city of La Center critical area code, LCMC 18.300, relating to the designation and protection of critical areas consistent RCW 36.70A.060(2) and (3). The amended critical area regulations shall be based on best available science consistent with RCW 36.70A.172.
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.

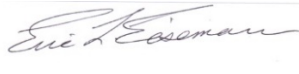
All lands within the La Center city limits which may be classified as critical areas consistent with RCW 36.70A.030(5).

## **B. Environmental Elements**

The lead agency has determined that Part B does not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of this non-project action. WAC 197-11-315(1)(e)

## **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 Eric Eisemann, Sr. Planning Consultant

Position and Agency/Organization Consulting Community and Economic Development Manager  
City of La Center, WA

Date Submitted: September 16, 2019

## **D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions** [\[HELP\]](#)

**(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?

Amendments to the La Center critical Area code are based on Best Available Science (BAS) will enhance the city's ability to manage toxic and hazardous substances.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

The proposed amendments will enhance the definition of "Critical aquifer recharge area" - an area with a critical recharging effect on an aquifer used for potable water, including an area where an aquifer that is a source of drinking water is vulnerable to contamination that would affect the potability of the water, or is susceptible to reduced recharge.

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

Amending the La Center Critical Area ordinance in accordance with BAS will enhance the city's ability to protect plants, animals and fish.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:  
The proposal will update the definitions of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, wetlands, critical aquifers, floodways, landslide, seismic and erosion hazards, and more consistent with BAS and guidance from the Department of Ecology (ECY). The proposal enhances the city's ability to require critical area reports. The amendments address protection of Oregon white oaks as habitat areas of concern. Exemptions are limited consistent with BAS.

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

The amendments do not address energy depletion or natural resource lands as defined by RCW 36.70A.060 (agriculture, forest and mineral lands. There are no natural resource lands within city limits.

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

There are no natural resource lands within city limits.

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?

Within the city limits there are no wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, or prime farmlands. Amending the critical area regulations consistent with BAS will enhance the city's ability to protect environmentally sensitive areas, threatened or endangered species habitat, wetlands, and flood plains.

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

Section 18.300.090, Critical areas, provides protections, consistent with BAS, for critical aquifer recharge areas (there are more clearly defined requirements for geohydrology analysis), Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (adding protection for Oregon white oak habitat, prohibiting platting in habitat areas), Frequently flooded areas, geologic hazard areas, and wetlands.

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 does not address Shorelands. The city will update its Shoreline Master Program in 2019-2010.

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

The city will update its Shoreline Master Program in 2019-2010.

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

The proposal will not increase demands on transportation or public services or utilities because it will limit the amount of land which will be converted for urban uses.

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

Limiting platting of lots in wetlands and habitat conservation areas and buffers will reduce land consumption and will decrease demand on transportation or public services.

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

The proposed amendments to the La Center critical area code, LCMC 18.300, are required by RCW 36.70A and will be compliant with the BAS requirement in RCW 36.70A.172 and the wetland delineation requirements in RCW 36.70A.175.