

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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 use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. 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 ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

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 be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Critical Areas Ordinance Update

2. Name of applicant:

Pacific County

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

Tim Crose, Planning Director
P.O. Box 68
South Bend, WA 98586
360-875-9356
tcrose@co.pacific.wa.us

4. Date checklist prepared:

06-17-2016

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Pacific County

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

Planning Commission Recommendation Hearing: June 2, 2016

Board of County Commissioners proposed Adoption Hearing: August 23, 2016

Delayed Effective Date: January 1, 2017

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

The County will continue to evaluate and possibly update the CAO on scheduled basis.

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

The County used Best Available Science (BAS) guidance documents from: The Washington State Department of Ecology; Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; the US Army Corps; Flood Hazard Areas- FEMA May 18, 2015; XXXXX.....

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.

Current development applications are being processed under the current Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) until the new Ordinance is in effect.

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

The updated CAO must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

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 Growth Management Act requires state and local governments to identify and protect critical areas and resource lands by preparing comprehensive plans and implementing those plans through development regulations. Counties planning under GMA are required to periodically update their development regulations. The Critical Areas Ordinance is effective County-wide and is part of update process.

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 updated CAO is effective in all unincorporated areas of Pacific County.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,

other. Pacific County is located in southwest Washington. The County is approximately 930 square miles in area and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, and by the Columbia River to the south. Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Wahkiakum Counties are to the north, east, and southeast, respectively. The County surrounds pristine Willapa Bay, which is separated from the Pacific Ocean by the Long Beach Peninsula. The peninsula is a sand spit, approximately three miles wide, jutting 28 miles north from the mouth of the Columbia River.

The topography in much of Pacific County is hilly and steep with elevations ranging from sea level to 2,600 feet. The majority of the County is situated within the Willapa Basin. This area is dominated by the rugged Willapa Hills to the east, and the Willapa Bay estuary to the west.

Willapa Bay hosts tremendous wildlife as it is surrounded by marsh, grassland, and dense forest. To the northwest is the dynamic Cape Shoalwater, the west coast's most active erosion area. The Pacific Ocean and the Willapa Bay salt water estuary surround the cape on three sides. The eastern portion of the County is predominately vast commercial timber lands with small residential and farming communities in the lower portion of the river valleys.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

35 TO 45%

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.

Silt, sand, clay, loam, peat, are typical soils found throughout the county. Agricultural land of local importance includes any diked tideland as listed under soil type nos. 104 and 147 in the Soil Survey of Grays Harbor County Area, Pacific County, and Wahkiakum County, Washington, 2003, Soil Conservation Service, USDA, that is involved in existing and ongoing agricultural activities on the date this CAO becomes effective.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Areas of historic failure, are shown on maps published as the United States Geological Survey or Department of Natural Resources Division of Geology and Earth Resources. Those areas mapped by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (slope stability mapping) as unstable (U or class 3), unstable old slides (UOS or class 4), or unstable recent slides (URS or class 5).

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The proposed ordinance is not site specific.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Mitigation measures are contained within the Ordinance. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to: increasing or enhancing buffers, instituting limits on clearing and grading, implementing best management practices for erosion control and maintenance of water quality, or other conditions appropriate to avoid or mitigate identified adverse impacts.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The proposed ordinance is not site specific.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

The proposed ordinance is not site specific.

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.

The proposed ordinance is not site specific.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

The proposed ordinance is not site specific.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The proposed ordinance is not site specific.

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.

Within the County are the Pacific Ocean, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, Willapa River, Bear River, Naselle River, and many other year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds and wetlands.

- 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.

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.

Non project action.

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

Non project action.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Non project action.

- 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.

Non project action.

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.

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.

Non project action.

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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.

Non project action.

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

Non project action.

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

Non project action.

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, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 other types of vegetation

All of the above.

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

Non project action.

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

Non project action.

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

Non project action.

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.

Non project action.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Many of these birds/animals are found in Pacific County. The plan update will not impact any species.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Non project action.

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.

Non project action.

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

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:

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.

Non project action.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Non project action.

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

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)?

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.

Non project action.

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

Non project action.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Non project action.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Non project action.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Non project action.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Non project action.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Non project action.

- a. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Non project action.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Non project action.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Non project action.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Non project action.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Non project action.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Non project action.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Non project action.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Non project action.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Non project action.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

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?

Non project action.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Non project action.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

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?

Non project action.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Non project action.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Non project action.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Non project action.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Pacific County has abundant recreational opportunities including the ocean beaches, rivers, wildlife refuges, parks, etc.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Non project action.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Non project action.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Non project action.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Non project action.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Non project action.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Non project action.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Non project action.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Non project action.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Non project action.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Non project action.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Non project action.

15. **Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Non project action.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

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.

Non project action.

- 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.

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: *Tim Coppe*

Date Submitted: *6-17-2016*

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not 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?

Non project action.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Non project action.

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

The intent of the CAO is to protect environmentally sensitive, requiring buffers around waters of the State and wetlands.

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

The CAO and SMP follow State regulations and guidelines to protect vegetation and wildlife.

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

No

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

The CAO policies protect natural resources from incompatible land uses.

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 CAO is a regulatory document designed to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

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

The CAO protects natural resources by requiring buffers and disallowing incompatible land uses.

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 CAO and SMP are regulatory documents designed to protect shorelines from incompatible land uses.

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

Non project action.

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

No

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

Non project action.

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

The CAO relies on BAS from Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and BAS reviews by qualified experts. None of the proposed regulations are in conflict with local, state, or federal laws.