Appendix J

Environmental Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST UPDATED 2014

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: [help]

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 <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, 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: [help]

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. 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 [help]

- Name of proposed project, if applicable: [help]
 City of Richland 2015 General Sower Plan
 - City of Richland 2015 General Sewer Plan Update
- 2. Name of applicant: [help]

 City of Richland

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]

Jay Marlow, P.E.
Public Works Capital Projects Manager
840 Northgate Drive
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 942-7500

4. Date checklist prepared: [help]

11/24/2015

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

City of Richland – Planning Commission

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

Twenty year build-out plan to the Urban Growth Area.

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

Yes, reviews and updates of this General Sewer Plan are prepared every six to ten years.

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

None.

- 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. [help] **None.**
- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [help]

This is a General Sewer Plan Update and is considered a non-project proposal. Government approvals and permitting will be on a project specific basis, and will be listed in the SEPA of the individual project.

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.) [help]

This is a General Sewer Plan Update and is considered a non-project proposal. The Plan is prepared as per WAC 173-240 and will be reviewed by the DOE. Specific Plan requirements are provided in this specific WAC section and are discussed in the Plan's Executive Summary.

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. [help]

Within the twenty year Urban Growth Area for the City of Richland. This SEPA checklist will be included in an Appendix within the 2015 General Sewer Plan Update prepared by J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

Since this is a nonproject proposals, the questions in Part B are excluded, and all considered, non-applicable (N/A) because the General Sewer Plan Update is not a project.

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a. Ge	neral d	descri	ption o	f the s	site	help				
(circle	one):	Flat,	rolling,	hilly,	stee	p slo	pes,	moun	ıtainοι	ıs
oth	ner			_						

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [help]
- 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. [help]
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [help]
- 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. [help]
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
 [help]
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [help]
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [help]

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. [help]
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [help]
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [help]

3. Water

- a. Surface Water: [help]
 - 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. [help]
 - 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. [help]
 - 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. [help]
 - 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]
 - 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [help]
 - 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. [help]

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. [help]

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. [help]

- 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. [help]
 - 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [help]
 - 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:
- 4. Plants [help]

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [help]

_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? [help]
- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [help]
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

5. Animals

a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [help]

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. [help]
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [help]
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [help]
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

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

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. [help]
 - 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

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

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [help]
- 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. [help]
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: <a>[help]

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. [help]
- 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? [help]
 - 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:
- c. Describe any structures on the site. [help]
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [help]
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [help]
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [help]
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [help]
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [help]
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [help]
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [help]
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [help]

- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [help]
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [help]

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? [help]
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [help]
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [help]

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [help]
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [help]
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [help]
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [help]

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [help]
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [help]
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [help]

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 located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [help]
- 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. [help]
- 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. [help]
- 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.

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. [help]
- 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? [help]
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [help]
- 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). [help]
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [help]
- 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? [help]
- 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.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [help]

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

16.		es

a.	Circle utilities currently available at the site: [help]
	electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system
	other

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. [help]

C. Signature [HELP]

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	
Position and Agency/Organization	
Date Submitted:	

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?

The General Sewer Plan Update does not propose to increase discharges to water, emissions to air, or the production, storage, or release of substances that are toxic or

hazardous and the increase of noise. The intent of this Plan is to reduce the risks of environmental contamination.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

This is a Plan designated to implement spending of a recommended amount over the next 20 years. Improvements proposed include those projects necessary to accommodate growth and provide a safe, reliable, and cost-effective Wastewater Utility. The Plan is intended to reduce discharges of contaminants or material which could lead to environmental contamination and preserve and maintain the existing Wastewater Utility.

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

The Plan will have a beneficial effect on plant, animal, fish, and aquatic life in and around the City of Richland by reducing discharges of contaminants or materials that could lead to environmental contamination.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:
The Plan protects plants, animals, fish and marine life in a "project by project" way, through the removal of contaminants in wastewater and disposing of these in a safe environmental method through the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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

The Plan is not proposing to deplete energy or natural resources.

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

The Plan protects and conserves energy and natural resources through the identification of improvement projects included in the plan that will include the environmental review process (SEPA).

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 Plan is very unlikely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas in a degrading manner.

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

Specific sites, developed as a result of the Plan, will be subject to ESA issues and are addressed either with a Section Seven Consultation or Best Management Practices for Maintenance and Operation programs. Each new project is assessed on its individual

merits through the SEPA process. Projects next to or adjacent to the Columbia River or Yakima River are likely to need further environmental work to reduce their impacts.

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 Plan is concurrent with the existing plans within the City of Richland. Growth within the Urban Growth Area is identified in this twenty year planning period with all the needs of the Wasterwater Utility to adequately fund projects given today's priorities. It will serve as a model for integrating other utility plans into a master plan.

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

The Plan does not affect shoreline use in Richland and any proposed measures or improvements will be based upon current land use and zoning designations as identified in the City's Master Plan.

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

The Plan identifies future improvements of the Wastewater Utility based upon growth within the Urban Growth Area. The City's Public Works Department is in charge of maintaining the level of quality for public services and utilities and currently meets these demands. The plan includes a schedule of future improvements for coordination with the Public Works Department.

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

The Growth Management Act will allow for all utilities to provide service within the urban boundary area in a reasonable way. The growth expected and the increased demands for services are normal. From a practical viewpoint, limiting growth by not providing services within the urban boundary area is not acceptable. Only a planned approach can achieve reasonable delivery of services to the population. Financing for these expanded responsibilities will be available from local, state, and perhaps federal sources.

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

The Plan will permit growth of the Wastewater Utility following the requirements of local, state, or federal laws and requirements for the protection of the environment. The individual projects that are included in this Plan will need to be considered in terms of their compliance with all environmental laws and requirements.

ESA LISTED SALMONIDS CHECKLIST

The Listed Salmonids Checklist is provided in order that the City can identify a project's potential impacts (if any) on salmonids that have been listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). A salmonid is any fish species that spends part of its life cycle in the ocean and returns to fresh water. Potential project impacts that may result in a "taking" of listed salmonids must avoided, or mitigated to insignificant levels. Generally, under ESA, a "taking" is broadly defined as any action that causes the death of, or harm to, the listed species. Such actions include those that affect the environmental in ways that interfere with or reduce the level of reproduction of the species.

If ESA listed species are present or ever were present in the watershed where your project will be located, your project has the potential for affecting them, and you need to comply with the ESA. The questions in this section will help determine if the ESA listing will impact your project. The Fish Program Manager at the appropriate Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) regional office can provide additional information. Please contact the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife at 1701 S. 24th, Yakima WA 98902-5720, Phone No. 509-575-2740.

NOTE: Richland is located in the upper Mid-Columbia watershed. Salmonids are present in the watershed - questions no. 1 and no. 2 already answered "yes". Questions A-1 and A-2 are also answered.

PROJECT SPECIFIC: The questions in this section are specific to the project and vicinity.

- A1. Name of watershed: Upper Mid-Columbia
- A2. Name of nearest waterbody: Columbia River and Yakima River
- A3. What is the distance from this project to the nearest body of water?

 The Plan covers the City of Richland and its area is adjacent to both the Columbia River and Yakima River. However, actual distances will be project specific.

Often a buffer between the project and a stream can reduce the chance of a negative impact to fish.

A4. What is the current land use between the project and the potentially affected water body (parking lots, farmland, etc.)

This is not applicable because the proposal is a plan and not a site-specific project. Specific projects are included in the recommendations contained within this General Sewer Plan Update.

A5. What percentage of the project will be impervious surface(including pavement & roof area)?

This is not applicable because the proposal is a plan and not a site-specific project. Specific projects result from the recommendations contained within this Sewer System Plan.

FISH MIGRATION: The following questions will help determine if this project could interfere with migration of adult and juvenile fish. Both increases and decreases in water flows can affect fish migration.

Sections B-D are not applicable because this proposal is a plan and not a site specific project. Specific projects are included in the recommendations contained in this General Sewer Plan Update and will be considered in terms of their compliance with local, state and federal environmental laws and requirements. It is recognized that additional environmental review for each project proposed by this plan will occur.

B1. Does the project require the withdrawal of
a. Surface water? Yes No Amount Name of surface water body
b. Ground water? Yes No Amount From Where Depth of well
B2. Will any water be rerouted? Yes No If yes, will this require a channel change?
B3. Will there be retention ponds? Yes No If yes, will this be an infiltration pond or a surface discharge to either a municipal storm water system or a surface water body?
If to a surface water discharge, please give the name of the waterbody.
B4. Will this project require the building of new roads? (Increased road mileage may affect the timing of water reaching a stream and may, thus, impact fish habitat.)
B5. Are culverts proposed as part of this project? Yes No
B6. Are stormwater drywells proposed as part of this project? Yes No
B7. Will topography changes affect the duration/direction of runoff flows? Yes No If yes describe the changes.
B8. Will the project involve any reduction of a floodway or floodplain by filling or other partial blockage of flows? Yes No
City of Dichland

If yes, how will the loss of flood storage be mitigated by your project?

WATER QUALITY: The following questions will help determine if this project could adversely impact water quality. Degraded water quality can affect listed species. Water quality can be made worse by runoff from impervious surfaces, altering water temperature, discharging

ver a waterbody? iilding of structures such
al to increase nutrient loading off) to the waterbody?
be increased because of ? (In-water or near water work
cleaning, highway salting, rking lots?
if the project will affect riparian
ne stream banks?
unt and type of vegetation to
No
knowledge. I understand
Date