

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Skagit County 2006 Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update Proposal

2. Name of Applicant:

Skagit County Planning & Development Services

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

Skagit County Planning & Development Services
1800 Continental Place
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 336-9410
Contact: Ann Bylin, Senior Planner

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 27, 2007

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Skagit County Planning & Development Services

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

There will be public hearings before the Skagit County Commissioners to take comments on the proposal. The first public hearing date has been set for April 10, 2007 to consider amendments to Skagit County Code Title 14; Chapter 14.24 the Critical Areas Ordinance, and supporting Chapters 14.04 Definitions, 14.16 Zoning, and 14.18 Land Divisions. Planning Commission review and final Board approval will be required prior to adoption of any amendments.

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

Not known at this time.

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

1. Best Available Science Report. Use of Best Available Science in Skagit County Critical Areas Ordinance (Wetlands and Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas). The Watershed Company. January 17, 2007.
2. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas. Discussion and Best Available Science Review. Skagit County Health Department and Skagit County Public Works Department. December 26, 2006
3. Geologically Hazardous Areas. Discussion and Best Available Science Review. Skagit County Planning and Development Services Department. June 2, 2006.

9. Do you know of pending applications for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

None known

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

Skagit County Board of Commissioner approval is required for any amendments to Skagit County Code.

11. Give a 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 which ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers of this page.

The proposal consists of the following components and is intended to achieve compliance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) update requirement found at RCW 36.70A.130(4).

Amendments to Skagit County Code, Title 14, Unified Development Code, to ensure that best available science has been incorporated; to clarify certain processes and requirements; and to address typographical errors and inadvertent additions or omissions. The proposal includes amendments to Chapter 14.24 Critical Areas Ordinance, Chapter 14.04 Definitions, Chapter 14.16 Zoning, Chapter 14.18 Land Divisions.

12. Location of the proposal. Please give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, please provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Please provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map if possible. 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. (Indicate if maps or plans have been submitted as part of a permit application.)

Lands inside the unincorporated areas of Skagit County, WA located within Ranges 1-12 East and Townships 33-36 North, W.M., Skagit County, WA.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Not Applicable

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Date: February 27, 2007

D. SUPPLEMENT SHEET FOR NON-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 proposed amendments are not likely to result in any increase in discharge, emission, production or release any of the above beyond what is already occurring or permitted. Any specific development resulting from these amendments shall be subject to all applicable codes, regulations and statutes from the local, state and federal jurisdictions.

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

The proposed amendments are not likely to have any affect on any of the above beyond what is already occurring or permitted. The amendments are intended to protect the functions and values of critical areas including wetland, fish and wildlife habitat conservation, geologically hazardous, critical aquifer recharge, and frequently flooded areas. Any specific development resulting from these amendments shall be subject to all applicable codes, regulations and statutes from the local, state and federal jurisdictions.

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

The proposed amendments will not facilitate any depletion of energy or natural resources beyond what is already occurring or permitted.

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 proposed amendments are not likely to have any negative affects. The amendments are intended to protect the functions and values of critical areas including wetland, fish and wildlife habitat conservation, geologically hazardous, critical aquifer recharge, and frequently flooded areas. Any specific development resulting from these amendments shall be subject to all applicable codes, regulations and statutes from the local, state and federal jurisdictions.

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

The proposed amendments include provisions for the mitigation of any impacts to critical areas. Mitigation measures will be project and site specific. A critical areas site assessment will be produced for any development proposal with the potential to impact critical areas. A site specific mitigation plan will identify specific mitigation measures designed to address any proposed impacts to critical areas. Any possible use or affect from any specific development resulting from the proposed amendments shall be subject to all applicable codes, regulations and statutes from the local, state and federal statutes.

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 proposed amendments intend to strengthen environmental protection of the shorelines based on recommendations included in the Best Available Science Review documents. The amendments work in conjunction with the existing Shoreline Management Master Program. The Shoreline Management Master

Program and the Shoreline Element of the Comprehensive Plan remain unchanged. Any specific development resulting from the amendments shall be subject to all applicable codes, regulations and statutes from the local, state and federal statutes including the Shoreline Management Master Program.

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

Measures include specific standard buffers and site assessment requirements for proposed development on shoreline properties based on recommendations in the Best Available Science Review documents. Any possible use or affect from any specific development resulting from the amendments shall be subject to all applicable codes, regulations and statutes from the local, state and federal jurisdictions including the Shoreline Management Master Program.

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

The proposed amendments will not affect demands on transportation. The demand for public water may be increased in basins where reservations have been fully allocated.

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

A water reservation allocation tracking system will be developed in order to determine public and individual water use. Any possible use or affect from any specific development resulting from the amendments shall be subject to all applicable codes, regulations and statutes from the local, state and federal jurisdictions.

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

No