

Appendix A SEPA 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:

Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update

2. Name of applicant:

City of Gig Harbor

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

**3510 Grandview Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
Jeff Langhelm
Phone Number: 253-851-6170**

4. Date checklist prepared:

October 6, 2008

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Ecology

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

The final Plan is to be adopted by City Council after Department of Ecology review and approval. Plan will be implemented over the next several years.

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

The Wastewater Comprehensive Plan outlines numerous projects in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) that may be constructed over the next 20 years. The Plan itself will be updated every six years or more frequently as needed.

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

Each proposed project in the CIP will be subject to separate SEPA review prior to construction.

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.

None.

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

Washington State Department of Ecology.

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 of Gig Harbor Wastewater Comprehensive Plan is a document describing the location and type of facilities needed to provide sewer service and wastewater treatment for the City of Gig Harbor Urban Growth Area for present and future conditions.

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 Gig Harbor Urban Growth Area is located in Pierce County, northwest of the City of Tacoma. A vicinity map is included as part of the plan.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

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

Terrain varies from flat to bluffs above the Puget Sound, including steep ravines and hilly areas.

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

Near vertical bluffs (85%)

- 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.

Soils are typically sandy-loam. A detailed description is provided in the soils section of Chapter 2 of the Plan.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
- Yes. Stormwater runoff has severely eroded stream channels, banks, and steep ravines.**
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
- Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include a SEPA review, at which time cut and fill quantities will be determined.**
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
- Yes. However, proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include erosion control provisions.**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
- Proposed projects from the CIP will state changes, if any, in impervious surfaces for each project site.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
- Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include erosion control provisions such as silt fencing and runoff detention and treatment.**
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.
- Some dust and emissions to the air will be released during construction of sewer lines and treatment plant improvements. When the plan is implemented, odors from the treatment plant and manholes will be monitored by City staff.**
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
- No.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
- None.**

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.

Yes, major water bodies in and around Gig Harbor include Puget Sound, Gig Harbor, Henderson Bay, Donkey Creek, Crescent Creek, North Creek, McCormick Creek, Gooch Creek, Wollochet Creek, and Garr Creek. Complete surface water descriptions can be found in the surface water section of Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Wastewater Plan Update.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, may be in and/or near the mentioned waters. The proposed outfall extension is primarily within Gig Harbor and the Tacoma Narrows.

- 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.

None.

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

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include a SEPA review, which will address surface water diversions at that time.

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

Yes, as a coastal city, portions of Gig Harbor are within the 100-year floodplain.

- 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.

As the population of the Gig Harbor UGA continues to grow and as more customers connect to sewer, the flow of treated effluent to Gig Harbor and/or the Tacoma Narrows will increase. Presently, Gig Harbor discharges an average of approximately 0.7 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated effluent to Gig Harbor. In the future, average discharge may

increase to approximately 2.7 MGD. Flow projections are detailed in the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan.

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.

No.

- 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.

Based on City policies, the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update accounts for the City's collection system to accept the switch of customers from septic tanks to sewer systems, thereby decreasing the amount of waste material discharged into the ground. Each proposed sewer expansion project will include a SEPA checklist detailing the number of septic tanks to be abandoned.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 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.

N/A.

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

No.

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

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include methods to minimize and mitigate construction related erosion and this information will be provided in the design drawings and within the contract documents. Methods include the use of silt fence and straw bales to entrap migrating silt on site. All final graded slopes will be properly stabilized to prevent post-construction erosion.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

X deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

X evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X shrubs

X grass

X pasture

 crop or grain

X wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

X water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

 other types of vegetation

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

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, may include removal of roadside vegetation.

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

None.

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

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include provisions to restore damaged areas to original conditions. Some projects may include native plantings as part of a streambank restoration project.

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:

Birds typical of the area.

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

Mammals typical of a harbor environment.

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Chinook Salmon live in the waters of Puget Sound

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

Unknown.

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

N/A.

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.

Oil, gas, and diesel fuel will be consumed by machinery during construction of proposed projects in the CIP. The wastewater treatment plant and the numerous sewage lift stations run primarily on electric power. During power outages, backup generators temporarily run the system on fossil fuels.

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

No.

- 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:

None.

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.

During construction and normal operation of a wastewater treatment plant, certain hazards are present, including use of laboratory reagents and high voltage machinery. The risk of most of these hazards will not significantly change with the implementation of this Plan.

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

N/A.

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

N/A

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example, traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, could generate noise from construction and machinery on a temporary basis, typically during business hours.

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

Certain noisy machinery at the treatment plant are enclosed in buildings to mitigate noise impacts.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include a SEPA review which will address land use at that time.

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

See question 8.a.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

See question 8.a.

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

See question 8.a.

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

See question 8.a.

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

See question 8.a.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

**EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY**

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

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include a SEPA review which will address shorelines at that time.

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

Yes, proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include a SEPA review which will address environmentally sensitive areas at that time.

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

None.

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

None.

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

N/A.

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

N/A

9. Housing

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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?

Proposed structures at the wastewater treatment plant will be of approximately residential scale. The dimensions of proposed buildings, and their exterior materials were not specified in this Plan.

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

None.

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

Wastewater facilities located above ground (treatment plant and lift station buildings) will consider aesthetic qualities of the built environment.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

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

No.

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

None.

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

N/A.

12. Recreation

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

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include a SEPA review, which will address recreation areas at that time.

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

See Question 12.a.

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

N/A.

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.

Unknown.

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

None.

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

N/A.

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.

Proposed projects from the CIP, when and if they are constructed, will include a SEPA review which will address transportation at that time.

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

See Question 14.a.

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

None.

- 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).

No.

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

No.

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

None.

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

N/A.

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.

No.

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

N/A.

16. Utilities

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

Available utilities vary with each proposed project. A SEPA checklist will be submitted with each project indicating any impacts on utilities.

- 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.

N/A.

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: _____

Date Submitted: _____