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# CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES GROUP

9611 SE 36TH STREET | MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040

PHONE: 206.275.7605 | [www.mercergov.org](http://www.mercergov.org)

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## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

File No: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

**See Development Application for fees**

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### USE OF CHECKLIST FOR NONPROJECT PROPOSALS

For nonproject proposals complete this checklist and the supplemental sheet for nonproject actions (Part D). The lead agency may exclude any question for the environmental elements (Part B) which they determine do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

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:

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2. Name of applicant:

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

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4. Date checklist prepared:

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5. Agency requesting checklist:

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

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

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

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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:

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

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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.)

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**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

**1. Earth**

a. General description of the site (check one):

Flat  Rolling  Hilly  Steep slopes  Mountainous  Other

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

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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.

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

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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.

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

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

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

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**2. Air**

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a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

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

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

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**3. Water**

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a. Surface:

i. 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.

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ii. 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.

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iii. 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.

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

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

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- vi. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

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b. Ground

- i. 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.

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- ii. 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.

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c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- i. Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) 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.

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

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

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**4. Plants**

a. Check 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, bulrush, 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?

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

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

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e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

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**5. Animals**

a. State any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

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

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

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

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

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e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

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**6. Energy and natural resources**

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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.

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

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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:

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**7. Environmental health**

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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.

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i. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

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ii. 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.

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iii. 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.

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iv. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

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v. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

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b. Noise

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

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ii. 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.

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iii. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

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**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.

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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?

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c. Describe any structures on the site.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**9. Housing**

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

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

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

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**10. Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas? What is the principal exterior material(s) proposed?

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

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

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**11. Light and glare**

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

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

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

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

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**12. Recreation**

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

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

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

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**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? If so, specifically describe.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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**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.

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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?

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c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or nonproject proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

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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).

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

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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 non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

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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.

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

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**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.

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

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**16. Utilities**

a. Check utilities currently available at the site:

Electricity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Gas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Refuse Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Telephone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sanitary sewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Septic system	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

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**C. SIGNATURE**

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the answers to the attached SEPA Checklist 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:

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APPENDIX 1: SEPA Checklist Additional Text

*This Appendix includes text that is too long to fit in the text boxes provided.*

ATTACHMENT LIST

Attachment A Survey/Proposed Lease Boundary  
Attachment B Aerial/Proposed Building Footprint  
Attachment C Proposed Lease Boundary Description  
Attachment D Proposed Zoning Code Text Amendment  
Attachment E Geotechnical Report  
Attachment F Geotechnical Supplemental Memo  
Attachment G Slope Stability Review  
Attachment H Wetland Delineation Report  
Attachment I Tree Assessment  
Attachment J Critical Area Study  
Attachment K Wetland Mitigation Plan  
Attachment L Site & Paving Plan  
Attachment M Utility Plan  
Attachment N Phase 1 Environmental Report  
Attachment O Transportation Impact Analysis  
Attachment P Parking Management Plan.  
Attachment Q Response to Public Comments Received

## SEPA RULES

### 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; productions, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

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Proposed measures to avoid or reduce increases are:

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

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

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

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

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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?

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

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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?

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

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

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

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

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[Statutory Authority: RCW [43.21C.110](#). WSR 16-13-012 (Order 15-09), § 197-11-960, filed 6/2/16, effective 7/3/16. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.21C.110](#) and [43.21C.100](#) [43.21C.170]. WSR 14-09-026 (Order 13-01), § 197-11-960, filed 4/9/14, effective 5/10/14. Statutory Authority: RCW [43.21C.110](#). WSR 13-02-065 (Order 12-01), § 197-11-960, filed 12/28/12, effective 1/28/13; WSR 84-05-020 (Order DE 83-39), § 197-11-960, filed 2/10/84, effective 4/4/84.]



## **Appendix 1: SEPA Checklist Additional Text**

*This Appendix includes text that is too long to fit in the text boxes provided.*

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

Geotechnical Engineering Design Report, Proposed Mercer Island Center for the Arts  
Hart Crowser, July 26, 2016, Attachment E

Supplemental Memorandum  
Hart Crowser, May 6, 2015, Attachment F

Slope Stability Report  
Hart Crowser, November 22, 2016, Attachment G

Wetland Delineation Report, Mercer Island Center for the Arts,  
The Watershed Company, May 21, 2015, Attachment H

Tree Assessment with proposed MICA Project Limits of Mercerdale Park  
The Watershed Company, November 16, 2016, Attachment I

Critical Area Study, Mercer Island Center for the Arts  
The Watershed Company, November, 2016, Attachment J

Mitigation Plan, Mercer Island Center for the Arts  
The Watershed Company, November 16, 2016, Attachment K

Phase 1 Environmental Review,  
Aerotech, December 18, 2015, Attachment N

Transportation Impact Analysis,  
Transpo, 2017, Attachment O

Parking Management Plan,  
Transpo. 2017, Attachment P

**Question B.1.d.**

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

According to the geotechnical report, the site is in a landslide location and partially within mapped landslide deposits. In the opinion of the geotechnical engineers, the construction of the building will not increase or decrease the landslide hazard in the vicinity.

Hart Crowser, in their memo dated November 22, 2016, states that in their opinion, a Landslide Hazard area does not exist on the development property. On further analysis of the existing soils and differential failure modes, Hart Crowser concludes that the site is a stable slope under normal conditions. An earthquake would increase the risk of movement in the western portion of the slope, but the safety factor is nearly 1.1, indicating that the slope is still stable, even under a major seismic event. See also Attachment E Geotechnical Report, and Attachment G, Slope Stability Review.

**Question B.3.c.i.**

**Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) 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.**

Storm drainage requirements for the City of Mercer Island adhere to the Washington State Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual (2005 Edition). The manual requires on-site stormwater management, runoff treatment and flow control. Because of the soil type and the high groundwater, infiltration is not possible. Surface runoff from the hillside will be intercepted by swales that will be strategically graded into the hillside to minimize impacts to the existing vegetation. The northern swales will be connected to the existing Trellis public storm drain line on the north edge of the site and the southern swale will convey hillside runoff to the wetland buffer due north of the wetland. The wetland will overflow into a catch basin located north of the wetland. Flow control will occur through onsite detention. MICA will also pay into the City's stormwater fee-in-lieu-of program.

**Question B.4.d**

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

Within the wetland buffer, the proposed mitigation plan calls for a total of 11,362 square feet of native trees, shrubs and groundcover. Proposed mitigation will benefit the on-site wetland and buffer by increasing the ability of the buffer vegetation to store/trap sediments and nutrients, increasing the ability of the buffer to attenuate flood flow during heavy rain, and improving cover and forage opportunities for wildlife. Overall, this area of enhancement will provide improved water quality, hydrology, and habitat functions in areas closest to the proposed building.

See also Appendix K, Wetland Mitigation Plan.

**Question B.8.I**

Regulations for the P-zone will need to be modified by the City of Mercer Island to allow a cultural center and building permit approval for the project. The project will provide plaza space

for public use and new landscaping to tie the building into its park setting. The trail to First Hill will be retained or replaced. We are working with Mercer Island Parks & Recreation on supporting and supplementing park functions.

A Zoning Text Amendment has been proposed as part of the project. The text amendment will allow a cultural center to be built in a P (Public Institution) zone, with restrictions. This is a procedure that the City has used previously, most recently for elementary school improvements; MICA is not receiving special privileges to use this mechanism. The text amendment will be reviewed by City staff and requires approval from City Council. MICA will comply with the same process as any other proponent of a text amendment.

For additional detail, see Appendix Q, Response to Comments. The proposed text amendment is in Attachment D.

**Question B.12.c**

When MICA is complete, the current uses will all be continued. There will be a walkway around the park lawn; the pergola, the children's play area and the skateboard park. The wooded area between the skateboard park and MICA – currently in poor ecological health - will be smaller as a result of the project, and MICA has undertaken to work with the City to re-landscape and turn this area into a space all Islanders can enjoy. Public restrooms and Farmers Market storage within MICA will support the community gatherings that currently take place in and near the park. The western slope, with its trails and stairway, will remain wooded and intact. The presence of MICA will create new cultural and recreational opportunities for the community with programs, activities, and outdoor seating. Restaurants are expected to benefit from the presence of evening cultural activity.