

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## **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**

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 **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.

## **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**

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the [Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions \(Part D\)](#). 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** [Find help answering background questions](#)

### **1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Amendments to Stormwater Management Standards, Mercer Island City Code (MICC)  
Chapters 15.09, 15.10, and 15.11

### **2. Name of applicant:**

City of Mercer Island

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

Brian Hartvigson  
ROW & Stormwater Manager  
City of Mercer Island – Public Works  
9601 SE 36th Street  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
206-275-7809

### **4. Date checklist prepared:**

August 7, 2023

### **5. Agency requesting checklist:**

City of Mercer Island

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

Approval of the amendments to the Stormwater Management Standards is anticipated to occur in the fall of 2023.

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

Development projects that occur in the future will be subject to changes to these stormwater management standards and subject to project-specific SEPA review, as applicable.

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

None known.

**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 known.

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

This proposal would amend MICC Title 15. The proposal will undergo a public hearing and review by the Mercer Island City Council.

**11. Give a 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 proposed changes relate to stormwater management in MICC Title 15. Specifically, the proposal amends Chapter 15.09 MICC, Stormwater Management; Chapter 15.10 MICC, Storm and Surface Water Utility; and Chapter 15.11 MICC, Fee In Lieu of Stormwater Detention.

The amendments ensure continued compliance with the City's NPDES permit and adopts updated definitions in the NPDES permit and 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington. The amendments also adopt the 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington as the applicable stormwater manual for the City.

**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 proposed amendments to the stormwater management standards apply to all lands and land uses within the City of Mercer Island.

## B. Environmental Elements

### 1. Earth [Find help answering earth questions](#)

**a. General description of the site:**

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, **steep slopes**, mountainous, other:

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

Slopes on Mercer Island range from 0 to 2,100 percent.

**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.**

Mercer Island contains a mix of soil types. Based on the Natural Resources Conservation Survey (NRCS) Web Soil Survey, the island is primarily comprised of Kitsap silt loam (till, class C) and Arents, Alderwood material (outwash, class B) with smaller sections of Alderwood gravelly sandy loam (outwash, class B), Everett-Alderwood gravelly sandy loam (outwash, class A)

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

A large portion of the island includes steep slopes, landslide hazard areas, or erosion hazard areas.

**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.**

None proposed as part of the non-project action. Site development projects will be reviewed for compliance with the SEPA guidelines at the time of permit application.

**f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

No impervious surfaces will be constructed as a result of this non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

## 2. Air [Find help answering air questions](#)

- 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

## 3. Water [Find help answering water questions](#)

### a. Surface Water: [Find help answering surface water questions](#)

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, Lake Washington surround Mercer Island. There are also 54 drainage basins on the island with small unnamed streams that drain to Lake Washington.

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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

3. **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**b. Ground Water:** [Find help answering ground water questions](#)

- 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 a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

#### 4. Plants [Find help answering plants questions](#)

**a. Check the 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
- 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?**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, poison hemlock, and knotweed are known invasive plants on the island. Other noxious weeds or invasive species may also be present.

#### 5. Animals [Find help answering animal questions](#)

**a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.**

Mercer Island supports a diversity of animals, including, but not limited to the following:

- Birds: hawks, herons, eagles, songbirds, owls
- Mammals: deer, raccoon, rabbits, coyotes, bobcats, cougars
- Fish: bass, salmon, trout

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

Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and Chinook salmon

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

Yes, Mercer Island is located within the Pacific Flyway. Salmonid migratory routes also occur through Lake Washington.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**6. Energy and Natural Resources** [Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)

**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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**7. Environmental Health** [Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)

**a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**2. 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.



- 3. 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**b. Noise**

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**8. Land and Shoreline Use** [Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)

- 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 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 because 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?**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- c. 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?**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- d. Describe any structures on the site.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- f. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- i. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- l. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- n. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

## 9. **Housing** [Find help answering housing questions](#)

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

## 10. **Aesthetics** [Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

## 11. **Light and Glare** [Find help answering light and glare questions](#)

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

## **12. Recreation** [Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

Mercer Island provides a variety of recreation opportunities, including, but not limited to, parks, trails, water sports, athletic fields, and sport courts.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

## **13. Historic and Cultural Preservation** [Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)

- 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.**

The Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) provides data for properties included on the National Register and the Washington Heritage Register.

- 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**14. Transportation** [Find help with answering transportation questions](#)

- 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.**

Public streets and highways are mapped on the City's GIS portal:

<https://chgis1.mercergov.org/Html5Viewer/Index.html?viewer=PubMaps&viewer=PubMaps>

- 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?**

Transit routes available on Mercer Island can be found here:

[www.mercerisland.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/2001/mercer\\_island\\_in\\_motion\\_map\\_2016.pdf](http://www.mercerisland.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/2001/mercer_island_in_motion_map_2016.pdf)

- c. **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).**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- e. **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?**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- f. **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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**15. Public Services** [Find help answering public service questions](#)

- 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.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**16. Utilities** [Find help answering utilities questions](#)

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

- b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

**C. Signature** [Find help about who should sign](#)

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.

 Recoverable Signature

**X** Deeqa Roble

Deeqa Roble  
Stormwater Quality Technician  
Signed by: 9000f8ea-2d52-464a-88b6-c55648177f5c

**Type name of signee: Deeqa Roble**

**Position and agency/organization: Stormwater Quality Technician**

**Date submitted: 8/7/2023**

## D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)

**IT IS NOT REQUIRED** to use this section 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 proposed stormwater code amendments are designed to minimize discharges of stormwater and pollutants in runoff to water bodies through consistency with the requirements in the NPDES permit and the 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington. No significant increase in emissions to air; production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise are expected to occur under the proposed stormwater code amendments.

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Minimal impacts to discharges to water are expected to result from implementation of proposed code revisions. Therefore, no protective measures are proposed. No significant increase in emissions to air; production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise are expected to occur under the proposed stormwater code amendments.

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

The proposed stormwater code amendments aim to protect and improve aquatic conditions in local streams and Lake Washington. Implementation of the stormwater code amendments will not result in increased impacts to the environment, but rather, it will likely result in a net improvement in environmental conditions. Minimal benefits are expected for plants based on the proposed stormwater code amendments.

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

Minimal impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life are expected to result from implementation of proposed code revisions. Therefore, no protective measures are proposed. Individual projects will comply with applicable environmental permits and regulations.

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

Implementation of the proposed stormwater code amendments are not anticipated to consume any energy or natural resources.

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

Implementation of the proposed stormwater code amendments are not anticipated to consume any energy or natural resources. Therefore, no protective measures are proposed.

**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 stormwater code amendments do not directly use or affect environmentally sensitive areas.

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

Implementation of the proposed stormwater code amendments are not anticipated to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas. Therefore, no protective measures are proposed.

**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 stormwater code amendments are consistent with land and shoreline use requirements, including the City of Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan.

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

Implementation of the proposed stormwater code amendments are not anticipated to affect land and shoreline use. Therefore, no protective measures are proposed.

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

The proposed stormwater code amendments are not anticipated to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities (other than the stormwater utility). Demands on the stormwater utility are anticipated to be minimal through this set of stormwater code amendments since none of the thresholds are changing as part of this update, just definitions and the adoption of the 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.



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

Implementation of the proposed stormwater code amendments are not anticipated to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities. Therefore, no protective measures are proposed.

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

No conflicts are anticipated. The proposed stormwater code amendments are designed to be consistent with other applicable laws and/or requirements, including the requirements of the NPDES permit.