

City of Kelso  
Department of Community Development

**SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**  
*UPDATED 2014*

***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

***Instructions for applicants:*** [\[help\]](#)

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to 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:*** [\[help\]](#)

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 [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **City of Kelso Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review**
2. Name of applicant: **City of Kelso**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **Michael Kardas Director/City Engineer, 360-747-8434, City of Kelso 203 S. Pacific Kelso, WA 98626**
4. Date checklist prepared: **6/18/2021**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Department of Ecology**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Updates to the Kelso SMP will be completed by June 2021**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

**This is a non-project action proposal. The city is updating the policies and regulations of its SMP to ensure consistency with related state and city policies and regulations. Site-specific applications for development within shoreline jurisdiction are considered separate actions and will be reviewed for compliance with the SMP at the time of application.**

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

**The City of Kelso Shoreline Master Program and associated checklist were last prepared in 2016. The 2021 checklist and identified amendments will serve as an updated to the 2016 Shoreline Master Program.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

**This is a nonproject action. Any applications for development will be reviewed against existing SMP regulations.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)

**The City of Kelso and the Washington State Department of Ecology must approve the changes to the SMP prior to adoption of this proposal.**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

**This is a non-project action and contains proposed policies and regulations to the City's Shoreline Master Program that are applied citywide within the identified shoreline jurisdiction of the City of Kelso. The project area is the shoreline jurisdiction within city limits.**

**The SMP will be updated to ensure consistency with changes in policy and regulation affecting shoreline management made by the state legislature since 2016 when the SMP was last updated. These changes are outlined in the Washington State Department of Ecology SMP Periodic Update checklist.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)

**This proposal includes the waters and all land within 200 feet landward of the ordinary highwater mark (OHWM) of the Cowlitz and Columbia Rivers, in addition to any associated wetlands and creeks within city limits.**

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS** [\[help\]](#)

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)  
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**N/A, this is a non-project action. Answers provided below are intended to give a general description of conditions within SMP jurisdiction.**

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. Although, there is a variety of terrain located within the SMP jurisdiction.**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. Soils within the SMP jurisdiction vary.**

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action.**

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action.**

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, 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)? [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action.**

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. When future projects are submitted, any erosion-related impacts created during clearing and construction activities will be mitigated in compliance with the Ecology 2012 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, as amended in December 2014. This requires any erosion-related impacts created during clearing and construction activities to be addressed according to a Temporary Erosion Sedimentation Control Plan (TESC), which is a standard part of engineering review and approval. Additionally, the City has provisions to protect critical areas, which include geologically hazardous areas (landslide hazard areas), which will apply.**

## **2. Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. None of the questions in this section apply.**

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

### 3. Water

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. By definition, the SMP addresses marine shorelines, year-round streams with flows over 20 cubic feet per second, lakes equal to or more than 20 acres in size, and associated wetlands and floodplains. Regulated shorelines include the Cowlitz, Columbia Rivers, and other permanent creeks.**

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

**N/A, this is a non-project action. Impacts to surface water resources will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis for future construction projects.**

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action, which does not include filling or dredging surface water or wetlands.**

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action, which would not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.**

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. However, many shoreline areas in the City are also within floodplains.**

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action, which would not discharge any waste materials to surface waters.**

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action, which would not withdraw groundwater.**

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action, which would not discharge any waste material into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.**

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action.**

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action, which would not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the shoreline jurisdiction area.**

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

**N/A, this is a non-project action, which would not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the shoreline jurisdiction area.**

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

**N/A, this is a non-project action.**

4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

\_\_\_\_deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other  
\_\_\_\_evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other  
\_\_\_\_shrubs  
\_\_\_\_grass

- \_\_\_\_ pasture
- \_\_\_\_ crop or grain
- \_\_\_\_ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- \_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- \_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- \_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. However, a variety of vegetation can be found in the shoreline jurisdiction area.**

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action. When a specific application is submitted, the kind and amount of vegetation to be removed or altered will depend on City requirements, which would be reflected in an approved landscape plan.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action and no landscaping is proposed to be done.**

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

**N/A, this is a non-project action.**

## 5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)

- birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

**N/A, this is a non-project action. A variety of birds, mammals, and fish are known to have habitat within shoreline jurisdiction.**

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action**

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

**N/A, this is a non-project action**

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

**N/A, this is a non-project action**

## 6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

## 7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
  - 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
- b. **Noise**
- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)



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

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

## 8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)
- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:
- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

## 9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

#### 10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

#### 11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

#### 12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

#### 13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

#### 14. **Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)
- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

#### 15. **Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

#### 16. **Utilities**

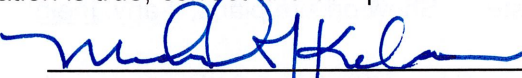
- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

**C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)**

I declare under penalty of the perjury laws that the information I have provided on this form/application is true, correct and complete:

Signature: 

Name of signee Michael G Kardas

Position and Agency/Organization Community Dev. Dir - City of Kelso

Date Submitted: 6.18.2021

**D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)**

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The proposed amendments associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP are not anticipated to increase any of the above. The proposed amendments are primarily concerned with keeping the SMP current with amendments to state laws, making usability improvements and clarifications, and ensuring consistency with the City's other plans and development regulations.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

The existing SMP includes restrictions on uses, activities, and development within SMP jurisdiction that prevent the discharge of water or release of toxic or hazardous substances into the water. The standard requires no net loss of environmental functions within the shoreline.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP are not anticipated to negatively affect plants, animals, fish or marine life

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

The proposed amendments associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP are not anticipated to negatively affect plants, animals, fish or marine life. The proposed amendments are primarily concerned with keeping the SMP current with amendments to state laws, making usability improvements and clarifications, and ensuring consistency with the City's other development regulations.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP are not anticipated to affect the depletion of energy or natural resources. The proposed amendments are primarily concerned with keeping the SMP current with amendments to state laws, making usability improvements and clarifications, and ensuring consistency with the City's other plans and development regulations.

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

The proposal will have no effect on energy conservation but is strongly linked to protecting remaining intact natural resources along the shoreline not already impacted by development.

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 associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP include adopting by reference the City-wide critical areas regulations, once these new amendments are adopted. The SMP contains exclusions where critical areas regulations do not apply, such as exempt activities, permitted alterations, and reasonable use exception variance sections in the Critical Areas Ordinance. The amended standards are anticipated to continue to ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological functions.

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

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 associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP would slightly alter the land and shoreline uses allowed to be more consistent with existing City plans, zoning, and development regulations or provide more clarity. The proposed amendments are primarily concerned with keeping the SMP current with amendments to state laws, making usability improvements and clarifications, and ensuring consistency with the City's other plans and development regulations.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:  
The proposal itself aims to improve the compatibility of land use and shoreline plans.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP are not anticipated to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities. The proposed amendments are primarily concerned with keeping the SMP current with amendments to state laws, making usability improvements and clarifications, and ensuring consistency with the City's other development regulations.

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

No such measures are needed at this time. Any future development or redevelopment will be reviewed under the regulations in place at the time, which may result in improvements to transportation, public services, or utilities being required at that time.

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

This non-project proposal includes amendments associated with the periodic review of the City's SMP, which the City is required to complete under the Washington State Shoreline Management Act. Aims of the periodic review include keeping the SMP current with amendments to state laws and changes to local plans and regulations.