

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 [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Green Building Ordinance Update – Modifying the green building and sustainable infrastructure program

2. Name of applicant:

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

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

Nori Catabay, Green Building Team Program Manager
Solid Waste Division
King County DNRP
201 S Jackson St, Suite 5701
Seattle, WA 98104
206-477-5269

4. Date checklist prepared:

December 20, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County

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

The King County Council anticipates possible final action on the proposed ordinance in the first quarter of 2022.

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

There are no known plans to add or expand the proposed ordinance in the future.

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

- SEPA checklist for the proposed ordinance
- [Staff Report to Mobility and Environment Committee](#), dated October 27, 2021 (starting on page 170)

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.

There are no other applications for government approvals or permits pending directly related to the proposed ordinance. There may currently be other applications pending for government approvals of proposals for King County projects; however, those proposals would be subject to the existing King County green building regulations under King County Code (KCC) Chapter 18.17.

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

Approval by the King County Council is the only government approval required for adoption of the proposed ordinance. Individual King County projects that are subject to the proposed ordinance would also be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local permitting requirements.

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.)

King County proposes to update the County's green building and sustainable infrastructure program by proposing amendments to King County Code (KCC) chapter 18.17, with the objective to standardize the capital project management and green building practices across King County divisions and enable stronger oversight and greater accountability through clear approval processes. The amendments include modifying the definitions in KCC 18.17.10, repealing the policy section in KCC 18.17.020, and adding new sections to KCC 18.17. These updates would reorganize and amend the green building regulations and modify the reporting and fiscal stewardship requirements relating to green building.

If adopted, requirements of the ordinance will apply to the following: King County-owned and lease-to-own capital projects, excluding those that have already completed thirty percent of the design phase by the effective date of the ordinance; leases of county-employee-occupied space where the lease term is longer than 5 years; affordable housing projects wholly or partially financed by King County and which are subject to statewide green building standards in RCW 39.35D.080; and transit-oriented development projects wholly or partially financed by King County and which are wholly or partially planned by the King County Metro Transit department. The ordinance also requires that construction development on county-owned property leased to third-party entities comply with the same requirements as county-owned capital projects, except for the annual reporting requirements. Hereafter, this document will collectively refer to all of the foregoing as "King County projects."

As with the existing code, the intent of the proposed ordinance is to ensure that the planning, design, construction, remodeling, renovation, historic preservation, maintenance and operation of any King County project is consistent with the latest green building and sustainable development practices to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve equity and social justice, reduce waste, reduce water use, increase sustainable materials use, and improve sites and improve stormwater management. Through the updates, the proposed ordinance seeks to increase the use of green building and sustainability practices by King County projects.

The existing regulations require King County-owned and lease-to-own capital projects to achieve certification through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, King County Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or another third-party rating system, depending on the project type and scope. The regulations also require reporting on green building practices used in affordable housing and transit-oriented development subject to state green building requirements.

The proposed ordinance would make the following changes:

- Add a requirement that, for leases for county-employee-occupied space longer than five years, buildings only be leased that meet certain green building certification requirements, with exceptions when certification would not be possible for technical reasons, or for when plans and funding were in place to meet the certification requirements within two years;
- Allow for alternative green building rating systems other than those specifically listed be used, if approved by the County Executive;

- Require affordable housing projects financed by certain County departments to achieve Washington state Evergreen Sustainability Standard requirements;
- Expand project applicability to green building requirements by requiring certain leases to achieve green building certification, and expanding LEED-eligibility to projects between 1,000 and 5,000 square feet;
- Add that construction development undertaken by third parties on County-owned land is subject to the ordinance's certification requirements, but not its reporting requirements;
- Require projects to achieve applicable equity and social justice credits;
- Require all King County capital projects to divert 100 percent of construction and demolition waste with economic value from the landfill beginning in 2030;
- Remove a requirement that projects only achieve green building certification when certification does not result in incremental life-cycle costs, but instead allow project managers to request a waiver from any or all of the requirements of proposed ordinance if the project manager believes that the costs of compliance are too high or do not generate sufficient benefits, or that compliance is not possible;
- Institute a discretionary waiver process by which projects could be exempted from some or all requirements of the green building code by request to the County Executive; and
- Add flexibility in the types of data the Green Building Team collects from project managers.

Compliance with existing federal, state, and local regulations is presumed for purposes of this SEPA checklist including, but not limited to, compliance with the regulations in the proposed ordinance itself and those related to property and capital project development, protection of the natural and built environment, and land use.

The King County Council could modify the proposed ordinance and still accomplish the proposal's objective. Depending on the modification, the likelihood, scale, or scope of potential impacts to various elements of the environment could be the same, greater, or less.

As would be the case for any non-project or project action that undergoes changes after the publication of a SEPA threshold determination, the Solid Waste Division of DNRP, which is the Lead Agency for this matter per KCC 20.44.020, would evaluate any modifications that are proposed to be made to the proposed ordinance and would update this environmental review in the case that changes would result in greater or different impacts than those identified in this checklist. The timing of any additional SEPA review process may vary depending on other variables, including future public processes.

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 ordinance is a nonproject action that would apply to all King County projects and, therefore, the properties and land associated with those projects. This includes areas throughout King County, within its unincorporated areas and its 39 incorporated cities.

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” the proposed ordinance applies throughout King County, which includes areas that are flat, rolling, hilly, and steep slope. King County landforms include saltwater coastline, river floodplains, plateaus, slopes, and mountains, punctuated with lakes and streams. The proposed ordinance would apply to King County projects on lands with these features.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” there are steep slope areas located throughout King County, including 16,596 acres of steep slope critical area in the unincorporated areas. King County owns and leases properties with steep slopes and may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. The range in percent slope could vary depending on the project if steep slopes were present. King County projects on lands with steep slope critical areas would be subject to existing regulations and be addressed during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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.

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” soil throughout King County generally reflects geologically recent glacial and alluvial (river and stream) activity, as well as human activity, particularly within developed areas. River valleys are generally occupied by poorly drained, silty loams that commonly have a substantial organic content. Soils on upland areas between valleys typically are coarser-grained sandy and gravelly sandy loams, but soils with high organic content do occur locally in these upland areas and along water bodies.

Some areas in unincorporated King County are classified as farmland of statewide importance, prime farmland, and prime farmland with conditions (which means that it is prime farmland if drained, irrigated, protected from flooding, or not frequently flooded). King County owns and leases properties designated as farmland preservation properties and may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. King County projects on those properties would be subject to existing regulations regarding agricultural soils, and limitations on square footage and impervious surfaces would limit removal of those soils.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” geologically hazardous areas, including landslide and erosion-prone areas, some abandoned mining areas, and seismic risk areas, exist throughout King County. Landslide and erosion-prone areas are associated primarily with steep slopes. Hazardous mining areas that may be subject to surface subsidence are associated primarily with past coal mining that occurred in the area from Newcastle through Renton south to Black Diamond.

King County owns and leases properties that have surface indications or a history of unstable soils and may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. Any King County projects that are located on lands where landslide or erosion-prone areas exist would be

subject to existing regulations and, for new uses, would be identified and addressed during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly authorize any fill, excavation, or grading. However, King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could include fill, excavation, or grading. All such development projects would continue to be subject to existing regulations concerning filling, excavation, and grading and evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

Although the proposed ordinance would not directly cause any erosion, potential erosion could result from clearing, construction, or use of land for King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance. All such development projects would continue to be subject to existing regulations concerning erosion prevention and control and evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews. In addition, green building practices encourage the use of best management practices (BMPs) to minimize erosion during construction and use.

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

The proposed ordinance would not have any direct impacts to impervious surface percentages. King County projects subject to the ordinance could alter the percentage of impervious surfaces on their respective sites. All such development projects would continue to be subject to existing regulations concerning new and replaced impervious surfaces and evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews. As green building practices encourage the use of pervious or porous surfaces whenever possible, King County projects subject to the ordinance may result in less impervious surfaces than would otherwise be allowed under existing codes.

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

Because the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts, no additional beyond King County's existing regulations related to erosion and soils. These existing regulations would apply to any development to which the proposed ordinance would apply.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies such as implementing erosion and sedimentation control best management practices during construction. The intent of the green building requirements is to protect and preserve wetlands, shorelines, buffers and other critical areas by using erosion and sedimentation control to prevent stormwater runoff from disturbed areas during construction because of the ecosystem value these areas provide. In addition, all projects are encouraged to minimize their development footprint as an effective way to minimize habitat disturbance and preserve existing native vegetation to maintain pervious surfaces.

Other strategies encouraged by green building rating systems include retaining or creating open space and corridors by maintaining a no-build buffer zone around all sensitive areas and prohibiting development within the 100-year floodplain when possible. Low impact development strategies can also include porous surfaces to reduce impervious surfaces. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not result in any direct emissions to the air. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may result in air emissions from construction and operation activities, but would be subject to existing federal, state, and local regulations for these types of emissions. Any potential impacts from such development would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

As green building practices encourage the reduction of emissions, particularly greenhouse gases, and the use of renewable sources of energy, King County projects subject to the ordinance may result in less emissions than would otherwise be allowed under existing codes.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not be affected by off-site sources of emissions or odor, and no known off-site sources of emissions or odor are likely to impact implementation of the proposed ordinance.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and does not have any direct emissions or other impacts to air. King County projects subject to the ordinance would comply with existing regulations regarding emissions and reporting requirements. Additional federal, state, and local codes may provide standards and controls for these types of emissions and would not be modified by the proposed ordinance.

As with the existing code, any such development would be encouraged to minimize emissions or other impacts to air, particularly related to the release of greenhouse gases. The proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies that would account for and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

The strategies include: plan and design for alternative transportation; plan for efficient construction delivery and staging; use on-site materials in construction; use alternative fuels in construction equipment; implement indoor air quality construction management plan; implement green operations and maintenance practices such as no idling; include means of renewable energy production; transition off of fossil fuel powered equipment; use of electrical vehicles and equipment; use of no- or low-VOC materials to prevent or reduce off-gassing; and use of lower embodied emission materials. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, these requirements could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

3. Water [\[help\]](#)

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.

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” numerous streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands are located throughout King County, and the county is adjacent to Puget Sound to its west. King County owns and leases properties that include or are in the immediate vicinity of water bodies, including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. King County maintains an inventory of water bodies within unincorporated King County, which would be considered during development review for projects in the unincorporated area. Similarly, incorporated cities and towns maintain inventories of waterbodies within their jurisdictions, which would be considered during development review for projects in those communities.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly require any work over, in, or adjacent to the described waters. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be subject to all state, local, and federal regulations, including mitigation requirements, concerning work over, in, or adjacent to surface waters and wetlands.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies such as retaining or creating open space and corridors by maintaining a no-build buffer zone around all sensitive areas. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct result in any filling or dredging. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be subject to all state, local, and federal regulations, including mitigation requirements, concerning fill or dredge material placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not require any surface water withdrawals or diversions. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be subject to existing regulations concerning surface water diversions and withdrawals, including those regarding in-stream flows, if applicable.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” several areas of King County lie within a 100-year floodplain, including properties owned or leased by King County. Development projects subject to the proposed ordinance would also be subject to King County and local jurisdiction rules and limitations pertaining to floodplain development and fill.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently discourages development within the 100-year floodplain when

possible. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be subject to existing state, local, and federal regulations concerning the discharge of waste materials to surface waters, including state regulations on water usage, wastewater disposal, and state antidegradation standards.

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not directly involve any withdrawals of groundwater or discharge to groundwater. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance that use groundwater or discharge to groundwater would be subject to all existing state, local, and federal regulations concerning groundwater removal and protection.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not result in any discharge of waste material into the ground. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may discharge waste material from septic tanks or other sources, and if so would be required to treat and dispose of any waste in a manner compatible with state and local regulations.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly affect water runoff. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may result in some water runoff, and if so would need to comply with the more stringent of either the King County Surface Water Design Manual, including applicable BMPs for treatment and flow prior to discharge, or the surface water design requirements of the jurisdiction where that project is located. Projects also must comply with existing maximum impervious surface regulations. The sources of runoff, method of collection and disposal, if any, and flow patterns of runoff would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies such as Low Impact Development and Green Stormwater Infrastructure techniques to manage stormwater

on site as much as possible. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in any waste material entering ground or surface waters. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may result in waste matter that could enter ground or surface waters, but such projects would be subject to existing state, local, and federal regulations concerning the protection of surface and ground water.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” and would not directly alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could alter or affect drainage patterns, and if so, would be subject to existing drainage regulations, which are unchanged by the proposed ordinance.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to surface or ground water, runoff water, or drainage patterns. Existing federal, state and local regulations related to surface water discharge and withdrawal, groundwater discharge and withdrawal, runoff water (stormwater), and drainage would apply to any King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance requires implementation of King County Surface Water Design Manual requirements in all County capital projects, regardless of jurisdiction, unless the subject jurisdiction has more stringent requirements. As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes green building strategies such as implementing erosion and sedimentation control best management practices during construction.

The intent of these green building strategies is to protect and preserve wetlands, shorelines, buffers, and other critical areas by using erosion and sedimentation control to prevent stormwater runoff from disturbed areas during construction because of the ecosystem value these areas provide. The green building rating systems generally encourage projects to minimize their development footprint as an effective way to minimize habitat disturbance, preserve existing native vegetation to maintain pervious surfaces, and retain or create open space and corridors by maintaining a no-build buffer zone around all sensitive areas. Other green building strategies include Low Impact Development and Green Stormwater Infrastructure techniques to manage stormwater on site as much as possible and avoiding construction within the 100-year floodplain when possible. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

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

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” King County includes a variety of vegetation types throughout its unincorporated and incorporated areas.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly remove any vegetation, the development of individual King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could include the removal or alteration of vegetation. Such development projects would be subject to existing state and local regulations that regulate vegetation removal or alteration, in the same manner as other uses.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered plant species in King County. However, there are several species in King County listed as threatened or endangered according to the Washington State Natural Heritage Program, including clubmoss mountain-heather, Kamchatka fritillary, Pacific peavine, white meconella, choriso bog-orchid, and little bluestem. King County owns and leases properties where state-listed plant species may be present and may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. These presence of state-listed species on King County properties would be evaluated during any project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation would be encouraged for individual King County projects. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be subject to existing regulations governing landscaping, use of native plants, and vegetation preservation on their respective sites.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems, which generally encourage the use of native plants or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” A variety of noxious weeds and invasive species exist in King County, including within King County-owned or leased property. The proposed ordinance would not change any obligations to control noxious weeds identified by the King County noxious weed control program.

The King County Noxious Weed Program regulates invasive plant species, and requires eradication or control, or recommends control, for over 150 plant species. Class A noxious weeds, adopted in accordance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750, that are known to or have been located in King County,

and require eradication by property owners, include Common Cordgrass, Dyers Woad, Eggleaf Spurge, False Brome, Floating Primrose-Willow, French Broom, Garlic Mustard, Giant Hogweed, Goastrue, Hydrilla, Bighead Knotweed, Reed Sweetgrass, Ricefield Bulrush, Clary Sage, Small-Flowered Jewelweed, Spanish Broom, and Milk Thistle. Class B noxious weeds, that are known to have been located in King County, and require control by property owners, include Blueweed/Viper's Bugloss, Annual Bugloss, Common Bugloss, Common Reed, Dalmation Toadflax, Egeria/Brazilian Elodea, European Coltsfoot, Gorse, Hairy Willowherb, Hawkweeds/Non-native species and hybrids of meadow subgenus, European Hawkweed, Orange Hawkweed, Houndstongue, Brown Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Meadow Knapweed, Spotted Knapweed, Kochia, Garden Loosestrife, Purple Loosestrife, Parrotfeather, Perennial Pepperweed, Poison-Hemlock, Policeman's Helmet, Rush Skeltonweed, Saltcedar, Shiny Geranium, Leafy Spurge, Yellow Starthistle, Sulfur Cinquefoil, Tansy Ragwort, Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Velvetleaf, Water Primrose, Wild Chervil, Yellow Floatingheart, and Yellow Nutsedge.

5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

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.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable "site," a variety of birds, mammals, and fish have been observed throughout King County. There are 221 bird species that are common, uncommon, or usually seen on an annual basis in King County. Bird species include hawks, herons, eagles, owls, woodpeckers, songbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. There are 70 mammal species that can be found in King County, including shrews, bats, beavers, elk, deer, bears, rabbits, wolves, seals, and whales. There are 50 species of freshwater fish in King County, including 20 introduced species. More information on birds and animals found in King County can be found at <https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/defining-biodiversity/species-of-interest.aspx>.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable "site," there are a number of threatened and endangered species in King County. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, these species include the Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, North American wolverine, marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, streaked horned lark, yellow-billed cuckoo, Oregon spotted frog, bull trout, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Puget Sound steelhead, bocaccio rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, southern resident killer whale, and humpback whale.

In addition to the federally listed species above, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains a list of priority species for which conservation measures should be taken. State threatened and endangered species not included with the federally listed species include the western pond turtle and the fisher.

King County owns and leases properties where federally listed and state priority animal species may be present and may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. These presence of federally listed and state priority species on King County properties would be evaluated during any project-level environmental and permit reviews. As with any development

in King County, development projects subject to the proposed ordinance would have to comply with existing state, local, and federal regulations that protect these species.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” King County is within the Pacific Flyway migratory pathway for birds, and there are numerous streams and water bodies within the County that serve as migration routes for fish. These water bodies may be near or cross through sites and properties where King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could occur. The presence of migratory species and habitat on King County properties would be evaluated during any project-level environmental and permit reviews. As with any development in King County, projects subject to the proposed ordinance would have to comply with existing state, local, and federal regulations that protect migrating species and habitat.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not have any direct impacts to wildlife. King County projects subject to proposed ordinance would be subject to existing federal, state, and local regulations to preserve or enhance wildlife.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies to minimize development footprints as an effective way to minimize habitat disturbance, preserve existing native vegetation, and retain or create open space and corridors to maintain or enhance wildlife and ecological sites. These efforts support trees and other dominant native plant species that are important to local ecology, providing food and shelter to numerous species, and can preserve connections between habitat zones, particularly river corridors and wetlands. Strategies also include designing opportunities for wildlife to cross major transportation corridors without interfering with traffic and coordinating crossings with natural corridors and hydrological flows to preserve existing migration paths. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” numerous invasive animal species are known to exist in King County, including within King County-owned or leased property. The proposed ordinance would not change any laws or regulations concerning invasive animal species.

The Washington Invasive Species Council, established by the Washington State Legislature, has identified 16 animal species and 13 insect species that are considered invasive in Washington State. King County is known or suspected to have the following invasive animal and insect species: Apple Maggot, Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs, European Chafer, Gypsy Moth, Scarlet Lily Beetles, Spotted Winged Drosophila, African Clawed Frog, Bullfrog, Invasive Crayfish, Invasive Copepods, New Zealand Mud Snail, Northern Pike, Nutria, Tunicate (*iona savignyi*, *styela clava*, and *didenmun*).

6. Energy and Natural Resources [\[help\]](#)

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have direct energy needs. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could require energy for such things as construction, lighting, heating/cooling, and operation of equipment and would be subject to existing energy codes and regulations.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not adversely affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties. Under the proposed ordinance, King County projects would continue to be subject to existing land use and building codes that regulate height and building setbacks and would be unlikely to adversely affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

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:

The proposed ordinance a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to energy use.

As under the existing King County Green Building Program, King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be encouraged to use energy conservation features or other measures to reduce energy impacts. The proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, through which projects must meet equivalent energy performance to the most progressive energy code in King County and account and mitigate for greenhouse gas emissions. The Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard includes numerous green building strategies to reduce energy use, such as minimizing the development footprint, incorporating energy efficient features, installing on-site renewable energy, and restricting on-site fossil fuel combustion. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

7. Environmental- Health [\[help\]](#)

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly cause any environmental health hazards. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could result in exposure to toxic chemicals, risk or fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, though the exposure to environmental health hazards is not expected to be greater as a result of implementing the proposed ordinance. To the extent any such development created such exposure or risk, those hazards would be regulated by existing state and local regulations.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” King County owns and leases properties with known or possible contamination and may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. The presence of contamination for development on these properties would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews. Projects on lands with contamination would be subject to existing regulations for the proper management of contaminated soil and hazardous materials.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” Sites with hazardous chemicals/conditions exist throughout King County, including on King County owned and leased property and locations where King County projects could occur. Under the proposed ordinance, such development would continue to be subject to existing federal, state, and local regulations regarding chemical hazards and liquid and gas transmission pipelines and be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit review.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not include the storage, use, or production of any toxic or hazardous chemicals. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may require the use of toxic or hazardous chemicals, such as gasoline or diesel fuel, during construction or operation. Under the proposed ordinance, such development would be required to store, use, and produce any toxic or hazardous chemicals, such as cleaning supplies, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts, and implementation of the proposed ordinance is not anticipated to add or require any additional special emergency services for the development projects to which it would apply.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impact on the environment nor create environmental health hazards. Under the proposed ordinance, King County projects would continue to be required to meet all applicable regulations governing the storage, use, and disposal of contaminated, toxic, or hazardous materials that they are required to meet under existing regulations.

As with existing code, the proposed ordinance would encourage King County projects to minimize the use and release of toxic or hazardous chemicals through the use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies such as using low emitting sealants, adhesives, and paints. In addition, the ordinance also includes green operations and maintenance practices, which can include use of green cleaning products to avoid toxic materials that could be harmful to occupants and natural resources. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

b. Noise

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site” that can be evaluated for existing noise levels. Various types of noise exist throughout King County, including noise from traffic, operation

of equipment, and more. These noise sources are not anticipated to affect implementation of the proposed ordinance.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct noise impacts. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could create noise through construction and operation, though the volume of noise is not expected to be greater as a result of implementing the proposed ordinance. As under current code, any such development would be subject to existing regulations governing noise sources and levels and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct noise impacts. Under the proposed ordinance, King County projects would continue to be required to meet all applicable regulations governing noise sources and levels that they are required to meet under existing regulations.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional strategies such as designing natural acoustic buffers to reduce noise impacts for human and animal habitat. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site” and would not have any direct impacts on the current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties. There are numerous types of land uses throughout King County; the County is predominantly forestland to the east and predominantly rural to the west, adjacent to more urban incorporated areas of the county, with agricultural areas between. King County owns and leases properties with a variety of land uses, including but not limited to natural and undeveloped areas; residential, commercial, and industrial properties; agricultural and forest lands; and public rights-of-way. The County may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments.

King County projects would be subject to existing land use regulations and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews. The proposed ordinance would not change or impact current land use designations, zoning classifications, or allowed uses on properties in King County.

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?

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site” and would not have any direct

impacts to working farmlands or forestlands. Some sites where King County projects could occur may have been or may currently be used as working farmland or forestlands, though impacts to working farmlands or forestlands is not expected to be greater as a result of implementing the proposed ordinance. Impacts to working farmland or forest lands by King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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:

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly affect or be affected by the normal business operations of working farmland or forestland. Effects of surrounding working farm or forest land business operations on King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” King County owned and leased properties have various structures on site, including but not limited to industrial facilities, office and administrative buildings, housing, park and recreational facilities, transit facilities, and operation and maintenance facilities.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in the demolition of any structures. Structures could be demolished as part of King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance. The nature of and extent to which those structures could be demolished would be subject to all existing applicable regulations and be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would occur across a variety of zoning classifications on King County owned and leased properties and along public rights-of-way within cities and unincorporated King County. Any such project would be subject to existing zoning regulations and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would occur across a variety of land use designations on King County owned and leased properties and along public rights-of-way within cities and unincorporated King County. King County projects would be subject to existing land use regulations and would be evaluated for consistency with local comprehensive plans during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would occur across a variety of shoreline master program designations on King County owned and leased properties and along public rights-of-way within cities and unincorporated King County. King County projects within or proximate to designated shoreline zones would be subject to all

applicable local shoreline regulations and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” However, there are several types of critical areas designated throughout King County, including coal mine hazard areas, erosion hazard areas, flood hazard areas, coastal high hazard areas, channel migration zones, landslide hazard areas, seismic hazard areas, volcanic hazard areas, steep slope hazard areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, wetlands and wetland buffers, aquatic areas, and wildlife habitat networks and conservation areas. King County owned and leased properties and projects subject to the proposed ordinance could occur on lands designated as one or more of these critical areas. Any such project would be subject to local development regulations governing development within critical areas and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in a completed project where people would reside or work. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could have employees or residents, or both. The number of persons living or working in the subject buildings would depend on the individual land uses, square footages, and regulations affecting those individual development projects.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not directly result in any displacement, it is possible that King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could result in displacement. However, implementation of the proposed ordinance is not anticipated to affect the likelihood of displacement as could occur under current King County Code.

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

This proposal is not anticipated to affect the likelihood of displacement under the King County Code. King County projects would be subject to existing policies and regulations governing displacements and relocations and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

The proposed ordinance requires King County projects to achieve all applicable equity and social justice credits, which are earned by taking actions to identify and account for equity and social justice practices and outcomes throughout a project’s development lifecycle. These credits are listed in the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard and are earned through such strategies as developing a project-specific Environmental and Social Justice plan, partnering and collaborating with stakeholder groups, developing projects to counter disparities, and advancing economic justice. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

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

The proposed ordinance was drafted to support existing and projected land uses and plans, particularly the goals of the King County Comprehensive Plan, the [King County Strategic Climate Action Plan](#), [Clean Water Healthy Habitats Strategic Plan](#), the [King County Solid Waste Management Plan](#), and the [County’s Sustainable Purchasing Policy](#). These plans all contain policies and goals to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions, prevent unnecessary waste, and minimize the environmental footprint of County projects through green and sustainable building practices.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require King County projects to divert at least eighty percent of construction and demolition materials from landfills. Green building rating systems may encourage higher levels of construction and demolition waste diversion. The proposed ordinance would require that, beginning in 2030, all capital projects divert all construction and demolition waste with economic value from the landfill.

Additionally, while the existing code requires all capital projects to divert 80 percent of construction and demolition waste from the landfill, the proposed ordinance would allow project managers to request exemption from these requirements if the costs are too high, there are not adequate benefits to justify the costs, or if compliance is not possible. The County Executive would have the authority to grant these exemptions. This could potentially lead to less diversion of construction and demolition waste.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not directly impact agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance; as such, no measures to reduce or control impacts to such lands are proposed. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may occur on lands used as working farmland or forest lands. Existing development limits on properties enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program, within the Agricultural Production District or Forest Production District, or in Agricultural (A) or Forestry (F) zones would continue apply to development projects under the proposed ordinance.

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that will not have direct impacts to housing. King County capital projects may include the provision of housing units, but the regulations contained in the proposed ordinance would not result in any units of housing above or below what might occur under existing code.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that will not have direct impacts to housing. King County capital projects may include the elimination of housing units, but the regulations contained in the proposed ordinance would not result in any changes to the amount or type of housing eliminated than what might occur under existing code.

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

No measures to reduce or control housing impacts are proposed. King County projects would be subject to existing policies and regulations governing the addition and elimination of housing units and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that does not directly involve the construction of any structures, and does not regulate or change the height requirements of any structures or principal exterior building materials. The height and any exterior building material of any King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance will be subject to existing regulations.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to views and would not change any regulations related to height or bulk that could alter or obstruct views. Any King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be evaluated under existing regulations during project-level environmental and permit reviews. Any development projects subject to the proposed ordinance would not result in the alteration or obstruction of any views to a greater degree than any other development allowed under existing regulations.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to views or aesthetics and, as such, no measures are proposed to reduce or control aesthetic impacts.

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly cause any light or glare and would not change what is allowed under current code. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts related to light or glare. Any King County projects subject to the ordinance would have to comply with existing development regulations concerning light and glare and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site” and would not be affected by off-site sources of light or glare. Various off-site sources of light or glare exist throughout King County particularly within and near developed and urban areas; however, it is unlikely that these sources would affect any King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts related to light or glare.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance requires King County projects to use green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional strategies such as design lighting for reduced light pollution to limit development impacts on nocturnal ecosystems, preserve visual access to the night sky, and human circadian rhythms. This strategy includes design exterior lighting so that light is not cast outside of the project boundary and up lighting is minimized or eliminated. As the contents and specific versions of

the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” A variety of designated and informal recreational opportunities exist throughout King County where King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance could occur, including on or within the immediate vicinity of King County owned or leased property or within King County public rights-of-way. The County may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly displace any existing recreational uses. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be subject to existing regulations and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews. The ordinance would not result in a greater displacement of recreational uses than what may otherwise occur under current code.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to recreation.

The proposed ordinance may increase recreational opportunities through its requirement that King County projects use green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which encourages planning and designing for alternative transportation use, creating public amenities, retaining or creating open space and corridors, preserving existing native vegetation, minimizing development footprint, integrating green areas, and including pro-equity design features that address known disparities. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

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 proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” A variety of buildings, structures and sites throughout King County are listed or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers, including on King County owned or leased properties. The County may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. Such projects would be required to comply with all federal, state, and local rules related to historic resources and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” However, landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation exist throughout King County, including on King County owned or leased properties. The County may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. Such projects would continue to be required to comply with federal, state, and local rules related to cultural resources and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that will not have any direct impacts to historic and cultural resources. Existing local regulations related to cultural and historic resources would apply to any proposed King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance. Such requirements could include consultation with tribes and associated agencies as well as use of archaeological surveys, GIS data, and historic maps to assess potential impacts to cultural and historic resources if needed. The tribes are regularly notified during local jurisdictions' SEPA processes for proposed development projects.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that will not have any direct impacts to cultural or historic resources. Existing local regulations related to avoidance, minimization of, or compensation for loss, changes to, and disturbances to cultural and historic resources would apply to any King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would encourage the preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of existing buildings as historic preservation is, in itself, sustainable development. The ordinance would require that the County, whenever possible, preserve and restore historic landmarks and properties eligible for landmark designation that are owned by the County, and seek to maximize green building strategies for projects involving designated landmarks or properties that are eligible for landmark designation.

14. Transportation [\[help\]](#)

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” The proposed ordinance would apply to King County project sites and properties that are served by a variety of public streets and highways.

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?

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” Communities throughout King County are generally served by public transit from numerous agencies, including King County Metro and Sound Transit. It is unknown how far the nearest transit stop would be for any future King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site.” As under existing local regulations, King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be required to follow any regulations governing the number of parking spaces and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews. Implementation of the proposed ordinance would not affect the number of parking spaces provided by development projects subject to the proposed ordinance.

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).

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly involve any roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian improvements. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may include improvements to existing roads, streets, or pedestrian or bicycle transportation facilities, ranging from the maintenance of existing facilities to constructing new facilities, as standalone projects or as requirements for parcel-based development. The requirements for new or improvements to existing transportation facilities is not anticipated be greater under the proposed ordinance. King County projects would be subject to existing regulations governing transportation improvements and evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to water, rail, or air transportation facilities. King County manages facilities for water, rail, and air transportation and may pursue various projects on those properties related to the operations of County departments. In addition, the County could have projects on other sites that use or occur proximal to water, rail and air transportation. These projects would be subject to existing regulations concerning impacts to water, rail, or air transportation and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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?

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly generate any vehicular trips. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may generate vehicular trips, though the volume of those vehicle trips is not expected to be greater as a result of implementing the proposed ordinance. Transportation impacts of any such projects would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impact on the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets on the area. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may generate some additional traffic that could interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products, but the proposed ordinance does not change any existing regulations, so impacts from such projects are not anticipated to be greater and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to transportation volumes. As under current code, King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance will be subject to existing regulations concerning transportation including, to the extent required, traffic impact analyses and mitigation.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies such as planning and designing for alternative transportation. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in an increased need for public services. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may result in the need for additional public services, but the proposed ordinance would not result in an increased need for public services from what is currently required by existing regulations. The need for additional public services by King County projects would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in an increased need for public services, so no measures are proposed.

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable "site." A variety of utilities are generally available in King County depending on the service area of specific utility providers. Municipal sanitary sewer is not likely to be available in most rural and agricultural areas in King County.

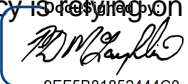
i. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” utility connection requirements, or construction activity. King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance may require connections to utilities and would be subject to existing regulations concerning those utilities. Any such projects would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance would require diversion of construction and demolition materials and encourages waste reduction through its requirement to use of green building rating systems such as the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, which currently includes optional green building strategies such as recycling construction and demolition debris, using on-site material, and reducing water and energy use. As the contents and specific versions of the green building rating systems are not proposed to be codified, required or optional provisions of green building rating systems could change over time. If changed, they are likely to include stronger environmental standards.

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

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

Signature:  _____
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Name of signee: Pat D. McLaughlin

Position and Agency/Organization: Director, Solid Waste Division, King County

Date Submitted: Jan 4, 2022

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 ordinance does not change any substantive requirements related to discharges to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance encourages King County projects to seek the highest green building certification levels through green building strategies such as minimizing the project footprint, designing natural acoustical buffers, treating stormwater runoff, and using sustainable and low-emitting materials.

The County Executive would have discretion to exempt projects from these requirements. Because these waivers are purely discretionary, the County Executive could theoretically exempt all projects or no projects in any given year. Therefore, the proposed ordinance may result in less or greater implementation of green building practices by King County and third-party developers on King County-owned property, thereby resulting in more or less impacts to and associated with water, air, toxic and hazardous substances, and noise compared to what might otherwise occur under existing code. However, it is considered unlikely that more projects would be granted exemptions under the proposed ordinance. The legislation is proposed to require and encourage more green building practices in King County, as the County prioritizes reducing its environmental footprint in its operations.

Furthermore, the proposed ordinance further codifies implementation of KC 2021 Surface Water Design Manual in all County Capital work, and adds additional incentives for Low Impact Development and Green Stormwater Infrastructure to meet and/or exceed regulatory compliance to the 2021 Surface Waste Design Manual.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Existing regulations that aim to avoid or reduce increased discharges to water, emissions to air, and the production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances, and to limit noise would continue to apply to King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance and are not changed by the proposed ordinance. No additional measures to avoid or reduce such impacts are proposed.

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

While there are numerous plants, animals, fish, and marine life within King County, the proposed ordinance is unlikely to result in activities that would cause a greater negative impact to these resources than might otherwise occur under current code because the regulations protecting those resources are not changed by the proposed ordinance. As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance encourages King County projects to seek the highest green building certification levels, which are restorative and

regenerative, by preserving and enhancing native soils, preserving and integrating native vegetation, and preserving and enhancing open space and habitat corridors.

The County Executive would have discretion to exempt projects from these requirements. Because these waivers are purely discretionary, the County Executive could theoretically exempt all projects or no projects in any given year. Therefore, the proposed ordinance could result in less or greater implementation of green building practices by King County and third-party developers on King County-owned property, thereby resulting in more or less adverse impacts to plants, animals, fish, and marine life from King County projects than what otherwise might occur under existing code. However, it is considered unlikely that more projects would be granted exemptions under the proposed ordinance. The legislation is proposed to require and encourage more green building practices in King County, as the County prioritizes reducing its environmental footprint in its operations.

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

Existing regulations that protect and conserve plants, animals, fish, and marine life would continue to apply to King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance and are not changed by the proposed ordinance, including the local shoreline and critical areas regulations. No additional measures to avoid or reduce such impacts are proposed.

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

The proposed ordinance is unlikely to result in activities that would cause a greater depletion of energy or natural resources than might otherwise occur under current code because the regulations protecting those resources are not changed by the proposed ordinance. As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance encourages King County projects to seek the highest green building certification levels through green building strategies such as reducing energy consumption, utilizing renewable energy sources on-site, restricting the use of fossil fuels, minimizing project footprints, preserving and integrating native vegetation, and preserving and enhancing open space and habitat corridors.

The County Executive would have discretion to exempt projects from these requirements. Because these waivers are purely discretionary, the County Executive could theoretically exempt all projects or no projects in any given year. Therefore, the proposed ordinance could result in less or greater implementation of green building practices by King County and third-party developers on King County-owned property, thereby resulting in more or less consumption of energy and natural resources by King County projects than what otherwise might occur under existing code. However, it is considered unlikely that more projects would be granted exemptions under the proposed ordinance. The legislation is proposed to require and encourage more green building practices in King County, as the County prioritizes reducing its environmental footprint in its operations.

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

Existing regulations that protect and conserve energy and natural resources would continue to apply to King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance and are not changed by the proposed ordinance.

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 ordinance does not change any substantive requirements related to environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for governmental protection. As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance encourages King County projects to seek the highest green building certification levels,

which are restorative and regenerative, by preserving and enhancing native soils, preserving and integrating native vegetation, and preserving and enhancing open space and habitat corridors.

The County Executive would have discretion to exempt projects from these requirements. Because these waivers are purely discretionary, the County Executive could theoretically exempt all projects or no projects in any given year. Therefore, the proposed ordinance could result in less or greater implementation of green building practices by King County and third-party developers on King County-owned property, thereby resulting in more or less adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive and protected areas from King County projects than what might otherwise occur under existing code. However, it is considered unlikely that more projects would be granted exemptions under the proposed ordinance. The legislation is proposed to require and encourage more green building practices in King County, as the County prioritizes reducing its environmental footprint in its operations.

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

Existing regulations that protect environmentally sensitive and protected areas would continue to apply to King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance and are not changed by the proposed ordinance. No measures to avoid or reduce impacts 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 ordinance would not alter and is not anticipated to affect currently allowed land uses or shoreline uses in King County. Any development under the proposed ordinance would not allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans.

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

As the proposed ordinance does not alter, and is not anticipated to affect, currently allowed land uses or shoreline uses in King County, no measures to avoid or reduce impacts are proposed.

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

The proposed ordinance is not anticipated to result in increased traffic volumes or demands on public services and utilities. As with the existing code, the proposed ordinance encourages green building strategies such as planning and designing for alternative transportation, and reductions on public service and utility demands by recycling construction and demolition debris, using on-site material, and reducing water and energy use.

The County Executive would have discretion to exempt projects from these requirements. Because these waivers are purely discretionary, the County Executive could theoretically exempt all projects or no projects in any given year. Therefore, the proposed ordinance could result in less or greater implementation of green building practices by King County and third-party developers on King County-owned property, thereby resulting in more or less demands on transportation and public services and utilities from King County projects than might otherwise occur under existing code. However, it is considered unlikely that more projects would be granted exemptions under the proposed ordinance. The legislation is proposed to require and encourage more green building practices in King County, as the County prioritizes reducing its environmental footprint in its operations.

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

Existing regulations that govern transportation and traffic impacts and public services and utilities would apply to King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance and are not changed by the proposed ordinance. No additional measures to avoid or reduce such impacts 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.

The proposed ordinance is consistent with local, state, and federal law requirements for the protection of the environment.

Existing regulations related to the protection of the environment, including the County's Critical Areas Code, Shoreline Master Program, other parts of the King County Code (particularly development regulations such as Title 9 Surface Water Management, Title 10 Solid Waste, Title 13 Water and Sewer Systems, , Title 20 Planning, Title 21A Zoning, and Title 23 Code Compliance), the federal Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, and other cities within King County's development regulations, as well as others, are not amended by the proposed ordinance. These regulations would still apply to King County projects subject to the proposed ordinance.