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

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
   City of Snoqualmie, Shoreline Master Program 2016 Update and Sensitive Areas Update.

2. Name of applicant:
   City of Snoqualmie

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
   Applicant and contact:
   Ben Swanson
   Senior Planner
   City of Snoqualmie
   P. O. Box 987
   Snoqualmie, WA 98065
   Phone: 425.888.5337 x 1163
   Email: bswanson@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us

4. Date checklist prepared:
   March 3, 2016

5. Agency requesting checklist:
   City of Snoqualmie

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
   The City of Snoqualmie's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) 2016 Update and Sensitive Areas Ordinance (SAO) Update are anticipated to be adopted by the City Council by June 2016. The SMP will be incorporated as an element of the City of Snoqualmie Comprehensive Plan.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
   Does not apply.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
   - **The Shoreline Analysis Report (Otak, February 2012)**
   - **Cumulative Impacts Analysis (AHBL, March 2015)**
   - **Shoreline Restoration Plan (Otak, March 2015)**
   - **Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report (Otak and AHBL, June 2013)**

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.

No pending applications or approvals would be affected. Once adopted, the proposed SMP would apply to any new use or development located within SMP jurisdiction. The proposed Sensitive Areas regulations would apply to any permit not vested to the current code. Permit applications for development in the shoreline area would be processed according to the SMP regulations and procedures in effect at the time the application was determined to be complete.

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

The proposed Shoreline Master Program will need the following approvals:

- **Review and threshold determination under the State Environmental Policy Act for Non-project actions;**
- **Review by the Department of Commerce**
- **Adoption by the Snoqualmie City Council; and**
- **Approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology (RCW 90.58.090).**

The proposed revisions to the Sensitive Areas regulations requires the following:

- **Review and threshold determination under the State Environmental Policy Act for Non-project actions;**
- **Review by the Department of Commerce;**
- **Review by the Department of Ecology; and**
- **Adoption by the Snoqualmie City Council.**

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

The proposal consists of a non-project action SEPA for the adoption of the City of Snoqualmie's Shoreline Master Program 2016 Update and the City's Sensitive Areas Update. The comprehensive update to the SMP has been prepared consistent with Department of Ecology guidelines (WAC 173-26-201).

In 2003, the Washington State Department of Ecology adopted new Shoreline Master Program (SMP) guidelines to emphasize ecologically appropriate development. As a result, Snoqualmie's Shoreline Master Program (initially adopted in 1974 with subsequent revisions in 1986 and 1992) was updated. The city is completing the update process to complete the SMP revisions and ensure consistency with the State master program guidelines.

The City's SMP update carries out the policies of the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) at the local level, regulating new development and use of shorelines. Master programs are defined in the Shoreline Management Act as "...the comprehensive use plan for a described area, and the use regulations together with maps, diagrams, charts, or other descriptive material and text, a statement of desired goals, and standards developed in accordance with the policies enunciated in RCW 90.358.020." A shoreline master program is essentially a

comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance with a distinct environmental focus applicable to shoreline areas tailored to local circumstances.

The provisions of the updated SMP would apply to all shorelines of the state and shorelands as defined in RCW 90.58.030. In Snoqualmie these include:

- **The Shorelines of the State within the City's municipal boundary;**
- **The upland area landward 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of Snoqualmie River;**
- **All associated wetlands;**
- **The mapped floodway areas associated with the River; and**
- **Contiguous floodplain areas within 200 feet of the mapped floodway.**

The shoreline environment designations are applied to different portions of the shoreline based on their ecological and land use characteristics. Shoreline environment designations function as an overlay to provide additional policies and regulations in addition to the development standards and protections afforded in underlying zoning classifications.

The SMP updates the City's development standards and use regulations to be applied in each shoreline environment. Generally, "standards" refer to setbacks, height limitations, buffers, and design guidelines or preferences. "Use regulations" refer to the allowance or prohibition of specific uses (such as industrial, commercial, or residential development) in each shoreline environment. The standards and regulations address shoreline modifications (such as bulkheads and shoreline stabilization structures, land clearing and grading, etc.) and specific shoreline uses (such as commercial, residential, and recreational development). The SMP development standards also address management and protection of critical areas (wetlands, steep slopes, fish and wildlife habitat, etc.) located in the shoreline.

The proposed SMP updates the administrative provisions for reviewing development proposals in the shoreline and issuing shoreline substantial development permits, shoreline conditional use permits, shoreline variances or approvals of exemptions in accordance with current state rules. This update will replace Chapter 19.08 of the Snoqualmie Municipal Code in its entirety.

The proposed sensitive areas update is based on Department of Ecology's *Wetlands & CAO Updates: Guidance for Small Cities (Western Washington Version)* and the *Shoreline Cumulative Impacts Analysis.* This will be a standalone document and separate from the sensitive areas regulations located in the SMP. The update will replace existing Chapter 19.12 of the Snoqualmie Municipal Code in its entirety.

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,

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.
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

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?
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

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).
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

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?
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

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.
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

16. Utilities

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

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

Does not apply. This is a non-project action.

C. SIGNATURE

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

Signature: _____

Name of Signee: **Ben Swanson**

Position and Agency/Organization: **Senior Planner/City of Snoqualmie**

Date Submitted: **March 3, 2016**

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(**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 SMP proposal would not directly increase discharges to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. All development and redevelopment in the shoreline jurisdiction would be subject to applicable local, state, and federal regulatory requirements, including building code, fire code, and surface water design standards, in addition to the provisions of the proposed SMP amendment. As part of the SMP update a cumulative impacts assessment (CIA) was completed to analyze the potential adverse impacts that could result from uses and developments permitted through the SMP. The CIA concluded that over time reasonably foreseeable development in the shoreline would not result in a net loss of ecological functions such as water quality.

   The SAO proposal would not directly increase discharges to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise.

   Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

   The proposed SMP amendment includes policies and regulations for the protection of the shoreline environment and addressing impacts of specific uses and shoreline modifications. Generally, the proposed SMP provides a new system of shoreline environment designations that establishes more uniform management of the City's shoreline. The updated development standards and regulation of shoreline modifications provides more protection for shoreline ecological processes. The updated standards and regulations are more restrictive of activities that would result in adverse impacts to the shoreline environment. The shoreline restoration plan provides the City with opportunities to improve or restore ecological functions that have been impaired as a result of past development activities.

   The SAO proposal is a regulation designed to protect the natural environment from potential impacts. Additionally, the SAO propose regulations that allow for the mitigation (on and off site) of impacts to sensitive areas.

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

The proposed SMP amendment has been developed, in part, to meet the goal of "no net loss" of shoreline ecological functions. That is, as development occurs in accordance with the SMP, impacts to shoreline ecological functions will be avoided, minimized, or compensated for. Additionally, the shoreline restoration plan addresses the goal of improving shoreline ecological functions that have been degraded over time from past development activities. Through goals, policies, development standards, use regulations, and mitigation requirements, the proposed SMP amendment provides protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, natural vegetation, and management of critical areas (streams, wetlands, etc.).

The SAO was updated using the Department of Ecology's Wetlands & CAO Updates: Guidance for Small Cities (Western Washington Version) and the Shoreline Cumulative Impacts Analysis. As development occurs in accordance with proposed SAO, impacts to ecological functions will be avoided, minimized, or compensated for.

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

The proposed SMP includes sensitive areas regulations and standards specific to the shoreline jurisdiction. It also provides for additional protections of native vegetation and limitations on shoreline developments. As part of the SMP update a cumulative impacts assessment (CIA) was completed to analyze the potential adverse impacts that could result from uses and developments permitted through the proposed SMP.

The proposed SAO is developed to protect or conserve the natural environment. The SAO was developed using the best available science from the Department of Ecology's Wetlands & CAO Updates: Guidance for Small Cities (Western Washington Version), the 2014 Wetland Rating System for Western Washington and the SMP cumulative impacts analysis.

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

The Shoreline Master Program and the Sensitive Areas Update will not have any impact on energy or natural resources. Individual projects could have minimal impacts to energy or natural resources. Any impacts that may result from these projects will be mitigated adequately through the SEPA Environmental Review process, Shoreline Master Program or the sensitive areas regulations for the specific project.

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

No measures are proposed at this time.

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?

Generally, the proposed SMP amendment establishes policies and regulations for the protection and conservation of critical areas and public access recreational

sites. The proposed SMP provides a new system of shoreline environment designations that establishes more uniform management of the City's shoreline. The updated development standards and regulation of shoreline modifications provides more protection for shoreline processes. The updated standards and regulations are more restrictive of activities that would result in adverse impacts to the shoreline environment. The restoration planning effort outlined in the proposed SMP provides opportunities to improve or restore ecological functions that have been impaired as a result of past development activities. In addition, the proposed SMP is meant to complement City, state and federal efforts to protect shoreline functions and values.
The proposed SAO directly affects how the City manages sensitive areas by development revised regulations consisted with the Department of Ecology's Wetlands & CAO Updates: Guidance for Small Cities (Western Washington Version), 2014 Wetland Rating System for Western Washington and the SMP cumulative impacts analysis.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:
Numerous provisions of the proposed SMP were developed consistent with the state shoreline guidelines (WAC 173-26), to provide a level of protection of shoreline to assure no net loss of ecological functions. These include protections of critical areas and native shoreline vegetation. They also include limitations of damaging shoreline development and shoreline modifications.
As part of the SMP update a cumulative impacts assessment (CIA) was completed to analyze the potential adverse impacts that could result from uses and developments permitted through the SMP. The CIA concluded that over time reasonably foreseeable development in the shoreline would not result a net loss of ecological functions.
The proposed SAO is developed to avoid or reduce impacts to the natural environment. The SAO was developed using the best available science from the Department of Ecology's Wetlands & CAO Updates: Guidance for Small Cities (Western Washington Version), 2014 Wetland Rating System for Western Washington and the SMP cumulative impacts analysis.

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 SMP creates preferences for water-oriented uses and public access in the shorelines. At the same time, it allows uses that are allowed by the underlying zoning provided they are developed consistent with the program's development standards. The program would not allow any new uses in the shoreline that are not currently allowed.
The proposed SAO would limit development in protected areas. These regulations are consistent with State guidance and allow for a reasonable use of lands regulated by the SOA.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:
The proposed SMP amendment introduces a system of shoreline environment designations that are tailored to protecting existing ecological functions within

the shoreline environment while allowing appropriate uses consistent with City's existing Zoning, Comprehensive Plan and Parks Plan. The new designation system includes an "Aquatic" designation to protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high-water mark.

Consistent with the state's shoreline guidelines (WAC 173-26), the proposed SMP includes provisions that require that all new shoreline uses or development mitigate their adverse impacts to achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. Mitigation sequencing consistent with WAC 173-26-201(2)(e) is required.

The SAO is developed to reduce impacts to the natural environment outside the shoreline jurisdiction. The proposed regulates the impacts to geologically hazardous areas, channel migration and erosion hazard zones, frequently flooded areas, streams, wetlands, fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas.

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

   No impacts are anticipated to transportation or pubic services and utilities because of the 2016 SMP or SAO update. If there are any impacts to transportation or pubic services and utilities, the appropriate mitigation will occur through the SEPA Environmental Review process and Shoreline Master Program regulations for the proposed improvements.

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

   No measures are proposed at this time.

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

   The City's SMP is meant to be consistent with and work in conjunction with several local, State and federal programs to protect the functions and values of shoreline resources and protect the health and safety of Snoqualmie residents. The SAO was developed in accordance with Department of Ecology guidance and intended to implement state and federal laws required for the protection of the environment.

   Both the SMP and SAO use current State guidance by incorporating the Washington State Department of Ecology wetland rating system found in the Washington State Wetlands Rating System (Western Washington, Ecology Publication No. 14-06-029) and water typing system located in WAC 222-16-030.