

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for non-project proposals:

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply". IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENT SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS (part D). For non-project actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project", "applicant" and "property or site" should be read as "proposal", "proposer" and "affected geographic area" respectively.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Kelso Water System Plan
2. Name of applicant:
City of Kelso
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Michael Kardas
203 S Pacifica Ave., Ste 205
Kelso, WA 98626
360 577-3376
4. Date checklist prepared:

December, 2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:
Department of Health
6. Proposed timing or schedule:
Water System Plan Council Adoption January 2024
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with the proposal? If yes, explain.
Yes. The Water System Plan Update identifies several capital improvement projects needed to ensure safe and reliable delivery of drinking water to the residents connected to the City of Kelso's water system over the 6- and 20-year planning period. Implementation of the Water System Plan will lead to the construction and reconstruction of water mains, reservoirs, pumping stations, and other components of the City's water system. Also, the City's water plan may be amended at any time.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
None
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals Of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
None
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
**Department of Health approval – Water System Plan Kelso
City Council approval.**
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 project under review is the adoption of the city's Water System Plan. The Water System Plan provides a review of the City's existing water utility history, developed sources, transmission and distribution system, existing and projected demands based on population projections and service area, deficiencies in system distribution and source development, capital improvement program, financial program, and an operation and maintenance program. The plan reviews constraints of the existing system and detail appropriate upgrades and improvements to that system. The plan also details how the system needs to expand in the future. The plan includes financing options and a capital improvement program detailing project costs. The finance plan contains a discussion of rate increases and the imposition of a general facilities charge to cover future expansion of the system.
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 Water Service Area encompasses city limits and portions of unincorporated Cowlitz County, see attached map for reference.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other. If other, describe:

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Approximately 50%

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 prime farmland.

The soils in the area are mostly silt loam and silty clay loams. Sandy soils can be found adjacent to the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers.

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

Yes, there is history of unstable soils and landslides within the Water Service Area. Capital Projects identified in the plan in the vicinity of these landslide areas will be required to have a site-specific geotechnical evaluation.

e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No filling is required for this non-project action. Implementation of the Water System Plan will result in the ability for development to occur in a manner consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Development Code. Filling is a requirement for most industrial and commercial developments and for road and utility construction. Individual development projects will be required to comply with SEPA through a separate and unrelated review process at the time of their development.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e.: dust, automobile odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, describe and give approximate quantities if known.
None, this is a non-project action. Emissions as a result of construction activities associated with the implementation of the plan will be considered on a project-by-project basis when environmental reviews are done for the individual projects.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal?

If so, generally describe.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action. Reduction and control of emissions as a result of construction activities associated with the implementation of the plan will be considered on a project-by-project basis when environmental reviews are done for the individual projects.

3. Water**a. Surface**

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.

The Water Service Area encompasses portions of the Columbia, Coweeman, and Cowlitz Rivers.

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.

It is likely that work will occur within 200 feet of the three waterways during implementation of the plan. Exact project descriptions and locations are not known at this time other than as described in the plan's Capital Improvement Program.

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.

None, this is a non-project action. There is no proposal to fill wetlands during the implementation of the Water System Plan.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions?

Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities if known.

Implementation of the Water System Plan will in the diversion of surface waters as the city continues to operate the Ranney Collector that is located within the Cowlitz River's bank.

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

The city's existing water source, Ranney Collector, is located within the 100-year flood plain. The rest of the Water Service Area is protected by dikes.

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.
No, this is a non-project action. Source development as a result of implementing the plan may result in the discharge of ground water to surface waters during well and pump testing. This will however be addressed when environmental reviews are done for the source development project.

b. Ground

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities if known.
The implementation of the Water System Plan may result in the development of additional groundwater sources resulting in the future withdrawal of ground water.

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.
None, this is a non-project action.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.
Not Applicable, this is a non-project action.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts if any:
None at this time, this is a non- project action. However, consideration will be made at the time of the environmental review for the individual projects in the Capital Improvement Program.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
x _____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
x _____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
x _____ shrubs
x _____ grass
x _____ pasture

- x_____ crop or grain
 x_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
 x_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, mil foil, other
 _____ other types of vegetation

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

None, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action. Consideration will be made for landscaping of well sites at the time environmental review is conducted for the specific project in the plan.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which has been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

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

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

Bald eagles occasionally fly over the Water Service Area. almon and smelt are present in the rivers previously mentioned.

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

The city is in the Pacific Flyway.

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

None, this is a non-project action. Individual projects under the plan will be considered for enhancement measures at the time of their environmental review on a case-by-case basis.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None, this is a non-project action. Future projects implemented under the plan and considered on a case-by-case basis will use electrical energy for pumping and fossil fuels for construction activities.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action

7. Environmental Health

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

b. Noise

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action. Consideration of measures to reduce noise impacts will be considered on a case-by-case basis during the implementation of the plan.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

A current Land Use map is included as an exhibit.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action. However, there are numerous properties on the south side of the Fife UGA in agricultural use and limited agricultural use on the north side of the UGA. Much of the city was in agricultural use prior to residential or commercial development.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

A current Zoning Map is included as an exhibit.

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

A Land Use Map is included as an exhibit.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area?

If so, specify.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

According to the US Census Bureau, the city's population for the year 2022 was estimated to be 12,691.

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

None, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action.

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

Implementation of Water System Plan will allow for implementation of the adopted Comprehensive Plan. The Water System Plan is consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan.

9. Housing

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

None, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action.

10. Aesthetics

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

Not applicable, this is a non-project action. However, during the implementation of the plan and the development of new sources of water, well houses, or water storage reservoirs may be required which would be equivalent to the height of a two-story house (40 feet tall).

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

None, this is a non-action project.

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

None, this is a non-project action. However, during the implementation of the plan, and on a case-by-case basis, capital improvement projects will comply with Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations.

11. Light and Glare

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

mainly occur?

None.

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

No.

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

None.

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

None, this is a non-project action. However, during the implementation of the plan and on a case-by-case basis, capital improvement projects will comply with the Uniform Building Code and development regulations.

12. Recreation

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

Numerous recreation facilities are located within the Water Service Area or are served by the water distribution system.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses?

If so, describe.

No.

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

None, this is a non-project action.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

There are structures of historic significance in the Water Service Area; however, the implementation of the Water System Plan will not affect any of these structures.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None, this is a non-project action.

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

None, this is a non-project action. However, all work resulting from the implementation of this Water System Plan is subject to Section 106.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any:

The city's street network and highways are shown on the attached Zoning Map.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

None, this is a non-project action.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None, this is a non-project action.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No. However, during the implementation of the Water System Plan and on a case-by-case basis, driveway may be required to access future well sites off of the existing public roads.

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

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Not applicable, this is a non-project action.

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

None.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Population increase is projected to occur in the Water Service Area as projected in the city's Comprehensive plan.

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

None.

16. Utilities

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

All of these utilities are present in the Water Service Area.

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.

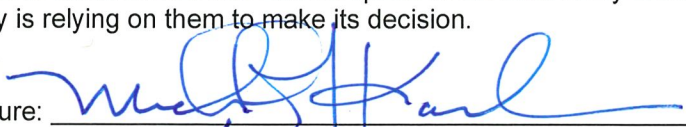
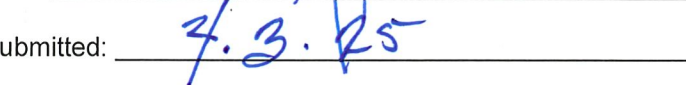
None, this is a non-project action. However, during the implementation of the plan and on a case-by-case basis, the development of future water sources may require the use of electrical services. This service would be obtained from the nearest provider in the public right-of-way.

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: _____

Date submitted: _____

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(Do not use this sheet for project actions)

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

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

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

Adoption of the Water System Plan and implementation of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) of the plan will result in upgrades, improvements, and extensions to the city's water utility. The availability of water service will result in substantial commercial, industrial, and residential development. That development will increase storm water runoff, increase emissions to air as traffic and commercial uses increase, increase noise through construction and long-term results of development, and potentially could increase the likelihood that there will be the storage of hazardous and/or toxic chemicals, thereby increasing the potential of accidental release of such substances.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Development will be consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan and the environmental impact statement prepared for that plan. Additionally, all new development is required to prepare an environmental checklist in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and impacts will be looked at on a project by project basis. Mitigation measures for specific impacts that adversely effect the environment may be required. Compliance with adopted comprehensive plan policies and critical areas ordinances.

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

The adoption of the Water System Plan will allow for commercial, residential, and industrial development in the Water Service Area in accordance with the city's Comprehensive Plan. Development may have an adverse impact on open space, creeks, rivers, wetlands, and other habitat areas by allowing increased impervious surface resulting in water quality and quantity concerns, by allowing development adjacent to creeks and rivers, and by allowing the filling of wetlands.

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

The city will review the impacts of each specific development in the city on a project by project basis. Project mitigation measures will ensure that waterways and wetlands are protected through buffers, habitat enhancement, very restrictive wetland filling amounts, and compliance with the city's Storm Water Management Manual. Compliance with all adopted comprehensive plan policies and critical areas ordinances.

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

The adoption of the Water System Plan will result in commercial, industrial, and residential development within the Water Service Area. Such development will utilize electricity, natural gas, and water, and will increase traffic and result in resource lands being developed with buildings and impervious areas.

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

Require energy efficient buildings, reduce impervious surfaces areas through storm drainage incentives, provide a voluntary transfer of development rights program, and promote car

**pooling and alternate methods of transportation to reduce single occupancy vehicles.
Compliance with all adopted comprehensive plan policies.**

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?

Adoption of the Water System Plan will likely result in development in proximity to wetlands.

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

Development near wetlands will require wetland or habitat buffers and possibly habitat re-vegetation or enhancement. Compliance with critical areas ordinances adopted comprehensive plan policies. Development in areas with prime farmland will occur. The city has voluntary policies in place for preserving agricultural lands – primarily purchasing of development rights or the transfer of development rights.

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?

Adoption of the Water System Plan will allow land uses to occur in a manner that is consistent with the city's adopted comprehensive land use map. Shoreline lands will continue to be monitored through the Shorelines Management Act.

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

Consistency with adopted comprehensive land use plan policies and land use designations.

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

Adoption of the Water System Plan will encourage development to occur in a manner consistent with the adopted comprehensive land use plan. Increased commercial, industrial, and residential development will result in increased demands on transit systems and roads, and will increase water, gas, electricity, and sewage usage.

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

Ensure that development is consistent with the city's adopted comprehensive land use plan and the Water System Plan.

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

The Water System Plan will require approval from the State Department of Health. No conflicts with local, state, or federal laws are anticipated.