

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: [\[help\]](#)

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

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

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals: [\[help\]](#)

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. BACKGROUND [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#) ***Women's Winter Shelter***
2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#) ***City of Bellingham***
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)
Tara Sundin, City of Bellingham, 210 Lottie Street, 360.778.8392 tsundin@cob.org
4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#) ***8.26.19***
5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#) ***City of Bellingham***
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)
Project Start Date: ~ November 20, 2019
Project End Date: ~ February 28, 2020

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)
We have plans to operate this facility annually as long as we have an agency to operate it and until other shelter solutions are implemented.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)
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. [\[help\]](#)
Temporary Use Permit approval.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)
A Land Use Permit (for temporary shelter) and Services Agreement with the Opportunity 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.) [\[help\]](#)
This temporary shelter will be operational only during winter months, from late November until the end of February. The proposed shelter will house up to 40 women and/or women with children only and will be managed by professional, trained staff and be overseen by the Opportunity Council. In addition, the shelter will be staffed with the support of community volunteers. The shelter will operate from approximately 7 p.m. until 7 a.m., seven days per week.
- NOTE: The proposal uses an existing facility – NO renovations or site modifications are required.***
12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)

The Winter Shelter will be located in the locker room facility located within the Civic Field complex. Please see Vicinity Map, attached.

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

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)
☒ Flat ☐ Rolling ☐ Hilly ☐ Steep Slopes ☐ Mountainous
☐ Other (~3% slopes)
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

The site is relatively flat but there is topography change from parking lot to the locker room. City IQ identifies a 5 foot elevation change from the Parking lot to the building.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [\[help\]](#)
N/A
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
None that we are aware of.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)
No filling, excavation, or grading is proposed.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
N/A no clearing or construction.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)
N/A. No change in impervious surface proposed.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)
N/A. No erosion is anticipated.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
Air emissions will be minimal. No cooking on site. Smoking will be in a designated area 25 feet from the entrance. A van will be used to shuttle guests from the 1013 W Holly to Civic Field.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
None that we are aware of.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)
N/A. Carpooling will be provided.

3. Water

- a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)
- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)

Racine and Lincoln Creek are about 600 - 800 feet away from the site. Both flow to Whatcom Creek.

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

No.

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

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from any surface waters or wetlands.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

b. Ground Water:

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

No.

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

N/A

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

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

N/A – existing facility. No physical changes proposed.

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

N/A

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

No.

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

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

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

- ☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ☒ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ☒ shrubs
- ☒ grass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☐ other types of vegetation

The entire site is covered with asphalt, buildings or grass, and undeveloped areas to the north.

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

No vegetation will be removed or altered.

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be on or near the site.

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

No proposed landscaping or changes to existing vegetation are proposed.

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

N/A

5. Animals

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

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: waterfowl

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

No species are listed on the WDFW database of Priority Habitats and Species.

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

No known threatened or endangered species are on or near the site. The US Fish & Wildlife Service lists the following endangered species as potentially located in the vicinity:

Mammals: Gray Wolf and North American Wolverine.

Birds: Marbled Murrelet, Streaked Horned Lark, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.

Fish: Bull Trout and Dolly Varden.

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

Yes, Pacific Flyway.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None.
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
None that we are aware of.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)
The existing electric and gas service will continue to be utilized to operate the existing building (lights, heat, hot water).
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
No.
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
There are no environmental health hazards that would result from the proposed project. No chemicals or hazardous wastes will be used or stored on site. Fire extinguishers will be located throughout the site in accordance with fire code. Dumpsters will be serviced by Parks Department staff or SSC.
- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
None.
- 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.
We are not aware of any existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect the proposed project. Based on the National Pipeline Mapping System, there are no underground hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipelines within the project area or vicinity.
- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.
There will be household cleaning materials stored in small quantities to clean restrooms and facility.
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
Potential emergency services that could be needed at the site include fire department, police, and EMT/ambulance. All emergency personnel will be able to access the site through the gates.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
N/A.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)
The operation is during the evening and through the night – very little noise in the area and the minor amount of traffic from the Sportsplex or Civic complex is not expected to pose a problem.
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)
Minor amount of traffic to/from facility. Human voices.
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None. After 11 p.m. only one person at a time will be allowed to leave the facility to smoke in the designated smoking area.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
The site is currently used for recreational use – track, soccer, football, etc. There will be no significant impacts from the proposed project as recreational use is minimal during winter months.
- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)
No.
- 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:
No.
- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)
The Winter Shelter will utilize an existing Locker Room facility. Other structures nearby include a stadium, baseball stadium and indoor skate/soccer facility.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)
No.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)
Public
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
Public

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
N/A.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)
No
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)
Up to 40 per night.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)
The project will not be displacing any people..
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
N/A.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)
This is a temporary project. The building is not in use during the winter months. The program is an evening and overnight shelter when very little activity is happening nearby.
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
N/A.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
No housing units will be provided, but up to 40 shelter beds will be available serving women that are currently experiencing homelessness (very low-income).
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
N/A.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)
N/A
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)
N/A
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
N/A

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)
No change to lighting proposed.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)
No.
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)
None.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
None.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)
The proposed location is a recreation facility – the Civic Field Complex. Specifically, the locker room.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
No, the locker room is not used during the winter months.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)
We are not expecting any impacts – smoking will be designated in a place located away from the track and any recreational users.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)
It is possible that the stadium seating is over 45 years, but are not on any registers. Regardless, the proposal does would not affect historical sites or structures.
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)
No.
- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)
The proposed project utilizes existing structures. No construction proposed. No impacts are anticipated.
- 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.
N/A.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)
The site consists of very large parking lots that is accessible via driveway entrance off of Orleans, Lakeway and Moore Streets.
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)
WTA bus routes are located nearby on Lakeway. We do not expect guests to arrive by bus as transportation is being provided through a shuttle service.
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)
The proposed project will be located near existing parking lots that far exceed the capacity needed.
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)
No.
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
No.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)
2-3 shuttle vans in the evening and 2-3 shuttle vans in the morning – a handful of guests may drive their own vehicles to the facility.
- 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.
No.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
No. The project's residents will consist of existing residents who are currently homeless. The residents will certainly require police protection, use public transit, health care, etc., but no more than they currently use those services.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)
There will likely be either no impact or reduced impact on public services. The safety and stability of living at the Winter Shelter will likely reduce the need for police intervention and improve health and wellbeing of the residents (thus reducing emergency hospital visits). The project will be set up in accordance with fire code. The facility will be operated by the Opportunity Council and will be staffed 24-hours per day, 7 days per week.

16. Utilities

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

☒ electricity ☒ natural gas ☒ water ☐ refuse service ☒ telephone ☒ sanitary sewer
☐ septic system ☐ other .

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

Proposal will use all existing utilities – no new proposed. However, we may rent a dumpster from SSC.

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: _____

Name of signee Tara Sundin

Position and Agency/Organization Community & Econ Manager, City of Bellingham

Date Submitted: August 27, 2019