

## Environmental Checklist

File No. City of Spokane Update to Title 17C, Chapter 17C.240, Signs

### 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 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 SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT 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.

## **A. BACKGROUND**

**1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Update to City of Spokane Municipal Code, Title 17C, Chapter 17C.240 Signs

**2. Name of applicant:**

City of Spokane

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

Amy Mullerleile  
City of Spokane  
Planning Services Department  
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd  
Spokane, WA 99201-3329  
(509) 625-6194

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

September 11, 2017

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

City of Spokane

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

A public hearing before the City of Spokane Plan Commission is anticipated on October 11, 2017, with a City Council action to adopt occurring on or before November 20, 2017.

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

No additional amendments are anticipated at this time. Amendments will be made as necessary to reflect changing local circumstances, new information, or changes in state or federal statutes and regulations.

**b. Do you own or have options on land nearby or adjacent to this proposal? If yes, explain.**

Yes. The City of Spokane owns land, including parks and administrative buildings within the City limits, or "affected geographical area" of this proposal.

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

The City updated the sign code regulations in 2008. A SEPA checklist was submitted and a determination of non-significance was issued on October 29, 2008. This determination was not appealed.

"White Paper" completed July 14 2008, by Sign Code Update Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

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.**

This is a city-wide non-project legislative action; currently pending applications for sign permits would be subject to the current regulations until such time as the adoption process is complete and proper public notice has been disseminated.

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

The proposed development standards require approval of the Spokane City Council and Mayor.

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.**

This proposal is update to the provisions of the Spokane Municipal Code that regulate signage within the City in order to improve administration, comply with a recent US Supreme Court decision, and ensure regulations implement the intent of the City's Comprehensive Plan and support the desired character and development patterns of the various zones and overlay zones.

12. **Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information to 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 application related to this checklist.**

This is a city-wide non-project legislative action; it would apply to the entire area within the City of Spokane boundary. The City of Spokane is located in Spokane County.

13. **Does the proposed action lie within the Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)? The General Sewer Service Area? The Priority Sewer Service Area? The City of Spokane? (See: Spokane County's ASA Overlay Zone Atlas for boundaries.)**

Yes.

14. **The following questions supplement Part A.**

a. **Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) / Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)**

- (1) **Describe any systems, other than those designed for the disposal of sanitary waste, installed for the purpose of discharging fluids below the ground surface (includes systems such as those for the disposal of stormwater or drainage from floor drains). Describe the type of system, the amount of material to be disposed of through the system and the types of material likely to be disposed of (including materials which may enter the system inadvertently through spills or as a result of firefighting activities).** N/A, this is a non-project action.

- (2) **Will any chemicals (especially organic solvents or petroleum fuels) be stored in aboveground or underground storage tanks? If so, what types and quantities of material will be stored?** N/A, this is a non-project action.

- (3) **What protective measures will be taken to insure that leaks or spills of any chemicals stored or used on site will not be allowed to percolate to groundwater. This includes measures to keep chemicals out of disposal systems.** N/A, this is a non-project action.

(4) Will any chemicals be stored, handled or used on the site in a location where a spill or leak will drain to surface or groundwater or to a stormwater disposal system discharging to surface or groundwater? N/A, this is a non-project action.

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

(1) What are the depths on the site to groundwater and to bedrock (if known)? N/A, this is a non-project action.

(2) Will stormwater be discharged into the ground? If so, describe any potential impacts? N/A, this is a non-project action.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other: N/A, this is a non-project action.

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

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

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. N/A

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

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

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

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

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

### **2. Air**

a. What type 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, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. N/A, this is a non-project action.

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

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

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

**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. N/A, this is a non-project action.**
- (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. N/A**
- (3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from the surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. N/A**
- (4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. N/A**
- (5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? N/A If so, note location on the site plan. N/A**
- (6) Does the proposal involve any discharge of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. N/A**

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

**b. GROUND:**

- (1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. N/A, this is a non-project action.**
- (2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sanitary waste treatment facility. Describe the general size of the system, the number of houses to be served (if applicable) or the number of persons the system(s) are expected to serve. N/A**

**c. WATER RUNOFF (INCLUDING STORMWATER):**

- (1) Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) 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. N/A, this is a non-project action.**
- (2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. N/A**

**d. PROPOSED MEASURES to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any. N/A**

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

**4. Plants**

**a. Check or circle type of vegetation found on the site:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Shrubs**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Grass**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pasture**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Crop or grain**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Wet soil plants, cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Water plants: water lilly, eelgrass, milfoil, other.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Other types of vegetation.**

**b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? N/A**

**c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. N/A**

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

**5. Animals**

**a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site are known to be on or near the site: N/A, this is a non-project action.**

**birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: \_\_\_\_\_**

**mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: \_\_\_\_\_**

**fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: \_\_\_\_\_**

**other: \_\_\_\_\_**

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

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

**c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. N/A**

**d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: N/A**

**6. Energy and natural resources**

**a. What kinds or energy (electric, natural gas, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. N/A, this is a non-project action.**

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

- 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:** N/A

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

- (1) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.** N/A

- (2) **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)?** N/A, this is a non-project action.

- (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.** N/A

- (3) **Proposed measure to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:** N/A

**8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?** N/A

- b. **Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.** N/A

- c. **Describe any structures on the site.** N/A

- d. **Will any structures be demolished? If so, which?** N/A

- e. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?** N/A

- f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?** N/A

- g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?** N/A

- h. **Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area? If so, specify.** N/A

- i. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?** N/A

- j. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?** N/A

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:**  
N/A

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

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

## 9. Housing

a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.** N/A, this is a non-project action.

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

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**  
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?** N/A, this is a non-project action.

b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?** N/A

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**  
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?** N/A, this is a non-project action.

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

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

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

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

## 12. Recreation

a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?** N/A, this is a non-project action.

b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.** N/A

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



**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. N/A, this is a non-project action.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic archaeological, scientific or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. N/A
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: N/A

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

**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. N/A, this is a non-project action.
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? N/A
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? N/A
- 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). N/A
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail or air transportation? If so, generally describe. N/A
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak would occur. N/A  
  
(Note: to assist in review and if known indicate vehicle trips during PM peak, AM Peak and Weekday (24 hours).)
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: N/A

Evaluation for  
Agency Use  
Only

**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. N/A, this is a non-project action.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any: N/A

**16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: N/A, this is a non-project action.

- 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. N/A**

**C. SIGNATURE**

I, the undersigned, swear under penalty of perjury that the above responses are made truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that, should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part, the agency must withdraw any determination of Non-significance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist.

Date: September 11, 2017

Signature:

Please Print or Type:

Amy Mullerleile

Proponent: City of Spokane

Address: 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd Spokane WA 99203

Phone: 509.625.6194

Person completing form (if different from proponent): Amy Mullerleile

Address: same as above

Phone: 509.625.6194

**FOR STAFF USE ONLY**

Staff member(s) reviewing checklist: Tirrell Black

Based on this staff review of the environmental checklist and other pertinent information, the staff concludes that:

- A. There are no probable significant adverse impacts and recommends a Determination of Non-significance.
- B. Probable significant adverse environmental impacts do exist for the current proposal and recommends a Mitigated Determination of Non-significance with conditions.
- C. There are probable significant adverse environmental impacts and recommends a Determination of Significance.

**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 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 proposal would not directly increase discharge to water, emissions to air, the production and storage of toxic or hazardous substances or noise.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:** N/A

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

This proposal is unlikely to directly affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life.

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

No measures are proposed to specifically address the conservation of plants and animals in this proposal.

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

It is not likely that the proposed changes to the sign code will significantly affect the amount of energy or natural resources used to permit, construct, site, operate and maintain signs in the city.

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

The proposed sign code updates do not directly address energy and natural resource conservation.

- 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, flood plains or prime farmlands?**

It is not likely that the proposed changes to the sign code will significantly affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection.

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

No measures are proposed to specifically protect environmentally sensitive areas in this proposal.

**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 proposal will regulate signs proposed within the City of Spokane. The updates are intended to implement the policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan, 2017 and correlate with other development standards currently in place. The current sign code regulations for signs located in shoreline environments correlate with the adopted Shoreline Master Plan and will not change.

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

The proposed update will not impact existing provisions regulating signs located within shoreline jurisdiction.

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

**Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: N/A**

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

The proposal should not conflict with local, state or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

**C. SIGNATURE**

**I, the undersigned, swear under penalty of perjury that the above responses are made truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that, should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part, the agency may withdraw any Determination of Non-significance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist.**

**Date: August 24, 2017**

**Signature:**

**Please Print or Type:**

**Amy Mullerleile**

**Proponent: City of Spokane**

**Address: 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201**

**Phone: 509.625.6017**

**Person completing form (if different from proponent): Amy Mullerleile**

**Address: 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane WA, 99201**

**Phone: 509.625.6147**

**FOR STAFF USE ONLY**

**Staff member(s) reviewing checklist: Tirrell Black**

**Based on this staff review of the environmental checklist and other pertinent information, the staff concludes that:**

**A.  There are no probable significant adverse impacts and recommends a Determination of Non-significance.**

- B. \_\_\_ Probable significant adverse impacts do exist for the current proposal and recommends a Mitigated Determination of Non-significance with conditions.**
- C. \_\_\_ There are probable significant adverse environmental impacts and recommends a Determination of Significance.**