

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

for

ADAMS COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM 2023 Periodic Review

February 23, 2023

Prepared For:

**Andie Lorenz
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**Prepared By:
AHBL, Inc.**

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 [Find help answering background questions](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Adams County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Periodic Review (2023)

2. Name of applicant:

Adams County, WA

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

Applicant:

Andie Lorenz, CBO ACO
Director/ Fire Marshal
Adams County Building & Planning
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(509)488-9441
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Contact:

Nicole Stickney, AICP (Contract Planner)
AHBL, Inc.
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nstickney@ahbl.com

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 24, 2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Adams County, WA

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

Dates are approximate subject to change:

COMPLETED:

December 13, 2022: Council adopted a Public Participation Plan

January 11 2023: Completed preliminary draft of the ecology checklist and preliminary draft of the SMP Amendments

February 2, 2023: Sent letter to potential interested parties

ANTICIPATED:

February 23, 2023: Newspaper notice published; Issue SEPA Threshold Determination; County and Ecology joint public comment period begins

March 8, 2023: Q&A open house in Othello

March 23, 2023: Joint Planning Commission/ Ecology Public Hearing

March 27, 2023: Conclusion of public comment period

By April 28, 2023: County responds to public comments

TBD 2023: Submit initial submittal to Ecology for initial determination of consistency

TBD 2023: Ecology issues initial determination of consistency

TBD 2023: BOCC public hearing and adoption

TBD June 2023: Final Ecology approval and SMP adoption

TBD 2023: Effective date

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

Not applicable. The proposed action is a nonproject action.

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

The County previously conducted SEPA Review in March 2015 during a Comprehensive Update. (SEPA Register # 201501378). During the same update, a Shoreline Analysis Report, Shoreline Restoration Plan, and a Cumulative Impacts Analysis were prepared.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

There are no known applications or proposals that are pending approval that would affect the County's Shoreline Master Program.

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

Adams County and the Washington State Department of Ecology must approve any changes and adopt the SMP prior to any of the proposed changes becoming effective. Notice of the pending adoption and adoption will be provided to the Washington State Department of Commerce (60-day notice requirement).

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

The County proposes to amend its SMP consistent with Shoreline Management Act (SMA) requirements to review, and, if necessary, revise its SMP at least once every eight years. The amendments are intended to ensure consistency between the County's SMP and laws and guidelines that may have changed since the County last updated its SMP.

See the enclosed checklist which outlines the changes.

- 13. 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.**

Within Adams County, the SMP applies to land within shoreline jurisdiction.

B. Environmental Elements

Part B is omitted - No discussion of the individual Environmental Elements is required.

C. Signature [Find help about who should sign](#)

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: Nicole Stickney, AICP

Position and Agency/Organization: Consultant on Behalf of Adams County / Senior Planning Project Manager, AHBL, Inc.

Date Submitted: January 31, 2023

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)

IT IS NOT REQUIRED to use this section 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 Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Periodic Review is not expected to increase discharges to water or air, or produce or release toxic or hazardous substances, or create noise impacts. Because this is a periodic review and not a comprehensive review, there are no changes to allowed uses, development standards or shoreline environments.

Future development proposals along the shoreline may have specific impacts that will be reviewed and mitigated through project SEPA Environmental Review and adherence with the SMP regulations.

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

No measures are proposed at this time.

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

The County's SMP Periodic Review is not anticipated to have any negative impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life. The SMP is intended to improve ecological systems in the shoreline jurisdiction over time, and this update will not result in a loss of any ecological protections. Individual projects could have minimal impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life. Any impacts that may result from these projects will be mitigated adequately through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the specific project.

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

No measures are proposed at this time.

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

The SMP Periodic Review Amendments will not have any impact on energy or natural resources that necessitate mitigation measures.

Individual projects could have minimal impacts on energy or natural resources consumption. Any impacts that may result from these projects will be mitigated adequately through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the specific project.

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

No measures 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?

It is not anticipated that the SMP update will have any impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. If any individual project proposals are located near one of the environmentally sensitive areas, the appropriate mitigation will occur through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the proposed improvements.

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

No measures proposed at this time.

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 Periodic Review Amendments do not modify any permitted or conditionally permitted uses in the SMP, nor will any shoreline environments be changed, and therefore have no effect on land and shoreline uses.

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

No measures proposed at this time.

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

The proposed SMP Periodic Review Amendments will not increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities. If there are any impacts to transportation or public services and utilities, the appropriate mitigation will occur through the SEPA Environmental Review process and SMP regulations for the proposed improvements.

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

No measures 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 purpose of the SMP Periodic Review Amendments is to align the SMP with recent updates to state law and state environmental protections. The County's SMP Update will result in

improved protections for the environment in the shoreline jurisdiction and is not intended to conflict with any other local, state, or federal laws or requirements.