

SEPA¹ 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.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions](#)²

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Amendments to the King County Countywide Planning Policies establishing a process for technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary. This proposal is referred to throughout this document as the “proposed ordinance.”

2. Name of applicant:

The proposal was initiated by King County.

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

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4. Date checklist prepared:

8/14/26

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County.

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

The King County Council anticipates possible action on the proposed ordinance in October 2026.

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

A separate King County ordinance is anticipated to amend the King County Comprehensive Plan and King County Code to implement the technical amendment framework established by the proposed Countywide Planning Policy amendments and implement a technical amendment involving right-of-way near the City of Black Diamond.

If the proposed ordinance is adopted, King County may consider technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary. Those future amendments are not part of this proposal and would be reviewed separately.

The proposed ordinance does not authorize development or approve any permit. Any future development associated with a separately approved amendment would remain subject to applicable federal, state, and local permitting requirements.

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

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

SEPA Checklist for this proposed ordinance.

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.

The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) must provide a recommendation on the proposal prior to the vote by the King County Council.

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

If approved by the King County Council, ratification by the cities of King County will be required in order for the changes to become effective, as required by the Countywide Planning Policies. Amendments must be ratified within 90 days of King County approval and require affirmation by the county and cities and towns representing at least 70 percent of the county population and 30 percent of those jurisdictions. Ratification is either by an affirmative vote of the city's or town's council or by no action being taken within the ratification period.

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).

The proposed ordinance would adopt amendments to the King County Countywide Planning Policies establishing a limited process for technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary.

The amendments would allow King County to propose and approve a technical Urban Growth Area amendment without separate Growth Management Planning Council review or recommendation and without city and town ratification when the amendment satisfies the new technical-amendment criteria.

A technical amendment would be required to be not inconsistent with the Growth Management Act and to address a mapping error or discrepancy, a building or parcel split by the Urban Growth Area boundary, alignment of the boundary with either edge of a right-of-way or similar linear feature it currently touches, encompassing urban-serving infrastructure existing prior to January 1, 2027 within the Urban Growth Area boundary, or a similar technical issue. Technical amendments could not be made for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth.

The proposed ordinance would not itself amend the Urban Growth Area boundary or any land use or zoning map. It would establish the countywide policy framework under which future technical amendments could

be considered. Future amendments would be separate legislative actions subject to applicable environmental review.

Compliance with existing federal, state, and local regulations is presumed for purposes of this SEPA checklist, including compliance with the regulations in the proposed ordinance itself, as well as others such as those related to drinking water, stormwater, wastewater treatment, septic systems, critical areas, and zoning requirements. Any noncompliant uses or structures would be subject to code enforcement and would not be considered an impact related to the proposed ordinance.

The King County Council could modify the proposed ordinance and still accomplish the proposal's objective. Depending on the modification, the likelihood, scale, or scope of potential impacts to various elements of the environment could be the same, greater, or less.

As would be the case for any nonproject or project action that undergoes changes after the publication of a SEPA threshold determination, the King County Executive branch, which pursuant to K.C.C. 20.44.020 is the Lead Agency for SEPA for King County, would evaluate any modifications that are proposed to be made to the proposed ordinance and would update this environmental review in the case that changes would result in greater or different impacts than those identified in this checklist. The timing of additional environmental review process may vary depending on other variables, including future public processes.

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 proposed ordinance is a countywide nonproject action. Future technical amendments considered under the proposed framework could occur in locations adjacent to the Urban Growth Area boundary.

In general, King County is located in western Washington and includes 39 incorporated cities, including Seattle, Federal Way, Kirkland, and Bellevue. Approximately three-quarters of the County is unincorporated and includes areas primarily to the east of the County urban growth area boundary and the urban Puget Sound region, with the exception of Vashon-Maury Island located to the west and some isolated blocks of unincorporated area within the Urban Growth Area.

Nearly 75 percent of unincorporated King County is zoned as Forest (F), particularly the eastern portion of the County. To the west, near the more urban incorporated areas of the County, the predominant zoning category is Rural Area (RA), with some areas zoned Agricultural (A), particularly in the areas northeast of Sammamish Valley and the area northwest of Enumclaw. Smaller areas of residential, business, office, and industrial zoning are also located throughout unincorporated King County.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions³](#)

a. General description of the site:

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” the ordinance applies to all of King County, which includes areas that are flat, rolling, hilly, and steep slope. King County landforms include saltwater coastline, river floodplains, plateaus, slopes, and mountains, punctuated with lakes and streams. The proposed ordinance would apply to King County projects on lands with these features.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, King County includes tens of thousands of acres of steep slope areas. It is possible there may be steep slopes on properties to which the proposed ordinance would apply, however any such new development projects would be subject to state and local regulations, including critical areas regulations, that would be addressed during permit review.

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.

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, soil in King County generally reflects geologically recent glacial and alluvial (river and stream) activity, as well as human activity. River valleys are generally occupied by poorly drained, silty loams that commonly have a substantial organic content. Soils on upland areas between valleys typically are coarser-grained sandy and gravelly sandy loams, but soils with high organic content do occur locally in these upland areas and along water bodies. Some areas of unincorporated King County are classified as farmland of statewide importance, prime farmland, and prime farmland with conditions (which means that it is prime farmland if drained, irrigated, protected from flooding, or not frequently flooded). King County’s Farmland Preservation Program restricts use on participating properties to agriculture or open space use and restricts activities that would impair the agricultural capability of the property.

In accordance with the State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.170 and 36.70A.050), King County designated “agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other products.” The lands that meet these criteria are designated as an Agricultural Production District, of which there are five in King County (Enumclaw, Snoqualmie, Upper Green River, Lower Green River, and Sammamish).

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, geologically hazardous areas, including landslide and erosion-prone areas, some abandoned mining areas, and seismic risk areas, exist within King County. Landslide and erosion-prone areas are associated primarily with steep slopes. Hazardous mining areas that may be subject to surface subsidence are associated primarily with past coal mining that occurred in the area from Newcastle through Renton south to Black Diamond. Any development subject to the proposed ordinance that is located on a parcel where landslide or erosion-prone areas exist would be subject to existing regulations and, for new uses, would be identified and addressed under existing regulations during permit review.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly authorize any fill, excavation, or grading. The proposed ordinance does not change development regulations or regulations for clearing and grading, it only allows for technical amendments to the urban growth area boundary. Subsequent to such a technical amendment, individual projects on the land moved into or out of the urban growth area could include fill, excavation, or grading and may be subject to the development regulations of a different jurisdiction related to stormwater management, impervious surfaces, critical areas, clearing and grading, and/or landscaping. Unless exempt under state and county requirements, filling, excavation and grading is also subject to SEPA review.

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

Although the proposed ordinance would not direct any development activities, potential erosion can result from clearing, construction or use of land for development that is subject to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance does not amend state or local regulations on clearing, grading, or construction that could cause erosion.

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

The proposed ordinance would not have any direct impacts to impervious surface percentages. Projects subject to future technical amendments allowed by the ordinance could alter the percentage of impervious surfaces on their respective sites. All such development projects would be subject to the applicable jurisdiction's regulations concerning new and replaced impervious surfaces and evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

Because the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts, no measures to control erosion or other impacts to the earth are proposed. King County's existing regulations related to erosion and soils would apply to any development to which the proposed ordinance would apply.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not result in any direct emissions to the air. Future technical amendments will not be made for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth, but development projects on properties subject to technical amendments may result in air emissions from construction and operation activities. Such projects would be subject to existing federal, state, and local regulations for these types of emissions. The proposed ordinance would not modify any federal, state, or local codes that provide standards or controls for these types of emissions. Air emissions are discussed in more detail in Part D of this checklist.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not be affected by off-site sources of emissions or odor, and no known off-site sources of emissions or odor are likely to impact implementation of the proposed ordinance.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not have any direct impacts to air emissions, and the development projects to which it would apply would be subject to existing regulations regarding emissions and reporting requirements. Additional federal, state, and local codes may provide standards and controls for these types of emissions and would not be modified by the proposed ordinance. As a result, no measures to reduce or control emissions or other potential impacts to air are proposed.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions⁵](#)

a. Surface:

[Find help answering surface water questions⁶](#)

- 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.**

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, numerous streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands and the Puget Sound are located within unincorporated King County. King County maintains an inventory of water bodies within unincorporated King County, which would be considered during development review.

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly require any work over, in, or adjacent to the described waters. State and local shoreline regulations would apply to any development on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed by the proposed ordinance that is within the shoreline jurisdiction. Other development regulations, including critical areas regulations, concerning the protection of waterbodies may also apply depending on the proximity of any development to these waters.

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not authorize filling or dredging from surface water or wetlands. Individual development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would also be subject to all state, local, and federal regulations, including mitigation requirements, concerning fill or dredge material placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.

- 4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not require any surface water withdrawals or diversions. Individual development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would also be subject to existing regulations concerning surface water diversions and withdrawals, including those regarding in-stream flows, if applicable.

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, several areas of King County lie within a 100-year floodplain. Development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would also be subject to the applicable jurisdiction's rules and limitations pertaining to floodplain development and fill.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters. Development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would also be subject to existing state, local, and federal regulations concerning the protection of and discharge of waste materials to surface waters, including state regulations on water usage, wastewater disposal, and state antidegradation standards. Discharges to surface waters are discussed in more detail in Part D of this checklist.

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions⁷](#)

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 a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not directly involve any withdrawals of groundwater or discharge to groundwater. Development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance that use groundwater or discharge to groundwater would be subject to all existing state, local, and federal regulations concerning groundwater removal and protection.

2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not result in any discharge of waste material into the ground. Development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance may discharge waste material from septic tanks or other sources, and would be required to treat and dispose of any waste in a manner compatible with state and local regulations.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly generate or affect water runoff. Individual development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance may generate some water runoff. As with any development in unincorporated King County, on-site stormwater management would need to comply with the King County Surface Water Design Manual, including applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) for treatment and flow prior to discharge, and existing maximum impervious surface regulations.

- 2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in any waste material entering ground or surface waters. Development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance may result in waste matter that could enter ground or surface waters, but such projects would be subject to existing state, local, and federal regulations concerning the protection of surface and ground water.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, and would not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns. Development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would also be subject to existing drainage regulations, which are unchanged by the subject ordinance.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to surface or ground water, runoff water, or drainage patterns. Existing federal, state and local regulations related to surface water discharge and withdrawal, groundwater discharge and withdrawal, runoff water (stormwater), and drainage would apply to any development project that would be subject to the proposed ordinance. No additional measures to reduce or control any potential surface, ground, and runoff water and drainage pattern impacts are proposed under this ordinance. Individual development proposals may be required to provide these measures.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:**

☒ **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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, King County includes a variety of vegetation types on the various lands that development projects subject to the proposed ordinance would apply to, including those listed above. Lands within King County include three ecoregions: the Puget Lowland Ecoregion in the western half of the County, which is now largely urbanized, but which contains forest plantations, farms, and cottonwood; and the North Cascades Ecoregion in the northeastern and east central area and the Cascades Ecoregion in the southeastern portion of the County, which both contain Pacific Silver Fir, Alaskan cedar, Mountain hemlock, Subalpine fir, black sedge, mountain heliotrope, and Alaskan spirea.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly remove any vegetation, individual development projects on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance could include the removal or alteration of vegetation (potentially of the types identified in question 4.a). Such development projects would be subject to state and local regulations that regulate vegetation removal or alteration, in the same manner as other uses.

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

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service lists the following endangered or threatened plant species in Washington state: Kincaid's Lupine, Showy stickseed, Spalding's Catchfly, Umtanum desert buckwheat, Ute ladies'-tresses, Wenatchee Mountains checkermallow, White Bluffs bladderpod, and Whitebark pine. The Wenatchee Mountains checkermallow and Whitebark pine are known to be in eastern King County; none of these other plant species are known to be located in King County.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. Development projects subject to the proposed ordinance will be required to meet all federal, state, and local laws regarding endangered or threatened plant species.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation could be proposed for individual developments on properties subject to technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance. As with any development in King County, development projects subject to the proposed ordinance would be

subject to state and local regulations governing landscaping, use of native plants, and vegetation preservation on their respective sites.

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

The King County Noxious Weed Program regulates invasive plant species, and requires eradication or control, or recommends control, for over 150 plant species. Class A noxious weeds, adopted in accordance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750, that are known to or have been located in King County, and require eradication by property owners, include Common crupina, Common cordgrass, Dense flowered cordgrass, Salt meadow cordgrass, Smooth cordgrass, Dyers woad, Eggleaf spurge, False brome, Floating primrose-willow, Flowering-rush, French broom, Garlic mustard, Giant hogweed, Goatsrue, Hydrilla, Johnsongrass, Bighead knapweed, Short fringed knapweed, Kudzu, Meadow clary, Orange peel clematis, Palmer amaranth, Purple starthistle, Reed sweetgrass, Ricefield bulrush, Roundleaf bittersweet, Rush broom, Clary sage, Mediterranean sage, Silverleaf nightshade, Small-flowered jewelweed, Smooth frogbit, Soft broom. Syrian bean-caper, Texas blueweed, Ashen thistle, Marsh Thistle, Milk thistle, Shore thistle, Slenderflower thistle, Variable-leaf milfoil, and Wild four o'clock. Class B noxious weeds, that are known to have been located in King County, and require control by property owners, include Blueweed (Viper's bugloss), Annual bugloss, Common bugloss, Camelthorn, Common reed (non-native genotypes), Dalmatian toadflax, Egeria, Fanwort, Gorse, Grass-leaved arrowhead, Hairy willowherb, Hardheads, Meadow hawkweeds (all non-native species and hybrids of the meadow subgenus), Autumn hawkweed, Orange hawkweed, Oxtongue hawkweed, Hoary alyssum, Houndstongue, Indigobush, Black knapweed, Brown knapweed, Diffuse knapweed, Meadow knapweed, Spotted knapweed, Kochia, Garden loosestrife, Purple loosestrife, Parrotfeather, Perennial pepperweed, Policeman's helmet, Rush skeletonweed, Saltcedar, Leafy spurge, Yellow starthistle, Sulfur cinquefoil, Tansy ragwort, Cotton thistle, Musk thistle, Plumeless thistle, Tocalote, Tussilago, Velvetleaf, Water primrose, White bryony, Wild basil, Wild chervil, Yellow floating heart, and Yellow nutsedge

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, a variety of noxious weeds and invasive species exist in unincorporated King County. The proposed ordinance does not change any obligations to control noxious weeds identified by the King County Noxious Weed Control Board.

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- **Birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, a variety of birds, mammals, and fish have been observed in King County. There are 221 bird species that are common, uncommon or usually seen on an annual basis in King County. Bird species include hawks, herons, eagles, owls, woodpeckers, songbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. There are 70 mammal species that can be found in King County, including shrews, bats, beavers, elk, deer, bears, rabbits, wolves, seals, and whales. There are 50 species of freshwater fish in King County, including 20 introduced species. More information on birds and animals found in King County can be found at <https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/defining-biodiversity/species-of-interest.aspx>.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, there are a number of federally threatened and endangered species in King County according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These species include the Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, North American Wolverine, Marbled Murrelet, Mt. Rainier White-tailed Ptarmigan, Northern Spotted Owl, Streaked Horned Lark, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue whale, Bocaccio, Fin whale, Gray Whale, Humpback whale, Leatherback sea turtle, Southern resident killer whale, Sei whale, Sperm Whale, and Yelloweye Rockfish.

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife lists the following salmonid species as those federally threatened that are known to occur in King County. Skykomish Bull Trout, White River (Puyallup) Bull Trout, Cedar Chinook, Green River (Duwamish) Chinook, Sammamish Chinook, Snoqualmie Chinook, White River Chinook, Cedar River Winter Steelhead, Green River (Duwamish) Winter Steelhead, North Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish Winter Steelhead, Snoqualmie Winter Steelhead, Tolt Summer Steelhead, and White River (Puyallup) Winter Steelhead.

In addition to the federally listed species above, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife lists additional threatened and endangered species not included with the federally listed species, including the Western gray squirrel, Mardon skipper, Northwestern pond turtle, and Oregon vesper sparrow. One additional species, fisher, was historically in King County but is thought to now be extinct in this area.

As with any development in King County, development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would have to comply with existing state, local, and federal regulations that protect these species.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no identifiable “site,” King County is within the Pacific Flyway migratory pathway for birds, and migratory birds use water bodies, shorelines, mud flats, and grassy areas/meadows throughout King County. There are numerous streams and water bodies within the County that serve as migration routes for anadromous fish. These water bodies could potentially be near or cross through sites where properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance. Elk, other mammals, and bird species migrate seasonally. Daily movements include animal species moving around to get their daily needs met, and this movement can be impacted by fences, roads, culverts, and land use cover and change. Mammals, amphibians, and reptiles are most affected by barriers to movement.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not have any direct impacts to wildlife, so no measures to preserve or enhance wildlife are proposed. Any development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would also be subject to existing federal, state, and local wildlife regulations.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

The Washington Invasive Species Council, established by the Washington State Legislature, has identified 16 animal species and 13 insect species that are considered invasive in Washington State. King County is known or suspected to have the following invasive animal and insect species: African Clawed Frog, American bullfrog, European Chafer, European green crab, New Zealand mudsnail, Northern pike, Nutria, Red swamp crayfish, Tunicate, European Starling, House Sparrow, Eastern gray squirrel, and Fox squirrel.

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, numerous invasive animal species are known to exist in King County. Invasive species may be located on a development project site on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance.

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions⁹](#)

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.

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have direct energy needs, development could occur on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the ordinance. Property may be added to or removed from the urban growth area, which would affect the range of uses allowed and may require increased or decreased energy and natural resource use. Any such technical amendments are not made for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth, so large increases to energy or natural resource use as a result of a technical amendment are not likely. Any effects are expected to be incidental and localized. Any future development project would be subject to state and local energy codes and regulations.

One example of a technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance would be to encompass existing urban-serving infrastructure within the Urban Growth Area boundary. This might change the approval process for future modifications or additions to existing urban-serving infrastructure that had previously been located in the rural area. If this resulted in a streamlined process for approval for modification to existing projects, it could potentially have a beneficial effect on energy supply for development on other properties within the existing urban growth area.

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to the use of solar energy. Any development project on property subject to a future technical amendment would be subject to existing height and setback requirements. The proposed ordinance does not change those requirements and is unlikely to affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to energy use, and therefore no energy conservation features are included. Development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance could include energy conservation features or other measures to reduce any energy impacts.

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly cause any environmental health hazards, it is possible that development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance could result in exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spills, or hazardous waste. To the extent any such development created such exposure or risk, those hazards would be regulated by existing state and local regulations. This topic is discussed in more detail in Part D of this checklist.

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. Sites with contamination exist within King County where development projects could be proposed on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance. These sites would be required to meet any remediation requirements prior to grading.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. Sites with hazardous chemicals or conditions exist within King County and development could be proposed on them following a

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

future technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance. Such development would be subject to existing federal, state, and local regulations regarding chemical hazards and liquid and gas transmission pipelines.

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.

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not include the storage, use, or production of any toxic or hazardous chemicals, development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance could require the use of toxic or hazardous chemicals, such as gasoline or diesel fuel, to operate construction equipment. Individual development projects would be required to store, use, and produce any toxic or hazardous chemicals, such as cleaning supplies, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. This topic is discussed in more detail in Part D of this checklist.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts, and implementation of the proposed ordinance is not anticipated to generate any additional special emergency services for the development projects to which it would apply.

5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impact on the environment nor create environmental health hazards. No measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards are proposed.

b. Noise

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location that can be evaluated for existing noise levels. Various types of noise exist in the areas where the proposed ordinance could apply, including noise from traffic, operation of equipment, and more. These noise sources are not anticipated to affect implementation of the proposed ordinance.

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)?

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct noise impacts.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct noise impacts. As such, no measures to reduce or control potential noise impacts are proposed.

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location and would not have any direct impacts on the current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties. As a whole, unincorporated King County is predominantly forestland to the east and predominantly rural to the west, adjacent to more urban incorporated areas of the county, with agricultural areas between. The proposed ordinance would not itself change or impact current land use designations or zoning classifications in unincorporated King County and does not change the uses allowed on properties in the King County Code land use tables. It would, however, allow for future technical Urban Growth Area amendments, which would be separate legislative actions. Such actions might modify the allowed uses on a parcel, right-of-way, or other mapped feature currently adjacent to the Urban Growth Area boundary. Such changes would be evaluated through future SEPA processes.

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 because 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?

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location and would not have any direct impacts to working farmlands or forestlands. Some sites where a development project is proposed on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance could have been or may currently be used as working farmland or forestlands. However, existing regulatory limitations on properties enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program, within the Agricultural Production District or Forest Production District, or in Agricultural or Forestry zones would continue to apply to development projects associated with future technical amendments.

c. 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?

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly affect or be affected by the normal business operations of working farmland or forestland.

d. Describe any structures on the site.

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, various structures are located on parcels within King County, where the proposed ordinance would apply.

e. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in any demolition, existing structures could be demolished as part of a development project on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance. The nature of and extent to which those structures could be demolished is unknown at this time and would be subject to all applicable regulations.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. Future technical amendments could involve properties in a variety of zoning classifications along the Urban Growth Area boundary. These include the full range of zoning classifications for unincorporated King County, as well as the zoning classifications of all cities that border the Urban Growth Area boundary. The proposed ordinance would not itself change any zoning classification.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. Future technical amendments could involve properties with a variety of Comprehensive Plan land use designations along the Urban Growth Area boundary, both within unincorporated King County and within cities. The proposed ordinance would not itself change any Comprehensive Plan land use designation, but future technical amendments would likely result in changes to land use designations and would be evaluated at that time.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, King County includes a variety of shoreline master program designations. Individual development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance that occur within or proximate to shoreline jurisdiction would need to comply with the applicable shoreline master program.

i. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, portions of King County are classified as critical areas where a development project could be proposed on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance. Specifically, King County Code designates the following as critical areas: coal mine hazard areas, erosion hazard areas, flood hazard areas, coastal high hazard areas, channel migration zones, landslide hazard areas, seismic hazard areas, volcanic hazard areas, steep slope hazard areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, wetlands and wetland buffers, aquatic areas, and wildlife habitat networks and conservation areas. Other critical area classifications may exist within cities along the Urban Growth Area boundary.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in a completed project where people would reside or work. Individual development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance could have employees or residents, or both, but such technical amendments would not be made for the purpose of housing or employment growth; any increase or decrease to development potential on such properties would be incidental. The number of persons living or working in the subject buildings would depend on the individual land uses, square footages, and regulations affecting those individual development projects.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not directly result in any displacement, it is possible that development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance could result in displacement. However, implementation of the proposed ordinance is not anticipated to affect the likelihood of displacement under current King County Code.

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

Because the proposal is not anticipated to affect the likelihood of displacement under King County Code, no measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts are proposed. Development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments would be subject to existing policies and regulations governing displacements and relocations and would be evaluated during project-level environmental and permit reviews.

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

The proposed ordinance was drafted to be compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans. The proposed criteria require technical amendments to be not inconsistent with the Growth Management Act and prohibit use of the process for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth. Each future technical amendment would be considered through a separate King County Comprehensive Plan amendment process and reviewed for consistency with applicable Countywide Planning Policies, Comprehensive Plan policies, and development regulations.

n. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action and would not directly impact agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance; as such, no measures to reduce or control impacts to such lands are proposed. Development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments may occur on lands used as working farmland or forest lands. Existing development limits on properties enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program, within the Agricultural Production District or Forest Production District, or in Agricultural or Forestry zones would continue to apply to development projects associated with future technical amendments.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that will not have direct impacts to housing, a development project on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance may include housing. However, the technical-amendment criteria prohibit use of the process for the purpose of increasing housing growth, so a substantial increase in housing potential beyond what was previously allowed is not anticipated.

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

Neither the proposed ordinance itself nor development on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the ordinance would result in any greater elimination of housing than what might occur if the ordinance were not adopted.

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

The proposed ordinance would only allow technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary, which would not be allowed for the purposes of housing growth. Substantive amendments to the boundary for housing growth would continue to be subject to the existing requirements in the CPPs and King County Comprehensive Plan.

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that does not directly involve the construction of any structures, and does not regulate or change the height requirements of any structures or principal exterior building materials. The height and any exterior building material of any development project on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance will be subject to applicable regulations.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to views. Any development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would be subject to the applicable height regulations, which may be different if the land use designation and zoning classifications are changed. Such impacts would be evaluated at the time of the development proposal.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to views or aesthetics, and as such, no measures are proposed to reduce or control aesthetic impacts.

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly cause any light or glare, and any development on property subject to a future technical amendment allowed under the ordinance would not produce any light or glare beyond other development allowed under existing regulations.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts. Development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance could have either more or less light or glare depending on the applicable regulations. Any such development projects would have to comply with applicable development regulations, including any related to light and glare.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. Various off-site sources of light or glare exist throughout King County. It is unlikely that any development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would be impacted by any off-site sources.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct light and glare impacts. No additional measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts are proposed beyond existing development regulations.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. A variety of designated and informal recreational opportunities exist in King County where a future technical amendment could apply.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly displace any existing recreational uses. The ordinance would not result in a greater displacement of recreational uses than what may otherwise occur under current code.

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to recreation; no measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation are proposed.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

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? If so, specifically describe.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. A variety of buildings, structures, and sites within King County are listed or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers, and are potentially on sites where development projects could be proposed on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance. Such developments would be required to comply with all federal, state, and local regulations related to historic and cultural resources.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. However, landmarks, features, and other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation exist throughout King County, and potentially on sites where development projects could be proposed on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance. Such projects would continue to be required to comply with federal, state, and local rules related to historic and cultural resources.

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.

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that will not have any direct impacts to historic and cultural resources. Existing King County and state regulations related to cultural and historic resources would apply to any proposed development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance. Such requirements could include consultation with tribes and associated agencies as well as use of archaeological surveys, GIS data, and historic maps to assess potential impacts to cultural and historic resources if needed. The Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Samish, Snoqualmie, Squaxin, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, and Tulalip tribes are regularly notified during the County's SEPA process for proposed development projects, and affected tribes receive notice when the County receives an application for a Type 2, 3, or 4 project, or for a Type 1 project subject to SEPA.

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that will not have any direct impacts to cultural or historic resources. However, King County's existing regulations related to avoidance, minimization of, or compensation for loss, changes to, and disturbances to cultural and historic resources would apply to any individual development proposals on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance.

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. The proposed ordinance would apply to properties that are served by a variety of public streets and highways.

One example of a technical amendment allowed under this ordinance would be moving the Urban Growth Area boundary to an edge of a right-of-way that it currently touches. That could allow for future annexation of the right-of-way into a city, where it would then be under that city's jurisdiction.

- 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?**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. However, King County is generally served by public transit. It is unknown how far the nearest transit stop would be for any future development proposal on property subject to a technical amendment allowed under the proposed ordinance.

- c. 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).**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly involve any roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian improvements. Future technical amendments could precede annexation of a right-of-way into a city, which may result in additional improvements to transportation facilities.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to transportation facilities. However, individual development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance may use or occur proximal to water, rail, and air transportation.

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

- e. 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?**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly generate any vehicular trips. Development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance would likely generate vehicular trips, though any increase or decrease to trips compared to existing regulations would be incidental.

- f. 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.**

Although the proposed ordinance would not have any direct impact on the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area, individual development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the ordinance could generate some additional traffic that could interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to transportation volumes. No additional measures to reduce or control transportation impacts are proposed. Development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments allowed under the proposed ordinance will be subject to existing zoning and development regulations, including, to the extent required, transportation analysis and mitigation.

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not directly result in an increased need for public services. Future technical amendments may move small areas of land into or out of the Urban Growth Area. Such changes would not be made to increase housing or employment growth, and therefore the need for additional public services would likely be limited. Moving a right-of-way into the urban growth area preceding annexation of that right-of-way may warrant additional services to that right-of-way.

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to public services, so no additional measures to reduce or control impacts on public services are proposed.

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

16. Utilities [Find help answering utilities questions](#)¹⁸

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

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. A variety of utilities are generally available in King County depending on the service area of specific utility providers. Municipal sanitary sewer is not likely to be available in most rural and agricultural areas in unincorporated King County, with notable exceptions for the Vashon and Snoqualmie Pass Rural Towns, which do have sanitary sewer service.

- 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.**

The proposed ordinance is a nonproject action that would not have any direct connection to utilities and is not directly connected to a development site on which general construction activities would occur. The proposed ordinance could allow a future technical amendment to encompass existing urban-serving infrastructure within the Urban Growth Area boundary, but it would not construct, extend, or expand utility service. Development projects on properties subject to future technical amendments would be subject to utility requirements of the applicable jurisdiction.

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign](#)¹⁹

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.

8/14/2026

X Jake Tracy

Signed by: Tracy, Jake

Type name of signee: Jake Tracy

Position and agency/organization: Senior Principal Legislative Analyst, King County Council

Date submitted: 8/14/2026

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[HELP\]](#)

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)²⁰

Do not 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 proposed ordinance would not itself amend the Urban Growth Area boundary, change a Comprehensive Plan land use designation or zoning classification, or authorize development. It would establish criteria and a streamlined process for future technical amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary. A future technical amendment could add a small area to the Urban Growth Area or remove a small area from it, could be accompanied by corresponding Comprehensive Plan land use map and zoning changes, and may be followed by annexation. The environmental effects of a future technical amendment would depend on the location, existing conditions, and development potential of the affected area.

Technical amendments that only correct a mapping discrepancy, align the boundary with the edge of an existing right-of-way or similar linear feature, or encompass existing urban-serving infrastructure would generally be unlikely to result in physical changes by themselves. A technical amendment involving a split parcel, split building, or other mapping discrepancy could, however, change the land use regulations applicable to a small area and could incidentally facilitate development or redevelopment that would not otherwise occur, or that would occur under different standards. Although the proposed criteria prohibit use of the technical-amendment process for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth, a particular amendment could incidentally result in a minor increase or decrease to development potential on the affected property.

The proposed ordinance could allow qualifying technical amendments to be completed more quickly by eliminating separate Growth Management Planning Council review and recommendation and city ratification. It would not eliminate King County legislative review, applicable SEPA review, or compliance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations.

Discharges to water

If a future technical amendment incidentally facilitates development or redevelopment, construction and operation could increase impervious surface, stormwater runoff, wastewater generation, or the potential for pollutants to enter surface water or groundwater. Removal of land from the urban growth area via technical amendment could alternatively lead to decreases in these. The type and magnitude of any increase or decrease would depend on the site and the development subsequently proposed, and whether such impacts were greater or lesser than allowed on the site prior to the technical amendment would also be site and proposal specific. A technical amendment that only adjusts the mapped boundary around an existing right-

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

of-way or existing infrastructure would not itself increase discharges to water, but if it results in right-of-way improvements, it could increase discharges. All projects would be required to comply with all applicable regulations.

Air emissions

Construction associated with development following a future technical amendment could produce temporary dust and equipment exhaust. New or more intensive uses could also generate vehicle trips, building energy use, and associated air emissions. Conversely, removal of land from the Urban Growth Area could reduce future urban development potential and associated emissions. Because the proposed process is limited to technical amendments and may not be used for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth, any change in air emissions from technical amendments is expected to be minor, localized, and dependent on a later site-specific action.

Toxic or hazardous substances

Development following a future technical amendment could involve the temporary use, storage, or handling of fuels, construction materials, household chemicals, or other substances ordinarily associated with the use allowed by the applicable zoning. The proposed ordinance does not authorize any particular use or alter regulations governing hazardous substances. A technical amendment that only recognizes an existing feature or facility would not itself increase the production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances.

Noise

Construction following a future technical amendment could cause temporary noise. Development or redevelopment could also produce operational noise or additional traffic noise, depending on the use ultimately allowed and constructed. A boundary correction that does not result in new development, redevelopment, or a change in use would not be expected to increase noise.

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

To limit impacts from technical amendments going through the proposed streamlined process, the proposed criteria limit the process to technical amendments that are not inconsistent with the Growth Management Act and that are not made for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth. Each future technical amendment would require separate King County legislative action and review under applicable SEPA requirements. Any later development would remain subject to applicable federal, state, and local permitting and environmental requirements, including regulations addressing stormwater, wastewater, air quality, noise, critical areas, hazardous materials, and construction practices. No additional measures are proposed as part of this ordinance.

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

A future technical amendment that incidentally facilitates development or redevelopment could result in vegetation removal, disturbance of habitat, construction activity near streams or wetlands, increased lighting or human activity, or changes in stormwater runoff that could affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life. The nature and extent of any effect would depend on the location and environmental conditions of the affected area and the development subsequently proposed.

Technical amendments that only align the boundary with an existing right-of-way or linear feature, correct a mapped line without changing development potential, or encompass existing urban-serving infrastructure would be unlikely to affect plants or animals.

A technical amendment removing land from the Urban Growth Area could reduce future urban development potential and associated habitat disturbance. The proposed ordinance itself does not authorize clearing, grading, construction, or a change in use.

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

Future technical amendments would be reviewed under applicable SEPA requirements and the requirements of the Growth Management Act, the CPPs, and the King County Comprehensive Plan. Any later development would remain subject to federal, state, and local requirements protecting wetlands, streams, aquatic areas, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, and other critical areas. No additional measures are proposed as part of this ordinance.

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

A future technical amendment that incidentally facilitates development or redevelopment could increase the use of electricity, natural gas or other fuels, water, construction materials, and other natural resources. Construction could also consume fuel and raw materials. The magnitude of any increase would depend on the development ultimately permitted. Removal of land from the Urban Growth Area could reduce future urban development potential and associated resource use.

Technical amendments that only correct a mapped boundary, align it with an existing right-of-way or linear feature, or encompass existing urban-serving infrastructure would not themselves consume energy or natural resources. Because technical amendments may not be made for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth, the proposal is not expected to materially increase countywide energy or natural-resource consumption.

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

Future development would remain subject to applicable building and energy codes, water and sewer requirements, stormwater regulations, and other resource-conservation standards. The criteria limiting the process to technical amendments, together with separate review of each future amendment and any later development proposal, would reduce the potential for unintended increases in resource use. No additional measures are proposed as part of this ordinance.

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?

A future technical amendment could affect a small area that contains or is adjacent to wetlands, streams, floodplains, geologically hazardous areas, fish and wildlife habitat, parks, historic or cultural resources, agricultural lands, or other environmentally sensitive or protected areas. If the amendment changes the area's development potential or the regulations applicable to it, later development could result in clearing, grading, filling, increased impervious surface, altered drainage, disturbance, or other impacts to those resources. The potential effect would depend on the specific location and subsequent land use or development proposal.

Technical amendments that only correct a map, align the boundary with an existing feature, or encompass existing infrastructure would generally be unlikely to materially affect one of these areas. A technical amendment removing land from the Urban Growth Area could reduce future urban development potential near the sensitive area. The proposed ordinance does not change critical area, shoreline, floodplain, historic-preservation, agricultural land, or other environmental protections, which future development would be subject to.

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

Existing regulations that protect such resources would apply to development projects subject to the proposed ordinance and are not changed by the proposed ordinance. No additional measures to avoid or reduce such impacts are proposed.

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 principal potential effect of the proposed ordinance is on land use planning. A future technical amendment could change whether a small area is located inside or outside the Urban Growth Area. An area added to the Urban Growth Area could receive an urban Comprehensive Plan land use designation and zoning classification and could become eligible for urban services and development at an urban intensity. An area removed from the Urban Growth Area could receive a rural designation and zoning classification and would generally have lower development potential. Any such changes would occur through separate King County legislative action.

The proposed criteria limit the process to mapping errors or discrepancies, split buildings or parcels, alignment with an existing right-of-way or similar linear feature that the boundary currently touches, existing urban-serving infrastructure, and similar technical issues. The process may not be used for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth. Technical amendments could resolve inconsistent regulation of a single building or parcel, align planning maps with existing physical features, and clarify the planning status of existing infrastructure. A particular amendment could nevertheless incidentally increase or decrease development potential on the affected property. Shoreline use could be affected only if a future technical amendment includes land within shoreline jurisdiction; existing shoreline designations and regulations would remain applicable.

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

The proposed ordinance is intended to avoid land use impacts by limiting the process to mapping errors or discrepancies, split buildings or parcels, alignment with an existing right-of-way or similar linear feature that the boundary currently touches, existing urban-serving infrastructure, and similar technical issues. The requirement that the technical amendment process not be used for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth is also intended specifically to avoid land use impacts.

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

A future technical amendment that incidentally facilitates development or redevelopment could result in incremental increases in vehicle trips and demand for roads, transit, emergency services, schools, parks, water, sewer, stormwater facilities, solid waste services, electricity, telecommunications, or other public services and utilities. The amount of any increase would depend on the size and location of the affected area and the development subsequently permitted. If land added to the urban growth area is subsequently annexed into a city, this could change the provider of services and utilities for that land. Removal of land from the Urban Growth Area could reduce future demand for urban services.

A technical amendment aligning the boundary with an existing right-of-way or similar linear feature would not itself construct or alter a transportation facility. Likewise, a technical amendment encompassing existing urban-serving infrastructure would recognize the mapped location of an existing facility and would not, by itself, authorize its expansion or the extension of service. Encompassing urban-service infrastructure within the Urban Growth Area boundary, if followed by annexation of the land by the city it serves, could facilitate provision of services to that city.

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

The technical amendment process is limited to cases described in the answer to Question D.5., and cannot be used for the purpose of increasing housing or employment growth. These limitations are designed to avoid significant impacts on transportation, public services, and utilities.

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

The proposed ordinance is consistent with local, state, and federal law requirements for the protection of the environment. Existing regulations related to the protection of the environment, including the County's Critical Areas Code, Shoreline Master Program, King County Code (particularly development regulations such as Title 9 Surface Water Management, Title 10 Solid Waste, Title 13 Water and Sewer Systems, Title 21A Zoning, and Title 23 Code Compliance), the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and others, are not amended by the proposed ordinance. These regulations would still apply to technical amendments and future development projects subject to the proposed ordinance in unincorporated King County. If land affected by a technical amendment is later annexed by a city, state and federal law would still apply, as would the environmental and land use laws of the applicable jurisdiction.