

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:

Lower Snoqualmie River Channel Migration Study and Public Rule Amendment

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:

June, 10, 2025

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County.

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

Adoption is proposed
Q4 2025

~~The King County Council anticipates possible action on the proposed public rule amendment in Q4 2025.~~

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

It is currently anticipated that the new proposed Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) map for the Lower Snoqualmie River will be updated again in approximately 20 years. However, the map may be updated sooner if an inaccuracy is learned or if actual channel migration conditions substantively change. If the new map is adopted, King County anticipates permit applications for individual developments in the mapped area will be subject to associated CMZ regulations.

The King County Critical Areas Ordinance is proposed to be updated by the end of 2025, and contains proposed changes connected to this proposal, including the proposed addition of avoidance and minimization measures for CMZs when farm field access drives are proposed, and reducing the extent to which tree removal and grading would be allowed within CMZs.

If adopted, King County anticipates permit applications for site specific developments in the new mapped area will be subject to the proposed regulations.

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 proposal
- SEPA Checklist for PO 2024-0408, Critical Areas Ordinance update
- SEPA Checklist for Ordinance 19881, King County Comprehensive Plan update
- Draft Lower Snoqualmie River Channel Migration Study (April 2025, attached)

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

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 proposed public rule is a nonproject action, and no other applications are pending that directly affect this action. However, another nonproject action, the pending CAO update contains proposed changes connected to this proposal, including the proposed addition of avoidance and minimization measures for CMZs when farm field access drives are proposed, and reducing the extent to which tree removal and grading would be allowed within CMZs.

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

Approval by the King County Department of Local Services is the only government approval required for adoption of the proposed amendment. Individual development projects that would be subject to the proposed CMZ map and associated regulations would also be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local development regulations.

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

The proposal would update the existing King County Channel Migration Public Rule (Public Rule LUD-17-1-4-PR) to:

- Adopt the Lower Snoqualmie River Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) study and maps contained therein; and
- Add the Lower Snoqualmie River from river mile 38.4 to river mile 5.5 to the list of CMZ maps adopted by the rule.

The King County Channel Migration Public Rule designates the location of severe and moderate CMZ hazard areas, to which land use code standards are tied. This allows members of the public, permit reviewers, and other interested parties to understand where CMZs are located so that they can plan and design projects accordingly. The proposal would not change the development regulations that apply to CMZs.

The Lower Snoqualmie River CMZ study evaluated physical conditions associated with channel migration including geology, sediment, vegetation, hydrology and hydraulics, and delineated severe and moderate CMZ hazard zones following methodology outlined in Appendix A of the King County Channel Migration Public Rule. This included evaluating historical channel migration patterns and rates, utilizing Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey data, reviewing existing studies, and collecting new data from field on channel and bank conditions to identify the extent of components that make up a CMZ. The Lower Snoqualmie River CMZ maps were produced from these findings.

Land use rules that apply to property and improvements that are located within the severe channel migration hazard area are very similar to those that apply to property within a FEMA floodway. For the Lower Snoqualmie River CMZ, much of the property that is mapped within the severe CMZ had already previously been mapped within the FEMA floodway. Land use rules that apply to property within the moderate channel migration hazard area are less restrictive than those that apply to severe CMZ and FEMA floodway areas. The King County Channel Migration Public Rule directs King County to re-evaluate hazard mapping every 20 to 25 years in response to changing and dynamic conditions.

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.

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 KCC 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.

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site", the study and maps focus on the stretch of the Snoqualmie River from the base of Snoqualmie Falls at river mile 38.4 to the King-Snohomish County line at river mile 5.5. The CMZ may extend as far as 1,250 feet beyond the landward of the present banks of the river

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 proposed channel migration zone includes a portion of the Lower Snoqualmie River that begins at the 268-foot-high Snoqualmie Falls at river mile 38.4. After this, it flows through the broad, low-gradient Snoqualmie Valley. Multiple creeks drain into the river, then it crosses the King-Snohomish County line at river mile 5.5, after which it joins with the Skykomish River to form the Snohomish River and drains into Puget Sound near Everett.

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

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," slopes within the CMZ range from 0.15 percent or less within the lower Snoqualmie River to locally 100 percent or more within hillslopes adjacent to the river.

Any new development projects would be subject to existing regulations, including critical areas regulations, that would be addressed during permit review. Additionally, the proposed mapped CMZ area takes into account the effect of channel migration on slope stability and associated development limitations would apply to those areas.

- 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 amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the soils in the subject area include Holocene alluvium, Holocene landslide and mass-wasting deposits, Holocene alluvial fans, Pleistocene glacial sedimentary deposits, and Tertiary volcanic rocks.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity is an active alluvial channel migration area and thus is subject to periodic erosion, flooding, and sediment deposition. Any development subject to the proposed CMZ maps 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels would likely further reduce landslide or erosion risks.

- 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.**

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly authorize any fill, excavation, or grading, individual projects subject to the proposed CMZ maps could include fill, excavation, or grading. All such development projects would continue to be subject to existing development regulations 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could likely further reduce new fill, excavation, and/or grading.

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

Although the proposed amendment would not direct any development activities, potential erosion can result from clearing, construction or use of land for development that is subject to the public rule. The public rule does not amend existing regulations on clearing, grading, or construction that could cause erosion. For example, the King County Surface Water Design Manual and shorelines and critical areas regulations, would be unchanged by the public rule, and would continue to apply to development projects subject to the CMZ map. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could likely further reduce new clearing, construction, or use.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly authorize any construction, individual projects subject to the proposed CMZ maps could include impervious surfaces. All such development projects would continue to be subject to existing development regulations related to impervious surfaces. The public rule does not amend existing regulations on clearing, grading, or construction that could cause erosion. For example, the clearing and grading regulations would be unchanged by the public rule, and would continue to apply to development projects subject to the CMZ map. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could likely further reduce new impervious surfaces.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly authorize any construction, imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could likely further reduce new erosion caused by development.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions⁴](#)

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.

Although the proposed amendment does not authorize any development activities, potential air emissions could result from potential future ~~some~~ development that is subject to the public rule. Any such development projects would continue to be subject to existing development regulations related to air emissions. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels would also likely further reduce the extent of new development.

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

The proposed amendment 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 amendment.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action and would not have any direct impacts to air emissions, and any future 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 amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes the Lower Snoqualmie River and creeks that flow into it, including Tokul Creek at river mile 37.7, the Raging River at river mile 34.3, Patterson Creek at river mile 29.3, Griffin Creek at river mile 25.8, the Tolt River at river mile 23.8, Harris Creek at river mile 20.1, Ames Creek at river mile 16.2, and Cherry Creek at river mile 6.2. These tributaries influence channel migration processes of the lower Snoqualmie River, but the Lower Snoqualmie River CMZ maps only address the movement of the lower Snoqualmie River itself.

- 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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly require any physical work over, in, or adjacent to the described waters. State and local shoreline regulations would apply to any development subject to the proposed amendment that is within 200 feet of waters within unincorporated King County's 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development over, in, or adjacent to waters in these areas.

- 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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not authorize filling or dredging from surface water or wetlands. Individual development projects subject to the proposed amendment 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated filling and dredging in these areas.

- 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 authorize any surface water withdrawals or diversions. Individual development projects subject to the proposed ordinance would also be subject to existing regulations concerning surface water diversions and withdrawals, including those regarding in-

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>

stream flows, if applicable. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce new development and associated surface water withdrawals and diversions in these areas.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity of the Lower Snoqualmie CMZ lies within a 100-year floodplain; see attached CMZ study. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment would also be subject to King County 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 subject to 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated discharge of waste materials to surface waters in these areas.

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 amendment is a nonproject action and would not directly involve any withdrawals of groundwater or discharge to groundwater. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment that use groundwater or discharge to groundwater would be subject to all existing state, local, and federal regulations concerning groundwater removal and protection. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated groundwater withdrawals in these areas.

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.

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>

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not result in any discharge of waste material into the ground. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated discharge of waste materials in these areas.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly generate or affect water runoff. Individual development projects subject to the proposed amendment 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated runoff in these areas.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly result in any waste material entering ground or surface waters. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated waste materials in these areas.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific site or location and would not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment would also be subject to existing drainage regulations, which are unchanged by the subject amendment. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated drainage in these areas.

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

The proposed amendment 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 amendment. No additional measures to reduce or control any potential surface, ground, and runoff water and drainage pattern impacts are proposed under this amendment. Individual development proposals may be required to provide these measures. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated run-off and drainage in these areas.

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 amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes a variety of vegetation types on the various lands that development projects subject to the proposed amendment would apply to, including those listed above.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly remove any vegetation, the development of individual development projects subject to the proposed amendment could include the removal or alteration of vegetation. Such development projects would be subject to existing state and local regulations that regulate vegetation removal or alteration, in the same manner as other uses. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated vegetation removal or alteration in these areas.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site." However, 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 is known to be in eastern King County; none of these other plant species are known to be located in King County.

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

Although, the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation could be proposed for individual developments. As with any development in unincorporated King County, development projects subject to the proposed

ordinance would be subject to existing 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 proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "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 flower 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, Purple starthistle, Reed sweetgrass, Ricefield bulrush, Rush broom, Clary sage, Mediterranean sage, Silverleaf nightshade, Small-flowered jewelweed, Smooth frogbit, Syrian bean-caper, Texas blueweed, Ashen thistle, Milk thistle, Shore thistle, Slenderflower thistle, Carduus tenuiflorus, 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, European coltsfoot, Fanwort, Gorse, Grass-leaved arrowhead, Hairy willowherb, Hawkweeds (all non-native species and hybrids of the meadow subgenus), European hawkweed, Orange hawkweed, Hawkweed oxtongue, Hoary alyssum, Houndstongue, Indigobush, Black knapweed, Brown knapweed, Diffuse knapweed, Meadow knapweed, Russian 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, Musk thistle, Plumeless thistle, Scotch Thistle, Tocalote, Velvetleaf, Water primrose, White bryony, Wild basil, Wild chervil, Yellow floating heart, and Yellow nutsedge.

5. Animals

Find help answering animal questions⁸

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.

- **Birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: geese, ducks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: squirrel, rabbit
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the Lower Snoqualmie River vicinity includes a variety of birds, mammals, and fish as shown above.

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

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>

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 include 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.

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. The Snoqualmie River serves as migration routes for anadromous fish. 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 amendment is a nonproject action and would not have any direct impacts to wildlife, so no measures to preserve or enhance wildlife are necessary. Any development projects that would be subject to proposed amendment would also be subject to existing federal, state, and local wildlife regulations. The proposed amendment could likely further reduce development and associated impacts in the area subject to the public rule. Reduced impacts would include those wildlife, and could include: less disruption to animals from human activity; less habitat destruction; less disruption to floodplain connectivity, and less pollution from higher-intensity land uses associated with development.

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

Although the proposed ordinance is a nonproject action with no specific site or location, numerous invasive animal species are known to exist in unincorporated King County. Invasive species may be located on a development project site that could be subject to the proposed ordinance.

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, Nutria, Tunicate, European Starling, House Sparrow, Eastern gray squirrel, and Fox squirrel.

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

- 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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not have direct energy needs, development projects subject to the proposed amendment may require electricity. Any such development project would be subject to existing energy codes and regulations. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated energy needs in these areas.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to the use of solar energy, development allowed under the CMZ regulations are also unlikely to affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties, as the extent of development is likely to be reduced.

- 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 amendment a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to energy use, and therefore no energy conservation features are included. Development projects subject to the proposed ordinance could include energy conservation features or other measures to reduce any energy impacts. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated energy impacts in these areas.

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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly cause any environmental health hazards, it is not anticipated that proposed development projects subject to the proposed CMZ maps would 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.

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

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>

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>

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," there are no contaminated sites on the parcels affected by the CMZ map, according to the Washington Department of Ecology's "What's in My Neighborhood" database.

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.

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," there are no known existing hazardous chemicals or conditions on the parcels affected by the CMZ map.

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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not include the storage, use, or production of any toxic or hazardous chemicals, development projects subject to the proposed amendment 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. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated toxic or hazardous chemicals in these areas.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts, but would likely have the effect of avoiding and minimizing development within the Lower Snoqualmie CMZ. Reduced development would in turn be likely to reduce the need for any additional special emergency services.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impact on the environment nor create environmental health hazards. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also likely further reduce the extent of new development and associated environmental health hazards in these areas. No additional 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)?

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," various types of noise exist in the vicinity where the proposed ordinance could apply, including noise from traffic, operation of equipment, and more. Because the vicinity generally includes only sparse, rural residential development existing noise sources are anticipated to be minimal and are not anticipated to affect implementation of the proposed amendment.

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 amendment 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 amendment 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.

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes primarily agricultural uses, with portions including urban residential (within the cities of Duvall and Carnation) and rural residential uses. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels would not affect existing agricultural activities, but it could reduce the extent of allowed residential development in these areas; this varies on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

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?

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the parcels within the mapped CMZ largely fall within the Snoqualmie River APD, which contains working farmlands. No agricultural land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses under this proposal, and the mapping of the CMZ and application of CMZ code would not restrict agricultural uses. Under existing code, agricultural activities are allowed to continue within severe CMZ. This is consistent with the County's policy to preserving farmland and supporting viable agricultural uses in rural areas.

1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," it is not anticipated that the amendment would affect or be affected by the normal business operations of surrounding working farmland or forestland.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes rural residential single-family dwelling units, agriculture-related structures, resort-related structures, and accessory structures.

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

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

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>

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes A-10 (Agricultural, 10 acre minimum lot size), A-35 (Agricultural, 35 acre minimum lot size), RA-10 (Rural Area, 10-acre minimum lot size), and UR (Urban Reserve) zoned lands.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes lands designated as ra (rural area), ag (agriculture), and os (greenbelt/urban separator) in the King County Comprehensive Plan. It also includes lands within the City of Duvall that are designated as Parks and Open Space, and the City of Carnation that are designated as PR (Parks) and HC (Horticultural Commercial).

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes lands designated as Resource Shoreline, Natural Shoreline, Conservancy Shoreline, and Rural Shoreline in the Shoreline Master Program.

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes critical areas, including aquatic areas, flood hazard areas, geologically hazardous areas, and wetlands.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly result in a completed project where people would reside or work. Individual development projects that are subject to the proposed amendment would have employees or residents, or both. 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.

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

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

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

Because the proposal is not anticipated to affect the likelihood of displacement under the King County Code, no measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts are proposed.

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

The proposed amendment was drafted to be compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans.

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

The proposed amendment 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.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action that will not have direct impacts to housing, the development of a project that would be subject to the proposed amend would not result in any additional units of housing above what might occur under existing code. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could also further reduce the extent of new housing development in these areas.

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

Neither the proposed amendment itself or the development allowed under the amendment would result in direct elimination of existing housing. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could further reduce new housing development in these areas than what would be allowed without the amendment; the impact is anticipated to be minimal given that housing development in the vicinity is already limited by flood regulations.

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

No measures to reduce or control housing impacts are proposed.

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 amendment 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 subject to the proposed amendment will be subject to existing regulations.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to views. Any development projects subject to the proposed amendment would not result in the alteration or obstruction of any views to a greater degree than any other development allowed under existing regulations.

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

The proposed amendment 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.

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>

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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly cause any light or glare and any development allowed under the amendment would not produce any light or glare beyond other development allowed under existing regulations. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could further reduce development and associated light and glare in these areas.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts that could cause light or glare. Any development projects subject to the proposed amendment would have to comply with existing development regulations, including any related to light and glare. Imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could further reduce development and associated light and glare in these areas.

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

The proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific site or location. Various off-site sources of light or glare exist throughout unincorporated King County and adjacent unincorporated Snohomish County. It is unlikely that any development projects subject to the proposed amendment would be impacted by any off-site sources.

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

The proposed amendment 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?

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity includes parks and natural areas such as Fall City Park, Fall City Natural Area, Carnation Marsh Natural Area, Tolt River - John MacDonald Park, and Chinook Bend Natural Area. Potential recreational opportunities in these spaces and adjoining public areas include in-channel river recreation, running, fishing, and bird watching.

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

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

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

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>

The proposed amendment 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](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)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 amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site." A variety of buildings, structures and sites within unincorporated 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 that are subject to the proposed amendment. 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 amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site." Historic resources located within the vicinity affected by the proposed public rule amendment include Stossel Bridge, which provides a crossing over NE Carnation Farm Road and two heritage barns (Platt Barn and Zylstra Farm).

- 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 amendment is a nonproject action that will not have any direct impacts to historic and cultural resources. King County's existing regulations related to cultural and historic resources would apply to any proposed development projects subject to the proposed amendment. 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 following tribes are notified during the County's SEPA process for proposed development projects: Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Samish, Snoqualmie, Squaxin, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, and Tulalip. The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's WISAARD database was used to identify cultural and historic resources in the vicinity.

- 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 amendment 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 subject to the proposed amendment.

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>

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.**

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity roughly parallels SR 203, with access provided by bridge crossings at NE Woodinville Duvall Rd, NE 124th St, NE Carnation Farm Rd, NE Tolt Hill Rd, and where SR 203 crosses the Snoqualmie River.

- 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?**

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity is served by the 224 bus, which runs between the cities of Redmond and Duvall and by routes operated by Snoqualmie Valley Transportation.

- 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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly involve any roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian improvements and, when applied to individual development projects, is not anticipated to affect any required or proposed improvements to existing roads, streets, or pedestrian or bicycle 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 amendment a nonproject action that would not have any direct impacts to transportation facilities. However, individual development projects subject to the proposed amendment may use or occur proximal to water, rail and air 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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly generate any vehicular trips. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment would likely generate vehicular trips, though the volume of those vehicle trips is unlikely to be greater as a result of implementing the proposed amendment.

- 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 nonproject action would not have any direct impact on the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets on the area, individual development projects subject to the amendment could generate some additional traffic that could interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of forest products.

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>

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

The proposed amendment 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 subject to the proposed amendment 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 amendment is a nonproject action that would not directly result in an increased need for public services. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment would need public services to be available at a similar level to what is currently required in the affected zones.

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

The proposed amendment 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.

16. Utilities [Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

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

Although the proposed amendment is a nonproject action with no specific "site," the vicinity the residences in the vicinity generally rely on propane for heating, have on-site septic systems, electricity and telephone utilities, and some private water systems from group wells for some of the drinking water.

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 amendment 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. Development projects subject to the proposed amendment would require some connection to the electrical grid, onsite power generation, septic systems, and wells.


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>

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>

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.

X 

Type name of signee: Robin Proebsting

Position and agency/organization: Code Writer, King County Dept. of Local Services

Date submitted:

D.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 amendment is unlikely to increase the discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. Many of these are already restricted under the existing flood hazard mapping and related regulations. In addition, imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could likely further reduce development and associated impacts in these areas.

• Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Existing regulations that aim to avoid or reduce increased discharges to water, emissions to air and the production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances, and to limit noise would also apply to

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

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

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.

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

There are numerous plants, animals, fish, and marine life in the vicinity, but the proposed amendment is unlikely to result in activities that would cause a greater impact to these resources than might otherwise occur under the current code because the regulations protecting those resources are not changed by the proposed amendment. In addition, imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could likely further reduce development and associated impacts in these areas. Reduced impacts would include those to plants, animals, fish, and marine life, and could include: reduced clearing and grading for new development and supporting infrastructure; less disruption to animals from human activity; less habitat destruction; less disruption to floodplain connectivity, and less pollution from higher-intensity land uses associated with development flowing into aquatic areas and downstream marine water bodies.

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

Existing regulations that protect and conserve plants, animals, fish, and marine life would apply to development projects subject to the proposed amendment and are not changed by the proposed amendment, including the County's Shoreline and Critical Areas Code. No additional measures to avoid or reduce such impacts are proposed.

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

The proposed amendment is unlikely to result in activities that would cause a greater depletion of energy or natural resource than might otherwise occur under the current code. In addition, imposition of the CMZ regulations on these newly mapped parcels could likely further reduce development and associated impacts in these areas.

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

Existing regulations that protect and conserve energy and natural resources would apply to development projects subject to the proposed amendment. No additional measures to avoid or reduce such impacts are proposed.

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?

The proposed amendment is unlikely to result in activities that would cause a greater impact to environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated as eligible or under study for governmental protection than might otherwise occur under the existing code, because the adoption of the proposed public rule would expand the geography in which the standards in K.C.C. 21A.24.275 would apply. The standards that would now apply to the Lower Snoqualmie CMZ include:

- Applying aquatic area buffer standards in K.C.C. 21A.24.365;
- Restricting allowed alterations only to those listed in 21A.24.045;
- Allowing only maintenance, repair, or expansion of uses and structures if the structure is not expanded toward the source of the channel migration hazard, with limited exception;

- Requiring avoidance and minimization of impacts when new primary dwelling units, accessory dwelling units or accessory living quarters, and required infrastructure are proposed;
- Limiting new primary dwelling units, accessory dwelling units or accessory living quarters, and required infrastructure to lots in existence on or before February 16, 1995;
- Requiring avoidance and minimization of impacts when new accessory structures are proposed;
- Allowing subdivision only in a portion of a moderate channel migration hazard area located outside an aquatic area buffer if there is 5,000 square feet or more of buildable area outside the moderate channel migration hazard area and access and supporting infrastructure are outside the moderate channel migration hazard area, with limited exceptions;

This would have the effect of reducing the extent of development allowed in the CMZ, compared with existing standards, thereby generally reducing the impact to environmentally sensitive areas and areas designated for governmental protection.

One exception would be the impact to prime farmlands, whose use does not necessitate the construction of new structures like the one regulated under K.C.C. 21A.24.275. Prime farmlands would continue to exist and could be utilized as they are currently after adoption of the proposed public rule. The potential impact to prime farmlands would be channel migration, but the avoidance and minimization measures that would apply with adoption of the public rule would not have any effect on channel migration itself. For prime farmland, there would likely be no effect of adoption of the proposed public rule.

- **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 amendment, and are not changed by the proposed amendment. 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?

By adding new properties that are subject to CMZ standards, due to the provision in 21A.24.275 that states only CMZ that have been mapped and adopted by public rule, the proposal might affect land and shoreline use by limiting the extent of new development with the newly mapped CMZ. Critical area standards that would now apply to the Lower Snoqualmie CMZ include:

- Applying aquatic area buffer standards in K.C.C. 21A.24.365;
- Restricting allowed alterations only to those listed in 21A.24.045;
- Allowing only maintenance, repair, or expansion of uses and structures if the structure is not expanded toward the source of the channel migration hazard, with limited exception;
- Requiring avoidance and minimization of impacts when new primary dwelling units, accessory dwelling units or accessory living quarters, and required infrastructure are proposed;
- Limiting new primary dwelling units, accessory dwelling units or accessory living quarters, and required infrastructure to lots in existence on or before February 16, 1995;
- Requiring avoidance and minimization of impacts when new accessory structures are proposed;

- Allowing subdivision only in a portion of a moderate channel migration hazard area located outside an aquatic area buffer if there is 5,000 square feet or more of buildable area outside the moderate channel migration hazard area and access and supporting infrastructure are outside the moderate channel migration hazard area, with limited exceptions;

This would have the effect of reducing the extent of development allowed in the CMZ, compared with existing standards, thereby reducing the number of buildings and infrastructure that would otherwise be at risk of damage or destruction from the potential movements of the Lower Snoqualmie River due to channel migration. The proposal is unlikely to encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans, because limited development is likely to be more compatible with surrounding land uses, which are predominantly agriculture and rural residential development.

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

The public rule would apply CAO and shoreline codes that avoid and minimize impacts to the Lower Snoqualmie CMZ, increasing these protections to a new, larger geography. The effect of the public rule adoption would be to reduce development and impacts compared with what would have occurred under existing rules and regulations. As the proposed change is aimed at avoiding and reducing impacts to shorelines and land use, no additional measures to avoid or reduce such impacts are proposed beyond the intended purpose of the public rule.

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

The amendment is not anticipated to result in activities that would cause a greater demand on public services than what otherwise might occur under existing regulations.

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

As the proposed amendment does not alter, and is not anticipated to affect, demands on transportation or public services and utilities, no measures to avoid or reduce impacts are proposed.

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 amendment is consistent with and implements 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 amendment. These regulations would still apply to development projects subject to the proposed amendment.