

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will 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.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

La Center Comprehensive Plan 2016 Update

2. Name of applicant: City of La Center

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

Jeff Sarvis, Public Works Director

City of La Center

305 NW Pacific Highway

La Center, WA 98629

Phone: (360) 263-7665; jsarvis@ci.lacenter.wa.us

4. Date checklist prepared: February 25, 2016

5. Agency requesting checklist: City of La Center

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

If approved by the La Center City Council on March 23, 2016, the changes to the Comprehensive Plan will become effective after adoption by the Clark County Board of Councilors, approximately June 30, 2016. The Comprehensive Plan is effective through 2035 and may be amended on an annual basis.

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

No, as this is a non-project action.

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

- Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Clark County 2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update (dated August 2015, final SEIS pending).

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

There are no other known proposals pending for the property covered by this proposal.

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

Clark Board of County Councilors will review and adopt the La Center Comprehensive Plan. No governmental permits are required.

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 La Center 2016 Comprehensive Plan (Plan) outlines long-term land-use planning goals and policies that are consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A et seq. The Plan implements GMA requirements regarding minimum housing density, concurrency of public facilities and services, mechanisms for enhancing affordable housing opportunities, and more. The Plan applies to lands within the La Center Urban Growth Area (UGA) and city limits.

The last major update to the Comprehensive Plan was in 2007. The 2016 Plan complies with RCW 36.70A.130 and extends the planning horizon through 2035.

Components included in the Plan include:

- Background data, future direction and policies for the land use, housing, economic development, transportation, public facilities, historic preservation, environment, parks, annexation, and public involvement elements.
- 2035 population forecast of 9,274
- Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning Map
- Capital Facilities Plan element including:
 - General Facilities
 - Water
 - Sewer
 - Streets
 - Parks

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 location of the proposal is the La Center UGA and corporate limits, approximately 4.153 square miles (180,908 acres).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

The City of La Center is located on the banks of the East Fork of the Lewis River. The portion of the city located near I-5 is relatively flat and slopes upward to the north.

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

The steepest slopes within the City's UGA exceed 25% in the northeast. The elevation ranges from about 20 feet near the East Fork to over 1,200 feet in the hills north and east of town.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The general types of soils in the UGA include: soils in the lowlands belong to the Caples-Clato-Newburg association and were formed from alluvial sediments of the Lewis and Columbia rivers. In the hillsides adjacent to the city the soils belong to the Kelso-Minneice-Kalama associations. The Caples-Clato-Newburg soils are prime farmland.

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

Yes. The steep hills at the north are unstable in areas and the city regulates development on steep slopes.

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

This is not a project-specific proposal. The amendments to the Plan will not change the amount of filling and grading activity occurring within the UGA.

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

This is not a project-specific proposal. The city development regulations and engineering standards regulate fill and grading activity during time of development and construction review.

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

This is not a project-specific proposal. Amount of impervious surface allowed under the new land use designations and zones will not increase relative to previous designations.

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

This is not a project-specific proposal. The city zoning, development regulations, and engineering standards regulate fill and grading activity during time of development and construction review. The Critical Area code regulates development of steep slopes. The Plan requires compliance with the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit requirements.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

This is not a project-specific proposal. The Southwest Clean Air Agency monitors air quality in the region. Generally the development forecast in the Plan over the next 20 years will result in increased automobile trips associated with new development and potential industrial emissions associated with industrial development, but specific quantities are not known.

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

This is not a project-specific proposal. Background traffic on Interstate 5 is a potential off-site source of emissions and odor, but it is outside the scope and jurisdiction of the RUACP.

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

This is not a project-specific proposal. The Plan does not expand the La Center Growth Boundary and all development will be contained therein. The Plan provides for compact development, including medium density housing to reduce auto trips.

3. Water

a. Surface:

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

The Lewis River, which flows into the Columbia River, is the major water body in La Center. Horseshoe Lake is the largest lake in the UGA. Surface water bodies and streams are mapped and wetland locations are forecasted.

- 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 Plan does not intensify development activity within the shoreline of the Lewis River beyond what the city planned for in 2005. Resulting development will not occur over the described 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.

No additional fill and dredge materials will result from this proposal because the Plan area and intensities do not change.

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

Amendments to the 2005 Plan will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

Yes. Portions of the city lying within the Lewis River floodplain and are mapped on the Critical Areas Maps and FEMA maps.

- 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.

No. Proposed changes to the Plan will not involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No. Proposed changes to the Plan will not involve any withdrawal of or discharge to groundwater.

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

New development within the UGA is required to connect to the public sewer system at time of development or when public sewer becomes available. The city is the sewer provider. New septic systems are prohibited in most of the UGA, and are only allowed temporarily in other parts of the UGA until public sewer is extended. No increase in discharge of waste materials is anticipated under the proposed changes to the Plan.

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.

Development within the UGA will generally increase the amount of impervious surface and the total stormwater generation. Amendments to the Plan do not expand the UGA or increase development forecasts beyond the level in the 2005 Plan. Stormwater flows towards the Lewis River.

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

All development within the UGA must be designed and constructed to prevent waste materials from entering ground or surface waters. Waste materials could enter ground or surface waters by accident rather than design. Waste materials might include, soil, oils and heavy metals, chemicals, pesticides and herbicides and similar pollutants.

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

No additional measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts are proposed as part of these changes to the Plan.

4. Plants

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

X_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

X_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X_____ shrubs

X_____ grass

X_____ pasture

X_____ crop or grain

X_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

X_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

X_____ other types of vegetation

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

This is a non-project action. Changes to the Plan will not significantly change the amount of vegetation affected relative to the previous plan. Vegetation within critical areas will only be removed or altered in conformance with Critical Areas Protection regulations.

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

Oregon White Oak

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

Any potential impacts to plant species protected under the Endangered Species Act will require consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Vegetation in critical areas, including Critical Habitat Areas, wetlands, and riparian corridors is regulated by the city's Critical Areas ordinance.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: falcon, crane, owl, woodpecker

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

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

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

Columbian white-tailed deer, Sandhill crane, Purple martin, Western pond turtle, Coastal cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout, Coho salmon, Steelhead salmon, Chinook salmon, and Chum salmon are known to be on or near the La Center UGA.

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

The UGA is within the general area of the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds.

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

The Critical Areas ordinance requires identification and preservation of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas based on Best Available Science.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

This is a non-project action. Development resulting from the proposed changes to the Plan will not create additional demand for energy use. The location of private utilities is provided by the private service provider. City policies require coordination of private & public facilities with development.

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

This is a non-project action. Future development within the UGA will be governed by the height limits and setbacks required for each zone.

- 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:

No additional energy conservation measures are included in the proposed changes to the Plan. Generally, comprehensive planning will promote more compact development which may reduce energy transmission costs and impacts by centralizing infrastructure.

7. Environmental health

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

No, as this is a nonproject action.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The capital facilities chapter of the Plan anticipates the demand for emergency services. The La Center Police Department and Clark County Fire & Rescue are the local emergency service providers.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

No new measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards are proposed as part of this revision to the Plan.

b. Noise

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

This is a non-project action. Typical noises include traffic, construction, railroad activity, industrial uses, school playgrounds and more.

- 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.

There are no specific types or levels of noise anticipated with the changes to the Plan. This is a non-project action.

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

All development in the UGA must comply with the maximum environmental noise levels in WAC Chapter 173-60.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

This is a non-project action. All levels of urban uses are found within the La Center UGA: residential, commercial, industrial, mixed use, public facilities, schools and parks/open spaces.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Yes. Areas of the UGA were originally in agricultural use and some areas on the western edge of the UGA are used for agriculture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are a variety of structures across the UGA, from residential homes to industrial buildings to public facilities.

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

No. This is not a project-specific proposal.

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

The current zoning districts within the La Center include: LDR -6, LDR-7.2, LDR-8.5, and LDR-10; C1, C2, C3 and MX; L1, I2, FW and PQPI.

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

The current comprehensive plan designations include: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Public Facilities/Open Space.

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

SMP designations within La Center include Aquatic, Urban Conservancy and High Intensity.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Yes. Critical Areas include Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Fish and Wildlife Habit Conservation areas, Frequently Flooded areas, Hazardous and Steep Slopes, Wetlands, and shorelands.

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

The forecasted 2035 population 9,274 and 2035 employment is forecasted at 5,492 jobs.

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

None.

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

Implementation of the Plan will help generate 1,287 new housing units.

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

The Plan establishes a range of residential, commercial, employment, mixed use, and public zones throughout the UGA with the intention of avoiding conflicts between adjacent land uses.

9. Housing

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

By 2036 the city may have 3,325 housing units. The Plan anticipates 673 new high density units and 619 new low density units will be built during the planning period.

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

None.

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

The Plan provides for future housing options including low density, high density and mixed use housing zoning districts.

10. Aesthetics

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

This is a non-project action. No structures are proposed at this time.

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

In general, the views throughout the UGA could be altered or obscured by new development.

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

There will not be any specific aesthetic impacts stemming from the Plan directly. Future development will have to comply with the height and design standards in the Municipal Code.

11. Light and glare

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

This is a non-project action. Future development will produce some light associated with building interior and exterior lighting, street lighting, signs and other sources.

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

This is a non-project action. There are no specific light or glare impacts created by this project.

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

This is a non-project action. There are no significant off-site sources of light or glare that may affect implementation of the Plan.

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

Future development must comply with local development and engineering standards relating to light sources.

12. Recreation

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

There are multiple municipal parks and trails within the city including Horseshoe Lake, Hoffman, Eagle and Bjur parks as well as the Lewis River and school facilities.

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

No. This is a non-project action and the Plan anticipates development of new park and trail facilities.

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

The Plan includes a Parks element, Chapter 7. The city adopted a new parks and recreation plan in 2015 which detail plans for future parks, trails, and open space development to serve the projected population.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

The Hulda Klager House and gardens are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Plan identifies several properties which may be eligible for listing.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Much of the UGA has been identified as having a high probability for archaeological artifacts.

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

Chapter 2, Land Use of the Plan addresses historic preservation. The City will continue to participate in the national, state and county historical preservation programs.

14. **Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

This is a non-project action. The UGA spans both sides of Interstate 5. The Transportation element of the Plan provides a streets and roads element that identifies the existing and proposed street system.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

La Center is served by Lower Columbia CAP Rural Public Transit.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

This is a non-project action. Future development is responsible for providing site specific parking.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

This is a non-project action. Chapter six (6), Transportation identifies current and planned roadways and necessary capital improvements.

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

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe main line runs through La Center. A WSDOT single landing strip airport is east of I-5.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

This is a non-project action. IT does not generate any trips, per se.

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

The Transportation Chapter identifies needed transportation improvements to serve the 20-year growth period. The Plan provides transportation concurrency policies to ensure future development is adequately served by transportation infrastructure.

15. **Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

This is a non-project action and will not generate an increased need for public services. Generally, future development will require additional schools and emergency services.

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

The Capital Facilities element of the Plan identifies future public services related to development.

16. **Utilities**

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

Utility services are available within the city and will be provided at time of development review.

- 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 Capital Facilities chapter identifies utility service providers for electricity, natural gas, refuse service, and telephone service, to be provided by private services.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.



Signature:

Eric Eisemann, E² Land Use Planning Services, LLC

Date Submitted: February 11, 2016

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT 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 La Center Comprehensive Plan will guide comprehensive land use planning through 2035. The proposed changes to the Plan will not produce additional impacts to air, water and noise because the revised plan anticipates a moderate of growth and does not expand the current UGA. Development within the UGA may, over time, increase discharge to water, emissions to air, production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances, or production of noise relative to pre-development conditions.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Future development will be subject to review and must meet adopted zoning and development regulations and well as applicable engineering Standards, state regulations, and project-specific SEPA review when required.

Water: Stormwater generated by development will be managed consistently with the city's engineering standards to collect, detain and treat runoff. The city will continue to update their stormwater design standards throughout the life of the Plan to incorporate evolving best practices.

Air: Compact urban growth including high density housing opportunities and mixed use development will reduce air quality impacts by reducing vehicle travel miles. All development, particularly industrial development, is required to comply with federal and state standards established for ambient air quality, emissions and pollutants. The subject area is subject to the Washington Clean Air Act, RCW 70.94.

Toxic or hazardous substances: The City has adopted the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) to regulate the use and cleanup of any toxic materials.

Noise: All development in the UGA must comply with the maximum environmental noise levels in WAC Chapter 173-60.

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

Adoption of the Plan will not affect plants, animals, fish or marine life differently because it the Plan does not allow for a greater amount or intensity of development as compared to the 2005 Plan.

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

All future development will be required to comply with Critical Area regulations, which identify and protect Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Fish and Wildlife Habit Conservation areas, Frequently Flooded areas, Hazardous and Steep Slopes and Wetlands throughout the UGA to ensure no net loss of ecological function. The City has also adopted the 2012 Shoreline Management Program that protects ecological functions of shorelands.

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

Future development will require additional energy and natural resources to meet the needs of a growing population, to provide homes, jobs and associated development. New development will consume raw materials such as lumber and concrete and will require additional energy to power homes and businesses and to fuel transportation within the City.

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

Critical Areas regulations, based on Best Available Science protect natural resources within the UGA. The Plan includes provisions for mixed-use development that combines work, live, and retail opportunities in the same geographic area to reduce demand for transportation between uses.

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?

There are no known future environmentally sensitive areas within the UGA currently under study for governmental protection.

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

Environmentally sensitive areas: Implement and update the city's Critical Areas ordinance to ensure no net loss of ecological functions results from development. Continue to update mapping system to more accurately predict and delineate critical areas. Monitor development activity to calculate whether the ordinance adequately protects Critical Areas. Implement the city's new Shoreline Master Program.

Parks and wilderness: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies existing and proposed park sites. The city will work with developers to acquire the planned parks and trails facilities through purchase or dedication of property.

Rivers: There are no wild and scenic rivers in Ridgefield.

Species habitat: Critical habitat areas are identified on local and state mapping tools. City regulations onsite evaluation of existing habitat resources and protection of habitat resources to ensure no net loss of ecological functions results from development.

Historic or cultural sites: The city participates in national, state and local historic preservation programs to protect historic sites. The city requires archaeological predetermination for sites with a high probability of archaeological remains through the development process, and fully complies with RCW 27.53.060 to protect any resources discovered during development.

Wetlands: Critical habitat areas are identified on local and state mapping tools. City regulations onsite evaluation of existing habitat resources and protection of habitat resources to ensure no net loss of ecological functions results from development.

Floodplains: The city has partnered with FEMA to update its floodplain maps and regulations. Local regulations govern development within floodplains to avoid or reduce impacts associated with flooding.

Prime farmlands: The city did not expand the UGA; therefore, the city will not convert prime farmland into urban use.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The proposed changes to the Plan are consistent with the city's recently adopted Shoreline Master Program. Overall land uses within the UGA will mirror projected development forecast in the 2005 Plan.

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

The Plan adopts and requires implementation of the La Center Shoreline Master Program.

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

Development over the 20-year planning horizon will increase demand for transportation, public services and utilities, however, overall demand in this plan is not anticipated to be significantly greater than the demand planned for in the 2005 Plan.

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

Transportation: Concurrency provisions prohibit the approval of any land use application if approval of the proposal will cause the LOS on a transportation facility to fall below the LOS identified in the Transportation element of the Plan.

Public services: The Plan identifies needed public services and forecasts improvements as growth occurs.

Utilities: The Capital Facilities element identifies future utility need related to anticipated development. The CFPs for water and sewer also identify future needs and projected facilities to meet those needs. Private providers will provide electricity, natural gas, refuse service, and telephone service on demand.

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

The Plan implements state mandates for growth management, shorelines, critical areas, essential public facilities, airports, clean air, flood management, endangered species, toxics, public health and fitness, and more. There are no known conflicts between the La Center Comprehensive Plan and state or federal law.