

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-

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

projects) questions in “Part B: Environmental Elements” that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions²](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

City of Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated amendments to Mercer Island City Code (MICC).

2. Name of applicant:

City of Mercer Island Planning & Community Development Department

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

City of Mercer Island
Planning & Community Development Department
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040
Contact: Alison Van Gorp, Deputy Director
Phone: (206) 275-7733
Email: alison.vangorp@mercerisland.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 14, 2026

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Mercer Island

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

Initial City Council and Planning Commission review took place between January and May 2026. The Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for June 3, 2026, followed by City Council review and eventual adoption no later than July 31, 2026.

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

No, any additions to the Comprehensive Plan, Station Subarea Plan, and Unified Land Development Code will be evaluated as a separate proposal. The Station Subarea Plan includes a Phase 2 that will involve potential development code amendments. All specific development code amendments associated with Phase 2 of the Station Subarea Plan that are not addressed in this checklist will be subject to SEPA review prior to the City taking an action.

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

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

The City is not aware of any environmental information that will be prepared as part of this proposal. However, the City of Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies focused on protecting the environment as the City grows between 2024-2044. Those are being reviewed and updated to implement the Growth Management Act (GMA), PSRC Vision 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs), and King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).

In addition, the City has adopted a compliant Critical Areas Ordinance, Shoreline Master Program, and stormwater regulations in compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. The City also has regulations and processes to address project impacts to utilities, public services, transportation, historic and cultural resource preservation, light and glare associated with project, parks and open space, design standards, housing and displacement, noise, and other environmental health impacts.

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.

None. This is a Non-project action. Future projects, including both project and non-project actions will be reviewed and evaluated separately for consistency with local, state, and federal regulations.

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

- Mercer Island City Council adoption.
- Plan certification through Puget Sound Regional Council.
- Order from the Growth Management Hearings Board regarding Case # 25-3-0003.

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 is a non-project action to amend Mercer Island's Comprehensive Plan and implementing development regulations consistent with the requirements in RCW 36.70A.130 and to satisfy Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) Order # 25-3-0003. This proposal includes a new Station Subarea Plan and modifications to the City of Mercer Island Land Use and Zoning maps as described below.

The planning period for this update is 2024-2044 and will include providing capacity to accommodate the City's growth target of 1,239 new housing units and 1,300 new jobs during the planning period.

The proposal also includes the creation of the following:

- The creation of a new Station Subarea Plan. This non-project proposal, no specific development conditions are presented. By establishing a station subarea within a ½-mile watershed of the Mercer Island Link Light Rail Station and associated goals, policies, and actions, this Station Subarea Plan guides walkable, climate-friendly

transit-oriented development in Mercer Island’s urban center and adjacent neighborhoods.

- Amending the background materials, goals, and policies in the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan related to Town Center and the Station Area Plan. Impacted elements include Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Transportation, Capital Facilities, and Utilities.
- Increasing maximum building height in the Town Center zone (TC-8) to 8 stories and Town Center Multifamily zone (TCMF-6) to 6 stories to accommodate the 2044 housing growth targets and housing need by income level in King County Countywide Planning Policies. These changes support the 2026 Land Capacity Analysis in Appendix G of the Comprehensive Plan.

This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. No disturbances to resources will directly result from adoption of the Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, or Mercer Island City Code amendments. Future development will be evaluated separately from this non-project proposal.

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 proposal would amend the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Mercer Island, affecting the entire island. The Station Area Plan included in this proposal applies to a ½-mile walkshed around the Mercer Island Light Rail Station (approximately 314 acres on the north side of the island). All proposed amendments are non-project in nature.

The City of Mercer Island is located within King County in the southern half of Lake Washington. Mercer Island is closest to the City of Seattle and City of Bellevue. Interstate-90 (I-90) runs through the City. The City of Mercer Island’s Land Use Map illustrates the island’s municipal boundaries which are contiguous with the Lake Washington shoreline.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions³](https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth)

a. General description of the site:

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

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

The proposal is a non-project proposal and does not recommend project action on a specific site.

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

This is a non-project proposal and does not recommend project action on a specific site. The proposed updates address the entire island. A variety of slopes are found throughout the island. Steep slopes occur predominantly on the perimeter of the island, with many of the steep slopes found along the sidewalls of ravines. The steepest slope within the City of Mercer Island is approximately 60 percent.

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.

This is a non-project proposal. Although the proposal does not recommend project action on a specific site, future development under these updates could occur throughout the entire island. There are several soil series found on the island. The Alderwood Series is moderately to well drained. Alderwood soils on the island are located around the upper edge of the narrow plateau. Also along this edge is an area of combination of the Alderwood Series gravelly sandy loam and the Kitsap Series silt loam. Soils of Arents, Alderwood Series have properties similar to those of the Alderwood Series, but are not classified as Alderwood because the soils have been disturbed through urbanization. These soils are located on the plateau and in the area of First Hill in the northwest corner of the island. The Bellingham Series is characterized by poorly drained soils. "This soil type is found in one small portion of the Town Center. The Everett-Alderwood Series is found at the southern end of the narrow plateau. The Kitsap Series consists of moderately well drained soils. These soils are found along the shoreline of the island in the valley that separates First Hill from the narrow plateau. The Puget Series is located north of Interstate 90 near the shoreline. The Seattle Series consists of very poorly drained organic soils and is found in one location along the shoreline just north of Interstate 90. The soil classification "Ur" stands for Urban Land. This soil type is located in the northeastern corner of the island.

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

This is a non-project proposal and does not recommend project action on a specific site. The proposed updates would affect future development in areas that include a wide variety of slopes, including steep slopes. Critical Lands regulations contained in Chapter 19.07 MICC provide additional restrictions and protections related to unstable soils to protect life, health, safety, property, and the environment. All project actions are required to meet the requirements of Mercer Island City Code.

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.

Filling and grading estimates are unknown. However, it is anticipated that most development in the city will be redevelopment within the Urban Center and therefore the need to fill, grade, and bring in fill will be limited. No filling or grading is expected as a direct result of this action. Development proposals emerging after the adoption of this proposal would be evaluated relative to federal, state, and local regulations and standards on an individual project-specific basis.

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

No erosion would result from the adoption of the proposal. Future development proposals will be evaluated and subject to the federal, state, and local regulations and standards, as well evaluated for consistency with the goals and policies of the 2024 Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan. Temporary erosion and sediment control is regulated under the City's existing stormwater regulations and adopted manual.

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

The proposal would affect the entire City of Mercer Island, the City does not have an estimate of total impervious surface expected in the City through the 20-year planning horizon. The proposal amends the 2024 Comprehensive Plan and does not relate to a specific project. Future development proposals will be evaluated and subject to the adopted regulations and standards. In general, the development expected under the policies of the Comprehensive Plan and Station Subarea Plan will be infill redevelopment of sites with existing impervious surfaces with modest increases to impervious surfaces. The City has adopted and maintains a Stormwater Management Manual (SWMM) and requires stormwater management for all new developments.

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

This non-project proposal, no specific development conditions are presented. Future development will conform to City standards and regulations for land disturbance in compliance with NPDES requirements.

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.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. However, the planning period for this update is 2024-2044 and will include providing capacity to accommodate the City's growth target of 1,239 new housing units and 1,300 new jobs during the planning period. It is likely that emissions will occur as part of the construction process from vehicle emission and dust created from project sites. However,

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

all development related activities will be required to comply with City of Mercer Island requirements which will mitigate impacts.

Expanded development capacity in the Station Area will result in new housing, jobs, services, and entertainment offerings. Some of these development opportunities will be accessed via vehicle travel, and the City is projecting an increase in traffic volumes during the planning period which could increase vehicle emissions. At the same time, it is the full intent of this planning effort—and similar efforts around light rail stations on the same transit service—to reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles by enabling trips between the Station Area and adjacent station areas in Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond and other Puget Sound communities to be conducted via transit. Focused growth and mixed-use development in the Mercer Island Station Area will allow people to access jobs, shopping, and other amenities without a vehicle.

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

There are no off-site sources of emissions or odors which will affect this proposal.

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

While this is a non-project action, future developments resulting after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, or associated Mercer Island City Code amendments will be reviewed for environmental impacts in compliance with City of Mercer Island Code and both state and federal requirements for emissions and impacts to the air. The proposed updates would not change how the concerns listed above are regulated so no additional mitigation measures have been developed to address this concern. Emissions are primarily regulated under state and federal law. Future project actions that may result in emissions would be reviewed under SEPA and as part of the permit process as established by RCW 36.70B. In addition, a climate change and resiliency element, consistent with the requirements in RCW 36.70A.070(9), that is designed to result in reductions in overall greenhouse gas emissions will be prepared by 2029 as required by the statute.

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

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>

yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. Lake Washington and several unnamed streams.

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.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. Future development projects may or may not take place within critical areas, buffers, or within the shoreline environment. Those developments will be regulated by the Shoreline Master Program and Critical Area Ordinance.

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 fill or dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands is proposed as part of the non-project proposal. Further, the City is not making any changes to adopted policies or regulations which would authorize this use beyond what current code and policy authorizes in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

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

This non-project action does not anticipate any surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

Not applicable. The City of Mercer Island doesn't lie within the 100-year floodplain. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site.

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.

b. This non-project action does not anticipate any discharges of waste materials to surface waters. **Ground:**

[Find help answering ground water questions](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)⁷

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.

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>

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments are not expected to affect discharges to groundwater. Drinking water on Mercer Island comes from Seattle Public Utilities and is not drawn from groundwater on the island.

- 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.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. Mercer Island is served by a sewage collection system operated by the City. All structures with facilities for the disposal of sewage must connect to the City sewer system (MICC 15.06.060). No additional discharge to the ground from septic tanks is expected. Because new development must connect to the sewage collection system, any existing septic system is expected to be replaced with a sewer connection during the planning horizon of the Comprehensive 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.**

While this is a non-project proposal, source of runoff (including storm water) is typically a derivative of development within the City of Mercer Island. However, all development is regulated by MICC 15.09 in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The proposal would amend the City's 2024 Comprehensive Plan and create a new Station Subarea Plan, both of which generally guide future development. The adoption of the amendments are not expected to affect the potential flow of waste materials into ground or surface waters. New development is required to address ground and surface water in compliance with the City's SWMM and Chapter 15.09 MICC.

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

It is not anticipated that growth planned for as part of the 2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan update will alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the City of Mercer Island.

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

While this is a non-project action, any development which would occur as a result of this project will be required to meet all storm water requirement as authorized by Chapter 15.09 MICC.

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**

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The proposal would amend the City's Comprehensive Plan and create a new Station Subarea Plan, both of which generally guide future development. The adoption of the proposal is not expected to remove or alter vegetation. New developments that might occur under the Comprehensive Plan, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments are required to manage vegetation in compliance with Chapter 19.10 MICC which includes requirements to retain trees, landscape areas, and preserve buffers around critical area such as wetlands and watercourses.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. Future project level SEPA review for development under these regulations may require species database searches from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Program to identify any threatened or endangered species on or near each specific project site. All development in Mercer Island must comply with MICC 19.07.170 - Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. MICC 19.07.170 establishes specific protections for habitat of state- and federally-listed endangered, threatened, or sensitive species. These protections include the preparation of a wildlife habitat assessment that includes protection measures for the species that may be affected.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The proposal would amend the City's Comprehensive Plan and create a new Station Subarea Plan, both of which generally guide future development. The adoption of the proposed updates of the Comprehensive Plan, Station Subarea Plan, or associated Mercer Island City Code amendments is not expected to result in new landscaping or require additional vegetation management. New developments that might occur under the proposal are required to manage vegetation in compliance with Title 19 MICC, including Chapter 19.10 MICC. This includes requirements to retain trees, landscape areas, and preserve buffers around critical area such as wetlands and watercourses.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. On its website, King County maintains a list of noxious weeds found in the County ([LINK](#)).

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

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

Examples include:

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. Future project level SEPA review for development under these regulations may require species database searches from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Program to identify any threatened or endangered species on or near each specific project site. All development in Mercer Island must comply with MICC 19.07.170 - Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. MICC 19.07.170 establishes specific protections for habitat of state- and federally-listed endangered, threatened, or sensitive species. These

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>

protections include the preparation of a wildlife habitat assessment that includes protection measures for the species that may be affected.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. Mercer Island is within the bird migration path referred to as the Pacific Flyway.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments are consistent with current regulations that emphasize the retention of existing native vegetation, including mature trees, retention of native vegetation outside of building footprints and support development that reflects the wooded natural character of the island. All development in Mercer Island must comply with MICC 19.07.170 - Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. MICC 19.07.170 establishes specific protections for habitat of state- and federally-listed endangered, threatened, or sensitive species. These protections include the preparation of a wildlife habitat assessment that includes protection measures for the species that may be affected.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The following invasive species are known in King County: European starling, house sparrow, eastern gray squirrel, fox squirrel, and feral cats.

6. Energy and natural resources

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

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, or associated Mercer Island City Code amendments are not expected to require energy to complete the project beyond the normal energy consumption associated with City operations.

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

No. This non-project is not proposing new policies or regulations which would affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

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.

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>

This is a non-project proposal. However, future development will be reviewed for impacts to energy and natural resources, including compliance with applicable building codes and energy code requirements.

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.**

This is a non-project proposal. However, increased development during the 20-year planning period could increase possibilities of exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste. However, uses are controlled through Mercer Island City Code and building codes limit risk of building fires. All uses will be required to meet local, state, and federal regulations.

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

Although this is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site, redevelopment authorized as part of the project could result in redevelopment of buildings which contain chemicals such as lead paint or asbestos. Demolition of any buildings is required to be permitted and meet all City of Mercer Island, state, and federal requirements.

- 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 this is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site, future development is not anticipated to have hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design, including underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. If there are liquid and gas transmission pipelines, this would be addressed and mitigated as part of the project review process.

- 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 this is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site, there are hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during a development or construction, or during the operating life of the project. All hazardous chemicals must be stored RCW 49.17. and WAC 296-155. In addition, any use that would include hazardous material storage would be evaluated for compliance with Mercer Island City Code .

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>

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

While this is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site, emergency services would include the City of Mercer Island Police Department and Eastside Fire and Rescue.

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

While is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site, future development will be required reduce or mitigate environmental health hazards as authorized by City of Mercer Island Code and state and federal regulations. Actual measures would depend on the specific proposal

b. Noise

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

There are no known noises which would impact the ability for development associated with the comprehensive plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, or associated Mercer Island City Code amendments. All noise impacts would be mitigated through RCW 70A.20 and WAC 173-60 as further modified in the noise regulations adopted in Chapter 8.24 MICC.

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)?

Any project level noise is regulated in the City of Mercer Island by Chapter 8.24 MICC. Noise would typically be associated with construction which will occur during the 2024-2044 planning period in order to accommodate housing and employment targets.

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

All noise impacts would be mitigated through RCW 70A.20 and WAC 173-60 as further modified in the noise regulations adopted in Chapter 8.24 MICC.

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.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. There are a mix of residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational land uses throughout the City. The Comprehensive Plan amendments will include some minor changes to land use designations on the future land use map and policies directing amendments of the allowed land uses in the Town Center (TC-8) and Town Center Multifamily (TCMF-6) zones. Policies directing changes to the allowed land uses

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>

in the TC-8 and TCMF-6 zones will be implemented with changes to the zoning code that will be accompanied by development standards to reduce, mitigate, and avoid potential conflicts with neighboring land uses.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

The Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments will not result in the conversion of agricultural or forest lands of long-term significance. There are no working farmlands or forest lands of significance on Mercer Island.

- 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?**

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

There are a mixture of residential, industrial/business, and commercial buildings within the City of Mercer Island.

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

While this is a non-project proposal, the planning period for this update is 2024-2044 and will include providing capacity to accommodate the City's growth target of 1,239 new housing units and 1,300 new jobs during the planning period. Redevelopment will be the primary method of accommodating new jobs and housing.

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

The current zoning in the City includes:

B: Business, C-O Commercial Offices, PBZ Planned Business Zone, R-8.4 Residential 8,400 sq. ft. lot, R-9.6 Residential 9,600 sq. ft. lot, R-12 Residential 12,000 sq. ft. lot, R-15 Residential 15,000 sq. ft. lot, MF-2 Multi-Family Maximum density 38 units/acre MF-2L, Multi-Family Maximum density 26 units/acre, MF-3 Multi-Family Maximum density 26 units/acre, TC-8 Town Center, TCMF-6 Town Center Multifamily, and PI Public Institution.

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

The Land Use Element establishes nine land use designations throughout the City: Commercial Office, Linear Park (I-90), Multifamily Residential, Neighborhood Business, Open Space, Park, Public Facility, Single-Family Residential, and Town Center. The Station Subarea is designated as Town Center.

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

Within the City of Mercer Island, there are two shoreline designations. They are Urban Park environment and Urban Residential environment.

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

Yes. The City of Mercer Island has designated critical areas regulations in compliance with GMA requirements.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 7,857 people were employed and worked on Mercer Island in 2023 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau On the Map, 2023). The Comprehensive Plan can accommodate an employment growth target of 1,300 jobs by the year 2044. If the target is achieved, there would be approximately 9,157 jobs in the City. The WA Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimated the 2024 population of Mercer Island was 25,830. The Comprehensive Plan can accommodate a housing growth target of at least 1,239 housing units. At the current rate of 2.59 people per household estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau, 3,209 people would occupy the planned 1,239 housing units. If the City achieves its housing growth targets, the Mercer Island population would be 29,039 by the year 2044.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The amended Comprehensive Plan and Station Subarea Plan contemplate the future growth of the City and Station Area over a 20-year period. The Displacement Risk Evaluation analyzed the potential for displacement related to implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, Station Subarea and changes to zoning in Title 19 MICC. Low income, cost burdened renters were found to be at risk of displacement. Approximately 3,000 of the 9,758 households in Mercer Island are low-income (at or below 80% AMI).

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

The proposed Housing Element includes policies to address displacement risks, including:

- Creating and inventory of naturally occurring affordable housing;
- Implementing tenant protections;
- Evaluating potential displacement risks associated with zoning amendments;
- Working with affordable housing providers to preserve existing affordable housing;
- Supporting community efforts for lower-cost homeownership models; and
- Addressing displacement risk any time development capacity is increased.

The code amendments will include tenant protections in Title 5 of the Mercer Island City Code that would include advance notice of rent increases and relocation assistance.

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

This non-project action includes Comprehensive Plan amendments, a Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments. The proposal itself will provide consistency with state, regional, and countywide laws and policies.

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

Not applicable. There are not agricultural or forest lands in the City of Mercer Island.

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.**

No housing units would be provided by this non-project action. The non-project action will add development capacity to address the City’s housing targets as allocated by King County King County housing targets allocate an additional 1,239 housing units are needed in Mercer Island by 2044 to accommodate population growth. That housing growth target is further disaggregated into housing need by household income levels. The City plans to accommodate the housing needs for lower-income households in higher-density housing types, primarily within the Station Subarea. The Mercer Island growth target and housing needs by household income level are shown in the table below.

Mercer Island Housing Growth Target and Housing Needs.

Growth Target	0-30% AMI			>30%	>50%	>80%	>100%	>120%	Emergency Housing ²
	PSH ¹	Non-PSH	Total ≤30% AMI	to ≤50% AMI	to ≤80% AMI	to ≤100% AMI	to ≤120% AMI	AMI	
1,239	339	178	517	202	488	4	5	23	237

Source: King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), current through Ordinance 19660.

Notes:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Emergency Housing need is its own metric and not part of the housing need or housing growth target.
- Area Median Income (AMI)

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

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>

No housing units will be eliminated as a direct result of this non-project action. The proposed Housing Element includes policies to address displacement risks, including:

- Creating and inventory of naturally occurring affordable housing;
- Implementing tenant protections;
- Evaluating potential displacement risks associated with zoning amendments;
- Working with affordable housing providers to preserve existing affordable housing;
- Supporting community efforts for lower-cost homeownership models; and
- Addressing displacement risk any time development capacity is increased.

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

The Comprehensive Plan amendments and Station Subarea Plan contain goals and policies to address potential displacement impacts and encourage a variety of housing types affordable for a range of incomes. Implementation of these policies will include establishing development regulations which will help mitigate potential impacts to housing. The development regulations will include measures to specifically address displacement as required by RCW 36.70A.070(2)(h); offsetting impacts that might result from changes adopted during the Comprehensive Plan periodic review. Amendments to Title 5 of the Mercer Island City Code will establish tenant protections to reduce displacement risk for low-income tenants in multifamily and mixed-use development that might result from the proposed upzone of Town Center and adjacent multifamily zones.

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?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments will not result in the construction of any structure. The development code limits the height of structures in the City, with the 105 feet being the tallest structure allowed (MICC 19.11.030(A)(1)).

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments will not result in the construction of any structure.

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

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>

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Future development will be reviewed for aesthetic impacts. Aesthetic impacts are controlled by the design standards in Chapters 19.11 and 19.12 MICC.

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?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments will not result in the construction of any structure and is not expected to create or modify the existing light and glare.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site.

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

- e. None.** This is a non-project proposal. Future development will be reviewed for aesthetic impacts.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The City has a system of parks and open space within its boundaries. This system includes 27 City parks and 15 City-managed open spaces. In addition to City-owned and -managed parks and open space, there are private organizations like homeowners' associations and membership organizations that own and operate recreational lands and facilities throughout the Island.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The Comprehensive Plan includes a Parks and Open Space Element and open space zoning that will protect and preserve recreational land as the City grows in the next twenty years.

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

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

Goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan adopt the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan by reference. Linking the PROS Plan with other Comprehensive Plan policies will increase recreational opportunities throughout the City.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

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

- a. **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.**

One landmark is designated as historic by the City of Mercer Island: the VFW Hall located at 1836 72nd Ave SE.

- 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.**

Not Applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. The proposal involves a City-wide non-project legislative action. There are landmarks, features, and evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation on Mercer Island. This is evaluated by the City of Mercer Island when a project is submitted it is evaluated through the Washington State DAHP database/WISAARD map viewer. There are also processes in place when inadvertent discovery occurs.

- 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.**

Review of Washington State DAHP database/WISAARD map viewer. The Comprehensive Plan is not expected to affect cultural or historical resources directly. Future changes or developments will be evaluated separately.

- 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.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. No disturbances to resources will directly result from adoption of the Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, or associated Mercer Island City Code amendments. Future development will be evaluated separately from this non-project proposal. There are landmarks, features, and evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation on Mercer Island. This is evaluated by the City of Mercer Island when a

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>

project is submitted it is evaluated through the Washington State DAHP database/WISAARD map viewer. There are also processes in place when inadvertent discovery occurs.

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.**

Interstate-90 (I-90) runs through the northern portion of Mercer Island.

- 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?**

Metro and Sound Transit provide transit service to the City of Mercer Island and the Puget Sound region. Sound Transit operates routes to Seattle and Bellevue, serving passengers at the Mercer Island Park and Ride adjacent to I-90. Metro Transit provides local service in addition to service to locations off-Island. The Sound Transit Link Light Rail Station provides high-capacity transit connections between Mercer Island and Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, and other nearby cities.

- 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).**

Transportation improvement projects are outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and will be evaluated separately as they are completed.

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

While this is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site, future development and people living in Mercer Island will utilize light rail via the Mercer Island Station. Transportation via water and air is limited to private boats and planes.

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 non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not propose development of a specific site. Car trips per day generated by individual projects will be evaluated on a per-application basis.

Traffic counts were collected and analyzed in April 2026 to support the Transportation Element amendments and Transportation Chapter of the Station Subarea Plan. The

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>

timing of the analysis reflects the March 2026 opening of the Link Light Rail service. Future traffic volumes forecast in the model were based on the land use and zoning changes occurring in Phase 1 of the Station Subarea Plan as well as 2044 housing and employment growth targets. The majority of new households and jobs are forecast to occur within the Station Subarea.

Town Center traffic growth reflects the higher potential for pedestrian and transit trips. Overall, the traffic growth in the Town Center is forecast to increase by an average of 35 percent between 2026 and 2044. For areas outside the Town Center, traffic growth is expected to be lower with approximately 15 percent growth between 2026 and 2044. The resulting forecasted traffic volumes directly reflect the anticipated land use, housing, and employment growth assumptions for the Island.

- e. 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.**

No.

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

The Comprehensive Plan outlines policies to guide transportation improvements for a 20-year period. The City will address transportation impacts through site-specific SEPA review and through implementation of the Transportation Improvement Program and Capital Improvement Program.

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.**

Indirectly, the Comprehensive Plan amendments and Station Subarea Plan will continue to allow for additional growth, which will result in the increased need for all public services. Development allowed in this proposal will increase demand for public services based on the City's adopted level of service guidelines.

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

The Comprehensive plan includes goals and policies to guide public service and facility improvements for a 20-year planning period. Any future developments related to the proposed comprehensive plan amendment will be analyzed for potential impacts on public services as part of the review process. Through proportional mitigation and measures such as parks, school, and road impact fees, projects will mitigate impacts on public services.

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

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

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

All of the above-listed utilities serve the City.

- 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.**

All services will be available per the policies and plans specified in the Utilities Element and the Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposal is a non-project proposal and, as such, does not affect a specific site.

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign¹⁹](#)

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 *Alison Van Gorp*

Type name of signee: Alison Van Gorp

Position and agency/organization: Deputy Director, City of Mercer Island

Date submitted: May 20, 2026.

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet²⁰](#)

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.

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

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

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

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?

King County growth targets allocate 1,239 new housing units and 1,300 new jobs to accommodate population growth in Mercer Island by 2044. Future growth resulting from the Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments may lead to increases in environmental impacts, but key land use strategies in the Plan focus most of the growth into walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods that generate lower levels of air pollution and other environmental impacts per household compared to less dense development patterns.

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

Many goals and policies throughout the Comprehensive Plan, if implemented effectively, will be sufficient to mitigate potential adverse impacts. Examples include Land Use Goal 1 and policies 1.1 – 1.2, Land Use Goal 4 and policies 4.1 – 4.9; Land Use policy 3.3; Transportation Goal 3 and policies 3.1 – 3.3; and Transportation Goal 4 and policies 4.1 – 4.11.

The Station Subarea Plan component of this proposal is intended to support high-density, mixed-use development around the Mercer Light Rail Station. The goals, policies, and actions emphasize car-light or car-free living by concentrating daily needs of households and businesses within a walkable distance of the light rail station. Not only will the policy directives and implementing development code amendments support low-carbon development in the Station Area, but the regional impact on commuter and visitor travel patterns is inherently beneficial to the environment as well. By clustering jobs, housing, entertainment, and cultural uses around the Mercer Island Light Rail Station, this proposal makes public transit more appealing to those traveling to and from the Island daily, therefore reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions otherwise generated by personal vehicles.

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

The Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and implementing development code amendments are unlikely to have an adverse impact on plants, animals, fish, or marine life. Any future changes or development will be evaluated separately for site-specific impacts to wildlife. Adopted development standards, such as those protecting critical areas and shorelines, will protect plants, animals, and fish habitats from future development.

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

This Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies to increase the protection of fish and wildlife species and their habitats, such as Land Use Element Goal 5 and policies 5.1 – 5.19.

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

The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments are unlikely to have adverse impacts or deplete energy or natural resources. Energy is provided through Puget Sound Energy, including natural gas and electricity. Throughout the development of this plan, the increased demand for additional energy and natural resources was reviewed. Though future growth will likely not deplete resources, existing facilities will need to continue to be maintained to accommodate future demand and growth.

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

Goals and policies in this Comprehensive Plan that support the transition to alternative energy sources and promote energy and natural resource conservation include Land Use policy 4.9, goal 7, and policies 7.1 – 7.3.

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 Comprehensive Plan, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments were written to ensure compliance with existing and new regulations on protected and environmentally sensitive resources and is unlikely to result in significant adverse impacts.

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

Goals and policies in this Comprehensive Plan that protect environmentally sensitive areas and historic or cultural sites include Land Use Goal 4 and policies 4.1 – 4.9, Land Use Goal 5 and policies 5.1 – 5.19,

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 Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments propose more intense development patterns within ½-mile walking distance of the Mercer Island Light Rail Station. Any future changes or development will be evaluated separately.

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

Existing land use and zoning regulations are sufficient to mitigate impacts on land use. Please see Land Use Goal 5 and policies 5.1 – 5.19 and the Shoreline Element.

By clustering jobs, housing, entertainment, and cultural uses around the Mercer Island Light Rail Station, the Station Subarea Plan supports low-carbon growth on an accessible area of land around Interstate 90. The co-location of everyday needs is an

inherently less impactful development pattern compared to single-use, low-density development.

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

Increased transportation demand from projected population growth assumed in the Comprehensive Plan has been factored into the Transportation Element and 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Projected population growth is unlikely to lead to significant negative impacts on transportation or public services and utilities.

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

Policies related to transportation, capital facilities, and utilities can be found in the corresponding elements of the Comprehensive Plan and Station Subarea Plan, as well as the Transportation Improvement Plan in the Capital Facilities and Transportation element that includes efforts to improve paths for pedestrians and bicycle lanes for cyclists, sidewalks, and roadways throughout the City.

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

The Comprehensive Plan amendments, Station Subarea Plan, and associated Mercer Island City Code amendments for the City of Mercer Island were written to comply with local, state, or federal laws and regulations to protect the environment and critical areas within the City. No conflicts are anticipated with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.