

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

- SEPA was enacted in 1971 when the nation's awareness of environmental problems was emerging. Many laws and procedures for environmental protection, land use planning and the provision of infrastructure have been implemented since SEPA was first adopted. The City has made a concerted effort to adopt and implement environmental protections

- CITY INCORPORATION 1995

- Adopted King County regulations and environmental procedures that reflected the 1971 thresholds

- COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 1998

The first Comprehensive Plan was adopted. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was used to analyze impacts

- DEVELOPMENT CODE 2000

The Development Code implements the policies and mitigations identified in the Comprehensive Plan

- North City District Subarea Plan 2001

The subarea plan was approved as a Planned Action. A Supplemental EIS was issued for this action. As a Planned

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Action additional environmental review is not required for proposals that are consistent with the plan

- **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2005 / CRITICAL AREAS 2006**

As directed by the Growth Management Act (GMA) a major update to the Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2005. The update established LOS for sewer and water and concurrency standards for traffic. LOS standards require that adequate facilities are available at the time of development. The update provided protections for natural environment and defined best available science in policies and local regulations. To support the policies the Critical Areas Code was adopted in 2006.

- **SURFACEWATER CODE 2009**

Surfacewater Code implemented the DOE Stormwater Manual and sets standards for Low Impact Development

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN 2011

- **TMP identified levels of service for transportation, defined the transportation network, and developed the transportation component of the six and 20 year Capital Facility Plans. The plans are intended to identify**

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infrastructure improvements that mitigate the long term impacts of development

- Town Center Subarea Plan 2011
- The subarea plan was approved as a Planned Action. A Supplemental EIS was issued for this action. As a Planned Action additional environmental review is not required for proposals that are consistent with the plan

SURFACEWATER MASTER PLAN 2011

- SWMP sets the Levels of Service (LOS) for stormwater facilities both for the utility and new development

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

- The Shoreline Master Program (SMA) put in place the “no net loss of environmental protection” policies of the Shoreline Management Act. The SMA and GMA are examples of new regulation that DOE has used in support for reevaluating and proposing new thresholds

VEGETATION AND TREE PROTECTION 2012

- Enhanced mitigation to provide protection for the urban tree canopy and understory vegetation was adopted

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT 2012

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- FEMA mandated that local floodplain ordinances incorporate provisions of the Endangered Species Act

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2012

- GMA mandated update. During the update process the impacts of future development were analyzed. A wide range of impacts that may result from the implementation of the policies and future development were considered.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS 2012

- The 2012 legislature directed Ecology to modernize the rules that guide state and local agencies in conducting SEPA reviews, in light of the increased environmental protections in local, state, and federal regulations

COMMERCIAL DESIGN STANDARDS 2013

Commercial design standards were adopted to implement policies in the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan and further support Council goal #1

The focus of the environmental review and analysis for both the Comprehensive Plan and the CDS was system wide at the plan level which will form the basis for "on the ground" project decisions

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- Due to the extensive planning efforts that this body has undertaken to meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act and institute environmental protections that are implemented through the permit process we recommend that the environmental review thresholds for minor new construction be amended as proposed.