



King County

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Determination of Nonsignificance for the 2018 Amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan, and the Adoption of Existing Environmental Documents

Proposal/Title of Document:	Adoption of amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan and the development regulations that implement the Plan.
Date of Issuance:	September 27, 2018
Proponent & Lead Agency:	King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget 401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 810, Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 263-8297
SEPA Contact:	Ivan Miller, AICP, SEPA Responsible Official for Comprehensive Planning (206) 263-8297
Location:	Unincorporated King County
Zoning:	All zones
Community Plan:	All community plans
Drainage Subbasin:	All drainage subbasins
Section/Township/Range:	All section, townships, ranges

Description of Proposal

The 2018 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations are of a non-project nature, are primarily procedural, and have a countywide effect rather than a site-specific effect:

- Comprehensive Plan shifts from four-year major update schedule to eight-year statutory review with an option for a four-year midpoint review;
- Retains schedule for annual updates, including adoption of Community Service Area subarea plans;
- Authorizes a 2020 four-year midpoint Comprehensive Plan update, and establishes process;

- Modifies schedule for the subarea plans to reflect updated approach and Comprehensive Plan schedule changes; adds geographies that will receive subarea planning;
- Updates timelines and text for several action items and adds several action items; and
- Other policy changes are narrow and non-substantive.

The proposed 2018 Comprehensive Plan amendments, contained in Attachment A to Proposed Substitute Ordinance 2018-0153.2, as reported out of the Planning, Rural Services, and Environment Committee, would affect the following chapters of the Comprehensive Plan: Cover Letter; Executive Summary; Chapter 1: Regional Growth Management Planning; Chapter 2: Urban Communities; Chapter 3: Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands; Chapter 8: Transportation; Chapter 10: Economic Development; Chapter 11: Community Service Area Planning; Chapter 12: Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation; and the Glossary.

Amendments are also made to the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan, Chapter 11: Implementation, contained in Attachment B to the Proposed Substitute Ordinance. Last, amendments are proposed to the development code for consistency with the aforementioned Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plan changes.

The proposed document is available at:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/council/CompPlan/2018compplan.aspx>

Threshold Determination

King County has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This finding is made pursuant to RCW 43.21C, KCC 20.44 and WAC 197-11 and based on the attached SEPA Environmental Checklist.

As described more fully in the Environmental Checklist, the 2018 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations are of a non-project nature, are primarily procedural, and have a countywide effect rather than a site-specific effect. As such, it is not anticipated that the amendments would affect the extent, intensity or rate of impacts to water or air resources, noise levels, or toxic or hazardous substances.

King County's shift from a four-year review to an eight-year review, while still allowing for annual amendments when needed to address a variety of issues, will reduce land use changes that could have a potentially adverse environmental impact. Changes remain allowed on an annual basis and changes allowed to address specific defined circumstances are found in King County Code Title 20.18.030.

The effect of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan amendments are relatively limited and are intended to move from a full review of the plan every four years to a full review of the plan every eight years, consistent with State Growth Management Act timelines. The intent of this change is to better align the Comprehensive Plan process with statewide and regional planning timelines in the central Puget Sound area, and to provide more capacity for local subarea planning which was reinitiated by King County in 2015-16.

Documents Adopted

The following additional documents support environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision makers. The responsible official finds this information reasonably sufficient to evaluate the environmental impact of this proposal.

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, EIS Addendum: King County Comprehensive Plan Development Regulations, prepared by Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., December 1994, 25 pages and Appendix A

King County Department of Development Services, King County Office of Budget and Strategic Planning, Addendum to the King County Comprehensive Plan 1994 Draft and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements: Executive Recommended Amendments to the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan to comply with Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board Consolidated Case No. 95-3-0008, February 1996, 20 pages and Attachment A

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, 1994 Comprehensive Plan Technical Appendices, Volume 1 and Volume 2, (undated)

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, November 1994

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 1995 Amendment: Addendum to the King County Comprehensive Plan 1994 Supplement and Final Environmental Impact Statement, November 1995, 38+ pages

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 1997 Amendments: Addenda to the King County Comprehensive Plan 1994 Supplement and Final Environmental Impact Statements, October 1997, and June 2, 1997, 32 and 31 pages respectively

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 1998 Amendments: Addendum to Existing Environmental Documents

for the 1998 Amendments to the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, June 2, 1998, 45 pages

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 2000 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Executive Recommended, April 26, 2000, 133 pages

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 2000 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, November 9, 2000, 81 pages

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 2004 Amendments: Addendum to Existing Environmental Documents for the 2004 Amendments to the 2000 King County Comprehensive Plan, September 3, 2004, 38 pages

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 2008 Amendments: Addendum to Existing Environmental Documents for the 2008 Amendments to the 2004 King County Comprehensive Plan, September 16, 2008, 41 pages

King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, King County Comprehensive Plan 2012 Amendments: Addendum to Existing Environmental Documents for the 2012 Amendments to the 2008 King County Comprehensive Plan, November 15, 2012, 49 pages

King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, King County Comprehensive Plan 2016 Amendments: Addendum to Existing Environmental Documents for the 2016 Amendments to the 2012 King County Comprehensive Plan, November 4, 2016, 47 pages

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, King County Comprehensive Plan 2008, The Executive Recommended Plan, Books One and Two, March 1, 2008, 759 pages

King County Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division, Farm and Forest Report, March 22, 1996, 79 pages

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Department of Development and Environmental Services, and Department of Transportation, Best Available Science: Volume 1: A Review of Scientific Literature, Executive Report, February 2004

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Department of Development and Environmental Services, and Department of Transportation, Best Available Science: Volume 2: Assessment of Proposed Ordinance, February 2004

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Shorelines Technical Appendix: Shoreline Inventory and Characterization: Methodology and Results, May 2007

King County Department of Planning and Community Development, Executive Proposed General Development Guidelines, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, April 1984, 110 pages

King County Office of Budget and Strategic Planning, 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan with 1997 Updates, December 1997

King County Office of Budget and Strategic Planning and Department of Development and Environmental Services, ADDENDUM to Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, June 4, 1996, 26 pages

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department, Addendum for Countywide Planning Policies, June 18, 1992, 309 pages

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Countywide Planning Policies, prepared by Henigar & Ray, January 12, 1994, 208 pages, Appendices A-K pages

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department, King County Comprehensive Plan, April 1985

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department, King County Comprehensive Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., November 1994, 143 pages and Written Comments from Agencies, Organizations and Individuals.

King County Parks, Planning and Resources Department, King County Comprehensive Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Executive Proposed Plan, prepared by Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., June 1994, 309 pages and Appendices A-F

King County Planning Department, Comprehensive Plan for King County (1964), (undated)

Puget Sound Regional Council, Transportation 2040, Draft Environmental Impact Statement Executive Summary, May 2009

Puget Sound Regional Council, Vision 2040 – The Growth Management, Environmental, Economic, and Transportation Strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region, December 2009, 103 pages

Puget Sound Regional Council, Vision 2040 Update, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, May 2006

Description of Adopted Documents

The Countywide Planning Policies' Environmental Impact Statements and the VISION 2040 EISs analyze the environmental impacts of policies that serve as the framework for the comprehensive plans for King County and its local jurisdictions. The King County Comprehensive Plan Draft and Final Supplemental EISs analyze the environmental impacts of planning policies and land use designations adopted by the development regulations. The 1994, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Addenda to the King County Comprehensive Plan EIS provide additional information and analysis about changes to policies, land use designations, and zoning. The Best Available Science for the King County Critical Areas Ordinance provides additional information and analysis of the policies and regulations relating to the protection of critical areas. The Shoreline Master Program Technical Appendix provides additional information and analysis of King County's shorelines subject to the Shoreline Management Act. The 1964, 1985, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Comprehensive Plans and related documents implement policies, land use, and zoning to focus growth in urban areas, protect rural areas from sprawling, low density development, protect natural resource lands including farms, forest and mineral resource land, and protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Comments

Pursuant to KCC 20.44.120, an appeal of a determination of nonsignificance or of the adequacy of an environmental impact statement must be filed with the department issuing the determination of nonsignificance or environmental impact statement as provided in King County Code 20.22.080 (Hearing Examiner – Appeals). Written comments should be addressed to the listed SEPA contact.

Comment deadline: 4:30 PM on Monday, October 22, 2018

Address for comment: King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 810, Seattle, WA 98104

ATTN: Ivan Miller, AICP
Comprehensive Plan Manager and SEPA Responsible Official for
Comprehensive Planning
ivan.miller@kingcounty.gov

Responsible Official:



Signature

September 27, 2018

Date