# STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE State Environmental Act Compliance

The district accepts its responsibility, as described by the Washington <u>state legislatureState</u> <u>Legislature</u> in the State Environmental Policy Act, specifically Chapter 43.21C.

ADOPTION BY REFERENCE. In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the State Environmental Policy Act, the district adopts by reference the followingall sections or subsections of the chapter 197-.11 of the Washington Administrative Code.

# WAC 197-11-040: Additional Definitions

<del>-050</del> :	Lead agency
	Timing of the SEPA process
<del>-060:</del>	Content of environmental review
<del>-070:</del>	Limitations on actions during SEPA process
	Incomplete or unavailable information
<del>-090</del> :	Supporting documents
	Information required of applicants
<del>-300</del> :	Purpose of this part
	Categorical exemptions
	Threshold determination required
<del>-315</del> :	Environmental checklist
<del>-330</del> :	Threshold determination process
	Additional information
-340:	Determination of nonsignificance (DNS)
	Mitigated DNS
	Determination of significance (DS)/initiation of scoping
	Effect of threshold determination
<del>-400</del> :	Purpose of EIS
	General requirements
<del>-405</del> :	EIS types
<del>-406</del> :	
-408:	Scoping
<del>-410:</del>	Expanded scoping (Optional)
	EIS preparation
	Style and size
<del>-430</del> :	<del>Format</del>
<del>-435</del> :	Cover letter or memo
<del>-440</del> :	EIS contents
-442:	Contents of EIS on nonproject proposals
	EIS contents when prior nonproject EIS
	Elements of the environment
-448:	Relationship to EIS to other considerations

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Cost-benefit analysis Issuance of DEIS Issuance of FEIS
Issuance of DEIS
Issuance of FEIS
Purpose of this part
-Inviting comment
Availability and cost of environmental documents
SEPA register
Public hearings and meetings
Effect of no comment
Specificity of comments
FEIS response to comments
Consulted agency costs to assist lead agency
When to use existing environmental documents
Use of NEPA documents
Supplemental environmental impact statement - procedures
Addenda - procedures
Adoption - procedures
Incorporation by reference - procedures
Combining documents
Purpose of this part
- Implementation
Substantive authority and mitigation
-Appeals
-Definitions
-Aet
-Action
- Addendum
-Adoption
Affected tribe
-Affecting
-Agency
-Applicant
Built environment
Categorical exemption
-Cancolidated appeal
-Consulted agency
- <del>Cost-benefit analysis</del>
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County/city Design maker
Decision maker
Department Determination of nonsignificance (DNS)

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736:
          Determination of significance (DS)
738:
          EIS
          Environment
740:
742.
          Environmental checklist
<del>744:</del>
         Environmental document
<del>746:</del>
         Environmental review
748:
         Environmentally sensitive area
750:
         Expanded scoping
<del>752:</del>
          Impacts
<del>754:</del>
         Incorporation by reference
<del>756:</del>
          Lands covered by water
758:
          Lead agency
<del>760:</del>
         License
<del>762:</del>
         Local agency
<del>764:</del>
         Major action
<del>766:</del>
         Mitigated DNS
<del>768:</del>
         Mitigation
          Natural environment
<del>770:</del>
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          NEPA
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         Nonproject
776:
         Phased review
<del>778:</del>
         Preparation
<del>780:</del>
         Private project
<del>782:</del>
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<del>788:</del>
          Reasonable official
         SEPA
<del>790:</del>
<del>792:</del>
         Scope
<del>793:</del>
          Scoping
<del>794:</del>
         Significant
796:
         State agency
<del>797:</del>
         Threshold determination
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         Underlying governmental action
800:
         Categorical exemptions
880:
          Emergencies
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          Petitioning DOE to change exemptions
900:
          Purpose of this part
912
         Procedures of consulted agencies
<del>916:</del>
         Application to ongoing actions
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T and an arranged a
Lead agency rules
Determining the lead agency
Lead agency for governmental proposals
Lead agency for public and private proposals
Lead agency for private projects requiring licenses from more than
agency, when one of the agencies is a county/city
Lead agency for private projects requiring licenses from a local age
not a county/city, and one or more state agencies
Lead agency for private projects requiring licenses from more than
state agency
Lead agencies for specific proposals
Transfer of lead agency status to a state agency
-Agreements on lead agency status
Agreements on division of lead agency duties
DOE resolution of lead agency disputes
Assumption of lead agency status
- Environmental checklist
Adoption notice
Determination of nonsignificance (DNS)
Determination of significance and scoping notice (DS)
Notice of assumption of lead agency status
Notice of action

The policies and goals set forth herein are supplementary to those in the existing authorization of the district. The district establishes the following criteria as the basis for exercising authority relative to environmental issues. The district shall will use all practicable means, consistent with

B. SEPA Rules: SEPA Rules means Chapter 197-11 WAC adopted by the Council on

Environmental Policy.

other essential considerations of state policy, to improve and coordinate plans, functions, programs, and resources to the end that the state and its citizens may:

- A. Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- B. Assure for all people of Washington safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- C. Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- D. Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage;
- E. Maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- F. Achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- G. Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The district recognizes that each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment and that each person has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment.

#### CRITICAL AREAS

### **Critical Areas**

In its actions, the district shallwill respect "critical areas" and their modified exemption criteria which have been adopted and displayed by local governments pursuant to the The Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW.

Actions which shallwill be located wholly or partially within a critical area are to be treated no differently than other actions under these guidelines. A threshold determination shallwill be made for all such actions, and an EIS shallwill not be automatically required for a proposal merely because it is proposed for location in a critical area.

### **USE OF EXEMPTIONS**

## **Use of Exemptions**

In determining whether a proposal is exempt from SEPA, the district shallwill comply with the square footage and parking space threshold levels adopted by the city or county under WAC 197-11-800 (1). To determine whether or not a proposal is exempt, the district shallwill ascertain the total scope of the proposal and the governmental licenses required. If a proposal includes a series of actions, physically or functionally related to each other, some of which are exempt and some which are not, the proposal is not exempt and the district must complete a threshold determination.

If a proposal includes both exempt and nonexempt actions, exempt actions may be authorized with respect to the proposal prior to compliance with the procedural requirements of these guidelines subject to the following limitations:

A. A. No nonexempt action shallwill be authorized prior to compliance with procedural and substantive requirements;

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- B. B. No action shallwill be authorized which shallwill irrevocably commit the district to approve or authorize a nonexempt action;
- C. C. The district may withhold approval of an exempt action which would lead to modification of the physical environment, when such modifications would serve no purpose if later approval of a nonexempt action is not secured; and
- D. D. The district may withhold approval of exempt actions which would lead to substantial financial expenditures by a private applicant which would serve no purpose if later approval of a nonexempt action is not secured.

### LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Lead Agency Determination and Responsibilities**

The district is lead agency for the proposals it initiates and is responsible for compliance with SEPA regulations.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

### **Environmental Checklist**

Except as provided in WAC 197-11-315 the school district must complete an environmental checklist (WAC 197-11-960) for any proposal that meets the definition of action (WAC 197-11-709), and is not categorically exempted in WAC 197-11-800 and 880. This checklist shallwill be the basis for the threshold determination.

For all proposals for which the district is the lead agency, the responsible official of the district shallwill make the threshold determination pursuant to the criteria and procedures of WAC 197-11-300 through -360.

# **PREPARATION OF Preparation of EIS**

The draft and final EIS shallwill be prepared either by the responsible official or his/her designee or a consultant retained by the school district.

In the event that an EIS is to be prepared by a consultant, the responsible official shallwill assure that the EIS is prepared in a responsible manner and with appropriate methodology. The responsible official shallwill direct the areas of research and examination to be undertaken, as well as the organization of the resulting document.

No matter who participates in the preparation of an EIS, it must be approved by the responsible official prior to distribution.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Public Notice**

The district will establish a mailing list for those interested citizens who wish to be informed regarding documents the district <u>issuesprepares</u> that require public notice. If deemed appropriate by the responsible official, the school district will place appropriate notice in the paper of general circulation which serves the area.

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DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL TO PERFORM CONSULTED AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE DISTRICT

# <u>Designation of Official to Perform Consulted Agency Responsibilities</u> for the District

The superintendent or his designee shallwill be responsible for the preparation of the written comments for the district in response to a consultation request prior to a threshold determination, participation in pre-draftpredraft consultation or reviewing a draft EIS.

The official designated in paragraph 1 shall by the district will be responsible for compliance by the district with WAC 197-11-400 through -460 wherever the district is a consulted agency, and he/she is authorized to develop operating procedures which shall will ensure that responses to consultation requests are prepared in a timely fashion and include data from all appropriate departments of the district.

### **DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL**

## **Designation of Responsible Official**

For those proposals for which the district is the lead agency, the responsible official shallwill be the superintendent or his/her designee. The responsible official shallwill make the threshold

determination, supervise preparation of any required EIS and perform any other functions assigned to the "flead agency".

**FEES** 

### **Fees**

No fee shallwill be collected by the district for performing its duties as a consulted agency.

The district may charge any person for copies of any document prepared pursuant to the requirements of this ordinance and for mailing thereof, in a manner provided by Chapter 42.17.56 RCW.

RCW.

### **PUBLICATION OF NOTICE**

### **Publication of Notice**

The district may publish notice of action pursuant to RCW 43.21C.080 for any action to establish a time limit for judicial appeals.

The form of the notice shallwill be as prescribed by the department of ecology Ecology and/or substantially in the form and manner set forth in RCW 43.21C.080. The notice shall will be published by the district secretary pursuant to RCW 43.21C.080.

### **SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of these regulations or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of these regulations or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

These guidelines shall become effective on the date of adoption of this policy.

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Legal References:  RCW_Chapter_43.21C_RCW	State Environmental Policy Act
197-11 <u>WAC</u>	State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Rules

Management Resources:

Policy News, October 2011Additional Policy UpdatesPolicy News, December 1998SEPA Policy Requires Periodic Reviewand Understanding

Adoption Date: January 2, 2002 Woodland School District #404