



## **47° NORTH SUPPLEMENTAL EIS**

### **SEPA Process**

#### ***What is SEPA?***

- SEPA is the State Environmental Policy Act, a state law that directs agencies to consider environmental information before making a decision on a project. SEPA aids informed decision-making by making detailed information available concerning probable, significant environmental impacts of a project. SEPA also encourages public involvement in agency decisions.
- The City typically manages the SEPA process for most proposals located within its boundaries. The City has the authority to decide what type of environmental document is required.

#### ***What is an SEIS?***

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required by SEPA for certain actions that may have a significant impact to the natural and built environment. An EIS is an objective, impartial evaluation of the environmental consequences of a proposed project.
- An EIS does not recommend for or against a particular course of action. Rather, an EIS is used by elected officials to inform their decisions. It describes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and alternatives.
- A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is a document that adds information to an existing EIS - such as the 2002 Cle Elum UGA EIS in this case. It is appropriate when there are substantial changes to a project or significant new information indicating that a project is likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

#### ***What are the major steps of the SEIS process?***

There are 3 major steps in the process:

##### **1) Scoping**

- Scoping provides notice to agencies, tribes, and the public that an SEIS will be prepared for the proposed project. It asks for comments on the environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in the SEIS.

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- Although scoping is optional for an SEIS, the City has opted to hold this meeting and ask for comments.

## **2) Draft SEIS**

- The Draft SEIS supplements the original 2002 Cle Elum UGA EIS. It will contain the City's comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts of the revised master plan and alternatives.
- The Draft SEIS will be issued and distributed to agencies, tribes, and the public for review as part of a public 30-day comment period.
- A public meeting will be held following issuance of the Draft SEIS to gather comments.

## **3) Final SEIS**

- Based on the comments received on the Draft SEIS, the Final SEIS will be prepared as the third and final step in the SEIS process. The Final SEIS provides responses to comments received on the Draft SEIS from agencies, tribes, and the public, and may contain modified alternative(s) and additional analysis of environmental impacts.
- The Draft and Final SEIS together comprise the document that the City will use--along with other analyses and public input--to make decisions on the project.
- The Draft and Final SEISs will accompany the project application through the land use review and approval process and will provide information that the decision makers--the City Council in this case--will use to decide whether or not to approve proposed changes to the master plan. The SEIS itself does not require approval and is not a decision.

### ***What elements of the environment will be studied in the SEIS?***

- Based on the applicant's initial expression of interest in submitting an application to revise the master plan, the City and its consultants reviewed the 2002 EIS prepared for the UGA to determine whether it still contains useful information. The City determined that it can be updated and supplemented to reflect the passage of time, changed conditions, and revised proposal.
- The City has determined that all elements of the environment studied in the 2002 EIS will also be studied in the SEIS, including the following: Earth, Water Quantity and Quality, Plants and Animals, Air Quality and (a new issue) Greenhouse Gases (GHG), Noise, Land Use/Plans and Policies, Population, Housing, and Employment, Aesthetics, Cultural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Public Services, Utilities, and Economic and Fiscal Impacts.
- Scoping comments, and the city's independent review of the 2002 UGA EIS, will be used to help provide focus on issues of greatest concern.

### ***What alternatives are anticipated to be studied in the SEIS?***

- The 2002 Cle Elum UGA EIS evaluated five alternatives for development of the Bullfrog Flats site. These included a range of types and amounts of development on the site, and

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alternative locations for such uses. Alternative 5 was ultimately proposed and approved by the City of Cle Elum. The City has identified the following alternatives to be studied in the SEIS: Alternative 6 – Revised Master Plan and the No Action Alternative. Alternative 6 will reflect the applicant's revised master plan, when it is submitted to the City.

***How can the public provide input during scoping?***

- The scoping comment period on this project will run through October 29, 2019.
- Input can be given in writing at the public meeting on October 23rd, or at any time during the comment period. Written comments can be sent to:

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