

**PLANNING SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION SERIES:  
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY ACT**

**PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

**ALEXANDRIA D. TEAGUE, AICP  
JEREMY HAMMAR**

Department of Community Development  
Planning • Building • Development Engineering • Permit Center  
Sustainability • Community Services • Code Enforcement

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AUBURN  
VALUES

S E R V I C E  
E N V I R O N M E N T  
E C O N O M Y  
C H A R A C T E R  
S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y  
W E L L N E S S  
C E L E B R A T I O N

# NEPA AND SEPA

1969 – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is enacted



1971 - State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is enacted

Is modeled after NEPA and gives agencies the tools to both consider and mitigate for environmental impacts of proposals.

Contains provisions that ensure the involvement of the public, tribes, and interested agencies in decisions with environmental impacts.

Mandates environmental analyses of many actions and policies by all agencies of state and local government.

# KEY PROVISIONS OF SEPA

Agency decisions (actions) benefit from the “hard look” at impacts, alternatives and mitigation options before commitment to specific course of action.

**Provides transparency and accountability for chain of decision-making for public programs and project**

City evaluations of environmental impacts and written decisions available to the public

**Promotes early public involvement in planning and project development**

Requires cities to provide a 14-day public comment period and a 14- or 21-day appeal period

**Fills regulatory gaps**

Requires evaluation of impacts not traditionally addressed by other regulations such as critical areas ordinances

# WHEN IS SEPA REQUIRED?

- SEPA applies throughout the state at all levels
- SEPA applies to governmental actions
- SEPA also applies to both project and non-project actions
- *Unless the project is categorically exempt....*



# EXEMPTIONS TO SEPA

## Categorical Exemptions

Actions that do not significantly impact the environment as defined by WAC 197-11-300 and 197-11-800

*Ex) Minor Construction activities*

## Other Exemptions

Actions that include administrative procedures, city budgets and property purchases.

*Ex) Procedural Actions*

## AUBURN SPECIFIC EXEMPTIONS

**The city of Auburn has chosen to raise exempt levels per city SEPA ordinance (Chapter 16.06 ACC) in regards to minor new construction.**

1. For residential dwelling units 20 dwelling units or less.
2. For office, school, commercial, recreational, service or storage buildings of 12,000 square feet or less and with associated parking facilities designed for 40 or less automobiles.
3. For parking lots in 40 or fewer automobile parking spaces.
4. For fill and excavations in 500 cubic yards or less.

*Exemptions do not apply to “lands covered by water”, actions with some exempt and some non-exempt categories within them, critical areas*

# AUBURN SEPA PROCESS

Application Submitted



Review for Exemptions

Determine Lead Agency

Evaluate the Proposal

Are Significant Impacts Likely?

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST		Date Received:
Physical Address: Auburn City Hall Annex, 2nd Floor 1 E Main St	Mailing Address: 25 W Main St Auburn, WA 98001	Webpage & Application Submittal: <a href="http://www.auburnwa.gov">www.auburnwa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:applications@auburnwa.gov">applications@auburnwa.gov</a>
Project Name:		Phone and Email: 253-931-3000 <a href="mailto:permitscenter@auburnwa.gov">permitscenter@auburnwa.gov</a>
Parcel Number(s):		
<b>A. Background</b> <small><a href="#">help</a></small>		
1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:		
2. Name of Applicant:		
Name of Agent (if applicable):		
3. Address and phone number of Applicant:		
Address and phone number of Agent (if applicable):		
4. Date Checklist prepared:		
Date(s) Checklist Revised:		
5. Agency requesting checklist:		
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):		
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.		
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.		
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.		
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.		
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.		

Form Updated: March 2010

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If Non-Significant



Issue a DNS or MDNS

Begin 14-day comment period

Agency Decision Final

14- or 21- Day Appeal Period

# AUBURN SEPA PROCESS CONTINUED

Application Submitted

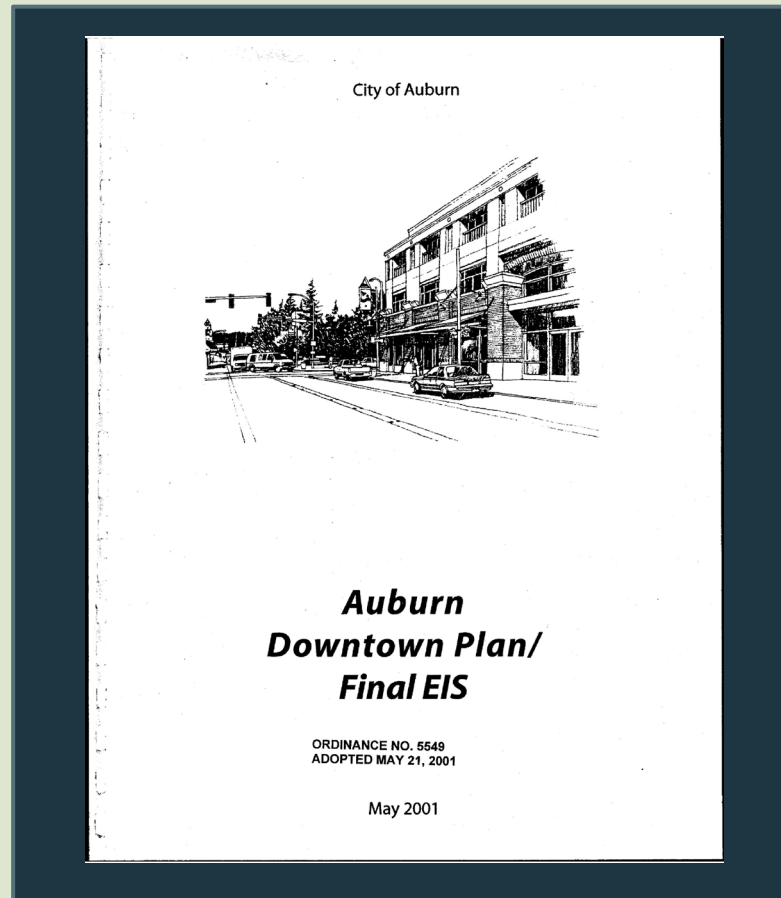


Review for Exemptions

Determine Lead Agency

Evaluate the Proposal

Are Significant Impacts Likely?



If Significant



DS/Scoping Notice  
(14-30 day review)

Issue Draft EIS  
(30 Day)

Issue Final EIS  
(7 day wait)

Agency Decision

14 Day Appeal Period

# QUESTIONS?

## Thank you!