

Useful Information

Websites

- www.cityoftacoma.org/planning
- <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/e-review.html>

What is a "Lead Agency"?

The Lead Agency is responsible for conducting the environmental review for a proposal and documenting that review in the appropriate SEPA documents (DNS, DS/EIS, adoption, addendum).

Typically the agency with the "greatest" or "earliest" action is the Lead Agency.

The EIS may be prepared by staff of the agency, by the applicant, or by a consultant hired by the agency or the applicant. The EIS is developed in conjunction with other permitting agencies and other agencies with expertise.

The EIS document is the responsibility of the **Lead Agency** and may be prepared by the agency staff, an applicant or its agent, or by an outside consultant retained by either an applicant or the lead agency. **No matter who participates in the preparation of the EIS, it is the EIS of the lead agency.**

The **City** will be retaining an outside consultant to assist with the preparation of the **City's** EIS.

Contents of a Draft and Final EIS

- Thorough project description;
- Description of intended purpose of project;
- Alternatives considered to the proposal;
- Affected environment;
- Analysis of significant impacts from construction, operation, and/or closure; and
- Mitigation.

DEIS – Anticipated in September

- Issued for public review;
- Circulated to agencies;
- 30-45 day comment period; and
- One open-record public hearing.

FEIS – Anticipated in December

- Contains responses to all DEIS comments;
- Issued publicly; and
- Circulated to agencies.

What is "mitigation"?

Mitigation is defined as:

- Avoiding,
- Minimizing,
- Repairing or restoring,
- Reducing or eliminating over time,
- Replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources; and/or
- Monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures. For the purpose of the checklist it would be appropriate to generally describe what the corrective measures might be.

Mitigation may involve almost anything, such as paying impact fees to local school districts, or changing the design of the project to avoid impacts to wetlands or other sensitive areas. Some mitigation may be required by city or county development regulations, or other local, state, or federal laws. Mitigation can also be based on information on adverse environmental impacts in the SEPA document.