



## Preliminary Determination of Environmental Nonsignificance

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### City of Tacoma Capital Facilities Program for 2021-2026

SEPA File Number: LU20-0116

**TO:** All Departments and Agencies with Jurisdiction

**SUBJECT:** Preliminary Determination of Environmental Nonsignificance

In accordance with WAC 197-11-340, a copy of the Preliminary Determination of Environmental Nonsignificance for the project described below is transmitted:

**Applicant:** City of Tacoma – Planning and Development Services Department

**Proposal:**

The proposal is to update the six-year Capital Facilities Program (CFP) from 2019-2024 to 2021-2026. The proposed amendments include balancing of previous biennium's projects maintained in the CFP until completed or removed; removing projects that are completed, consolidated with other projects, or put on hold; and adding a number of new projects. The new projects vary in sizes, are located citywide, and fall into the following categories: Community Development, Cultural Facilities, General Government Municipal Facilities, Libraries, Local Improvement Districts, Parks and Open Space, Public Safety, Solid Waste, Surface Water, Tacoma Power, Tacoma Rail, Tacoma Water, Transportation, and Wastewater.

The CFP is an element of the *One Tacoma* Comprehensive Plan. It provides a planning tool that informs the budget process but does not appropriate funds. The 2021-2026 CFP is being amended pursuant to the State Growth Management Act's requirements as set forth in RCW 36.70A.130, and will be considered and adopted by the City Council concurrently with the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget.

The CFP amendments are prepared by the Finance Department's Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in coordination with the Planning and Development Services Department. The proposal can be viewed at the OMB's website at:

[http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/office\\_of\\_management\\_and\\_budget/](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/office_of_management_and_budget/)

**Location:** City of Tacoma

**Lead Agency:** City of Tacoma

**City Contact:** Stephen Atkinson  
Planning and Development Services Department  
747 Market Street, Room 345  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 905-4146

The lead agency for this proposal has made a preliminary determination that this project does 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 decision was made after review of an environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public upon request. This Preliminary Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). **Written comments must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on July 1, 2020.** The Responsible Official

will reconsider the DNS based on timely comments and may retain, modify, or, if significant adverse impacts are likely, withdraw the DNS. **Unless modified by the City, this determination will become final on July 8, 2020.** There is no administrative appeal for this determination. Appeals must be filed in conjunction with appeals of the adopted amendments to the Growth Management Hearings Board; appeals shall be taken in accordance with procedures and limitations set forth in RCW 43.21C.075 and WAC 242-02. In addition to Growth Management Hearings Board requirements, a copy of the appeal shall be filed with the Planning and Development Services Department, 747 Market Street, Room 345, Tacoma, Washington 98402.

The Puyallup Tribe is notified that this initiates the consultation process.

Responsible Official: Peter Huffman  
Position/Title: Director, Planning and Development Services Department

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

SEPA Officer Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Date: June 17, 2020  
Comment Deadline: July 1, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: The issuance of this Preliminary Determination of Nonsignificance does not constitute project approval. Future project applicants must comply with all other applicable requirements of the City of Tacoma and other agencies with jurisdiction prior to receiving development permits.

- c: Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Planning and Land Use Department, 3009 E. Portland Ave., Tacoma, WA 98404
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, David Duenas, Building Official, [David.Duenas@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:David.Duenas@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Brandon Reynon, Tribal Archeologist, [Brandon.Reynon@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:Brandon.Reynon@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Jeffrey Thomas, TFW Program Director, [Jeffrey.Thomas@puyalluptribe.com](mailto:Jeffrey.Thomas@puyalluptribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Russ Ladley, Fisheries Program Director, [Russ.Ladley@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:Russ.Ladley@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Andrew Strobel, Planning and Land Use Director, [Andrew.Strobel@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:Andrew.Strobel@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Jennifer Messenger, Land Use Planner, [Jennifer.Messenger@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:Jennifer.Messenger@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Robert Barandon, Land Use Planner, [Robert.B.Barandon@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:Robert.B.Barandon@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Carol Ann Hawks, Historic Preservation Director, [CarolAnn.Hawks@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:CarolAnn.Hawks@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Charlene Matheson, Special Project Planner, [Charlene.Matheson@Puyalluptribe.com](mailto:Charlene.Matheson@Puyalluptribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Char Naylor, Assistant Director Fisheries/Water Quality, [Char.Naylor@puyalluptribe.com](mailto:Char.Naylor@puyalluptribe.com)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Lisa A. Anderson, Environmental Attorney, [Lisa.Anderson@PuyallupTribe.com](mailto:Lisa.Anderson@PuyallupTribe.com)
- Tacoma Public School District 10, Robert Sawatzky, Planning & Construction Director, [planning@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:planning@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- Tacoma Planning and Development Services Department, Shirley Schultz, [Shirley.schultz@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Shirley.schultz@cityoftacoma.org)
- Tacoma Planning and Development Services Department, Reuben McKnight, [reuben.mcknight@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:reuben.mcknight@cityoftacoma.org)
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, SEPA Review Team, [sepa@tpchd.org](mailto:sepa@tpchd.org)
- Port of Tacoma, Jason Jordan, [jjordan@portoftacoma.com](mailto:jjordan@portoftacoma.com)
- Metro Parks Tacoma, Matthew F. Keough, [matthewke@tacomaparks.com](mailto:matthewke@tacomaparks.com)
- Metro Parks Tacoma, Joe Brady, [joeb@tacomaparks.com](mailto:joeb@tacomaparks.com)
- Pierce Transit, Bus Stop Program, Tina Vaslet, [tvaset@piercetransit.org](mailto:tvaset@piercetransit.org)
- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Steve Van Slyke, [stevev@pscleanair.org](mailto:stevev@pscleanair.org)
- Department of Ecology, [separegister@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:separegister@ecy.wa.gov)
- Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, [sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov)
- Department of Transportation, Olympia Region Development Services Team, [OR-SEPA-REVIEW@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:OR-SEPA-REVIEW@wsdot.wa.gov)

File: Planning and Development Services  
Finance Department

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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## SEPA File Number:

### A. BACKGROUND

**1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Capital Facilities Program (CFP) for 2021-2026.

**2. Proponent/applicant:**

City of Tacoma  
Planning and Development Services Department  
747 Market Street, Room 345  
Tacoma, WA 98402-3769

**3. Contact:**

Stephen Atkinson  
Planning and Development Services Department  
747 Market Street, Room 345  
Tacoma, WA 98402-3701  
Phone: (253) 905-4146  
E-mail: [satkinson@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:satkinson@cityoftacoma.org)

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

June 8, 2020

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

City of Tacoma, Planning and Development Services Department

**6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

July 1, 2020: Planning Commission public hearing  
October 2020: City Council study session and public hearing  
November 2020: City Council adoption of 2021-2026 CFP

**7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

The Capital Facilities Program (CFP) is amended biennially. All publicly supported capital projects over \$50,000 are to be included in the CFP. Individual projects will be subject to appropriate SEPA evaluation at time of development.

**8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**

The six-year CFP was last amended in 2018, from 2017-2022 to 2019-2024. An environmental checklist was prepared (SEPA Number: LU18-0164).

**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.**

No.

**10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

Permits may be required for individual projects at time of development.

**11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.**

The proposal is to update the six-year Capital Facilities Program (CFP) from 2019-2024 to 2021-2026. The proposed amendments include balancing of previous biennium's projects maintained in the CFP until completed or removed; removing projects that are completed, consolidated with other projects, or put on hold; and adding a number of new projects. The new projects vary in sizes, are located citywide, and fall into the following categories: Community Development, Cultural Facilities, General Government Municipal Facilities, Libraries, Local Improvement Districts, Parks and Open Space, Public Safety, Solid Waste, Surface Water, Tacoma Power, Tacoma Rail, Tacoma Water, Transportation, and Wastewater.

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**12. Location of the Proposal: (Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s).)**

The CFP covers projects located throughout the City of Tacoma and neighboring areas. Only a few projects, mostly Tacoma Public Utility projects, are located outside of Pierce County.

**13. Assessor Parcel Number:**

Affected parcels are located throughout the City and are too numerous to list.

**C. SIGNATURE**

**The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.**

**Signature:** Stephen Atkinson

**Name of signee:** Stephen Atkinson  
**Position and Agency/Organization:** Principal Planner, City of Tacoma

**Date Submitted:** June 8, 2020

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

*Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment. When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal that would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.*

**1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

This is a non-project action.

The Capital Facilities Program (CFP) is primarily a collection of data and information regarding publicly supported projects throughout the City. The environmental impacts of individual projects will be evaluated and properly mitigated as warranted at the project development stage. Some of the projects may actually reduce impacts and provide environmental benefits. For example, the pedestrian-focused improvements projects will help reduce air pollution and the street rehabilitation projects will help address stormwater and soil contamination issues.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Existing City, State, and Federal regulations will be applied at the time of project development. Approval will be subject to meeting the specified requirements.

**2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?**

This is a non-project action.

The environmental impacts of individual projects will be evaluated and properly mitigated as warranted at the project development stage. Some projects will result in improvements to the environment for plants, animals, fish and marine life.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

The Environment and Watershed Health element of the Comprehensive Plan, in conjunction with the Shoreline Master Program, Critical Area Ordinance, and Stormwater Management Manual serve to protect plants, animals, fish and other marine life. These ordinances were developed with consideration of the best available science.

**3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

This is a non-project action.

The environmental impacts of individual projects will be evaluated and properly mitigated as warranted at the project development stage. Some projects (e.g., trails improvements, and facility upgrade and repairs) may benefit natural resources and reduce energy depletion.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Existing City ordinances require energy efficient buildings and place limitations on the use of power for lighting.

**4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?**

This is a non-project action.

Most projects are not in sensitive areas as the City of Tacoma is substantially urbanized. The few remaining natural areas within the City are usually City, Tacoma Public Utilities or Metro Parks Tacoma owned. Impacts of specific projects will be assessed and mitigated at project development stage.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

The City's environmental and shoreline regulations offer protection for environmentally sensitive areas. The Environment and Watershed Health element of the Comprehensive Plan, in conjunction with the Shoreline Master Program, Critical Area Ordinance, Stormwater Management Manual, and Building Code serve to protect steep slopes, shorelines, wetlands and

other sensitive areas. These ordinances were developed with consideration of the best available science and best management practices.

**5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

This is a non-project action.

The CFP does not change policies relative to land and shoreline use. Proposed projects would need to be compatible with existing plans and ordinances.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan and development requirements will be determined during preliminary project review.

**6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

This is a non-project action.

The majority of the projects are intended to increase the capacity of the City's transportation system and public services and utilities, to maintain existing facilities, or to stimulate appropriate housing and employment growth consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. In addition, many pedestrian and bicycle related improvement projects are consistent with the City's goals for transportation mode shifts, healthy living, and greenhouse gas reduction.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Concurrency review and evaluation of development proposals for compliance with City requirements are required to determine project impact on transportation and utility systems/services.

**7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.**

This is a non-project action.

The proposal to update the CFP does not conflict with local, state, or federal laws. Capital projects are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and intended to help advance climate change, sustainability, conservation, and other objectives pertaining to the protection of the environment.