

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

## ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

## ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:***

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

## **A. Background**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Amendments to Title 17 Regulating Religious Institutions**

2. Name of applicant:

**City of Milton**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Brittany Port, AICP, Contract Senior Planner, (253) 517-2701, [bport@cityofmilton.net](mailto:bport@cityofmilton.net)**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**October 19, 2021**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**City of Milton**

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

**The City plans to adopt the amendments to Title 17 in early 2022.**

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

**Not applicable. The proposed action is a nonproject action.**

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

**No environmental information has been prepared 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.

**Not applicable. The proposed action is a nonproject action.**

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

**The Milton City Council must adopt the amendments to Title 17 by ordinance.**

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. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**The City proposes to amend Title 17 to clarify certain sections of the Milton Municipal Code that relate to the regulation of churches and places of worship. The definition of "Church" will be clarified to include all religious institutions and places of worship. In addition, a distinction will be made based on the square footage of religious institutions and the seating capacity. The City recognizes the land use differences between neighborhood places of worship and mega-institutions that seat thousands. Neighborhood religious institutions will continue to be permitted within residential and**

commercial zoning districts either outright or with a conditional use permit. Regional religious institutions that are over 20,000sf or seat more than 301 persons will be permitted with a conditional use permit in commercially zoned areas of the City that are served by major arterials due to their traffic and noise impacts. Additional code amendments proposed will clarify that a separate conditional use permit is required for private schools or pre-schools in conjunction with religious institutions. Parking standards for religious institutions will also be updated to respond to the maximum occupant load of the principal and auxiliary places of worship, rather than calculate required parking based on the number of seats.

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, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The amendments to Title 17 apply city-wide.

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

*No discussion of the individual Environmental Elements is required for GMA actions per WAC 197-11-235.3.b.*

## 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: 

Name of signee Brittany Port, AICP

Position and Agency/Organization Contract Senior Planner, City of Milton

Date Submitted: 10/19/2021

## D. Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project 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, 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?

**The amendments are not anticipated to increase discharge to water or air, or produce or release toxic or hazardous substances, or create noise impacts. The amendments may result in decreased discharges to water or air in certain zoning districts where the square footage of religious institutions is limited to neighborhood religious institutions that are potentially of a smaller size that what could be permitted, currently. Further, projects that occur after the adoption of the amendments that result in increased discharge to water or air, or release of toxic hazardous substances, or production of noise will include appropriate mitigation through the SEPA Environmental Review process for those project actions.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**No measures are proposed at this time.**

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

**The amendments will, themselves, not affect plants, animals, fish or marine life in the City.**

**Individual projects could have impacts to plant, animals, fish, or marine life. Any impacts that may result from these projects will be mitigated adequately through the SEPA Environmental Review process for the specific project.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

**No measures are proposed at this time.**

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

**The amendments will not have any impact on energy or natural resources. Individual projects could have minimal impacts to energy or natural resources. Any impacts that may result from these projects will be mitigated adequately through the SEPA Environmental Review for the specific project.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

**No measures are proposed at this time.**

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?

**No impacts are anticipated to environmentally sensitive areas because of the amendments. If there are any environmentally sensitive areas are located near**

**proposed projects, the appropriate mitigation will occur through the SEPA Environmental Review process for the specific project.**

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

**No measures are proposed at this time.**

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?

**The amendments will affect land use within the City by limiting the size and scale of religious institutions within residential neighborhoods. Large institutions with seating for more than 301 persons will be required to site in commercially zoned areas where there is access to major arterials to mitigate impacts to traffic and congestion. The amendments encourage land uses that are compatible with residential districts, such as neighborhood scale religious institutions, to site within residential areas, and encourages larger institutions to site within commercial areas where they are more compatible with those land uses.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

**None.**

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

**No impacts are anticipated to transportation or public services and utilities because of the amendments. If there are any impacts from specific projects that occur as a result of these amendments to transportation or public services and utilities, the appropriate mitigation will occur through the SEPA Environmental Review process for the specific project.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

**No measures are proposed at this time.**

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

**The amendments are expected to align with local, state, and federal laws and requirements for the protection of the environment.**