# **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 <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, 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 <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. 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 [HELP]

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Amendments to Castle Rock Municipal Code Title 5 creating a Short Term Rentals ordinance and Title 17 amending the Home Occupation ordinance.

2. Name of applicant:

## City of Castle Rock.

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

Attn: Ryan P. Shea
City Planner
208-310-2083
141 A Street SW
Castle Rock, WA 98611

4. Date checklist prepared:

### September 2, 2022.

5. Agency requesting checklist:

## Washington State Department of Ecology.

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

#### These are nonproject actions.

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

Nonproject actions, this is not applicable. Development proposals emerging subsequent to the adoption of these updates would be evaluated relative to federal, state, and local regulations and standards on an individual project-specific basis.

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

### Nonproject actions, this is not applicable.

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.

#### None.

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 of Castle Rock Planning Commission has proposed the creation of an ordinance regulating short term rentals and a modification of the regulations for home occupations. Please reference attachments 1-3 to view the complete additions and changes.

Attachment 1: Proposed Short Term Rental Code Attachment 2: Existing Home Occupation Code Attachment 3: Proposed Home Occupation Code

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.

These ordinances will regulate short term rentals and home occupations within the City of Castle Rock city limits.

## B. Environmental Elements [HELP]

- 1. Earth [help]
- a. General description of the site:

(circle one). Flat, rolling, hilly steep slopes, mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Land within the city limits is generally flat with steeper slopes present on the northeast and southeast edges of the city. Small portions of these areas are in excess of 15% slopes.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

The soil within the city limits is comprised primarily of silt loam and sandy soils.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

A river runs through the community which means there are a fair amount of hydric soils near it. However, these nonproject proposals are not anticipated to result in construction proposals that could impact these areas or other potentially unstable soils.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

An increase in new construction is not anticipated by the proposals and will not result in additional filling, grading, or excavation.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No erosion would result from the adoption of these proposals.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

No increase in impervious surfaces is anticipated after the proposals are adopted. No increase in amenities such as hard surfaced parking lots or walkways are required above and beyond normal zoning requirements.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

No impacts to erosion or other impacts to the earth are anticipated.

## 2. Air [help]

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The proposals will not result in increased air emissions.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None.

## 3. Water [help]

- a. Surface Water: [help]
  - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes, there is surface water throughout the city limits primarily in the form of the Cowlitz River with various creeks and streams that flow into it.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

As nonproject actions, the proposals will not generate any work over, in, or adjacent to said river.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

#### Not applicable for these proposals.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

#### No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

There are 100-year floodplains within the City of Castle Rock. However, as nonproject actions the proposals will not result in projects that affect a floodplain hazard area.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

#### No.

- b. Ground Water: [help]
  - 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

#### No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . .; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

### Not applicable.

- c. Water runoff (including stormwater):
  - Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not applicable. The proposals are a nonproject action and do not recommend project actions on a specific site. Future development projects will be conditioned subject to consistency with water quality protection regulations.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

#### Not as a result of these proposals.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

#### No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

#### None.

## 4. Plants [help]

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

Xdeciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
Xevergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
X_shrubs
Xgrass
Xpasture
Xcrop or grain
Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
X wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

The proposals will not directly or indirectly cause vegetation to be removed or altered.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife does not report any threatened or endangered species within city limits.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

#### None.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

## Knotweed, poison hemlock.

## 5. Animals [help]

a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

#### Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other

## Per NatureServe Explorer Pro and WDFW SalmonScape:

Birds: Eagles, Swallows Mammals: White-tailed Deer

Fish: Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Steelhead Trout, Chum

Salmon, Coho Salmon, Mountain Whitefish, Cutthroat Trout.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) interactive map was queried to identify potential priority habitat and species in the project area; fresh water emergent wetlands are dispersed on the outer city limits.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) maintains an on-line list of federally listed as threatened or endangered in the State of Washington. There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species near the project.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

#### No.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None. These nonproject actions will have no negative effect on wildlife.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

#### None.

#### 6. Energy and Natural Resources [help]

 a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

## Not applicable.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

#### No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None. These proposals will not result in a reduction of energy conservation.

## 7. Environmental Health [help]

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

#### No.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

### Not applicable.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

## Not applicable.

 Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

#### Not applicable.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

#### Not applicable.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

## Not applicable.

#### b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

#### None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short term rentals have the potential to create noise from guests congregating, celebrating, etc.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Within the short term rental ordinance, the city's nuisance code has been referenced within the proposed ordinance as the method to deal with noise complaints. Repeated violations will result in fines and eventually revocation of the short term rental license.

The proposed changes to the home occupation ordinance further seeks to reduce potential noise issues to surrounding neighborhoods by specifically prohibiting specific commercial-like uses such as repair or painting of automobiles, large appliance/power equipment repair, restaurants, and welding/fabrication shops.

## 8. Land and Shoreline Use [help]

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

As a nonproject action affecting the entire city, there is no one land use that is applicable here but the land uses are typical of a small city. This proposal has the potential to affect land use to the extent that properties that are solely used as short term rentals will be limited in number within city limits.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

There are working farmlands and no working forest lands within City limits. Working farmlands lie on the northwest edge of the city. The proposals will not result in any conversion of working lands.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

The proposals will have no affect on surrounding working farm or forest land operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Typical structures within a small city: residential, commercial, and industrial structures.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

The proposals are not expected to lead to the demolition of any structures.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Zoning varies throughout the City of Castle Rock.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Land within the city have zoning designations that generally match the type, scale, and intensity of the development found there. The City of Castle Rock is primarily single family residential.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

## Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

#### Yes, Cowlitz River.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

## Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

#### Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

One of the primary goals of the short term rental ordinance is to prevent the erosion of long term rentals by restricting the number of properties that can solely be used as short term rentals.

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Another goal of both proposals is to help maintain neighborhood integrity. For instance, one requirement in the short term rental ordinance restricts the parking/storage of recreational vehicles connected to a short term rental. Further, the short term rental ordinance also restricts the total number of dwelling units that can be used solely for short term rentals which helps protect neighborhoods from

commercial-like uses. The home occupation ordinance adds code that restricts commercial-like uses within neighborhoods.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

No impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance is anticipated with these proposals.

## 9. Housing [help]

 a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

These proposals would not contribute additional dwelling units to the city but the short term rental ordinance may indirectly help satisfy demand within the long term rental market.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No change in number of dwelling units is anticipated with these proposals.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

One of the goals of the short term rental ordinance is to help maintain the long term rental market by restricting homes that can solely be used as short term rentals.

## 10. Aesthetics [help]

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The proposals will not affect structure height, this is not applicable.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No views in the city are anticipated to be altered or obstructed.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Both proposals may directly affect aesthetic impacts to the City to the extent that both proposals aim to restrict negative aesthetic impacts to neighbors. Within the short term rental ordinance, if certain rentals become problematic there are measures in place to fine applicants and revoke licenses as necessary. The home occupation ordinance aims to restrict commercial-like uses from occurring in residential neighborhoods.

## 11. Light and Glare [help]

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

No form of additional light or glare is anticipated above and beyond what typical dwelling units produce.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

The proposals will not directly lead to projects that create more light or glare that create hazards.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

## Not applicable.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

#### None.

## 12. Recreation [help]

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Cowlitz River, Castle Rock Bike Park, Lions Pride Park, Riverfront Trail, "The Rock", Skate Park, Memory Lane Park, Memorial Park, SC/Cold Water Park, CR/Toutle BB Fields, Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, Sports Complex.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

#### No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

## None.

## 13. Historic and cultural preservation [help]

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

There is one building listed on the national register within Castle Rock: the Laughlin Round Barn located at 8249 Barnes Dr. Three structures are determined eligible for the register which are all centered in the commercial core along Cowlitz St W and 1st Ave SW.

The City's Comprehensive Plan lists the following properties as being historically significant:

- 1. Russell Residence: 112 Shintaffer, Constructed in 1900
- 2. Jail: 100 Jackson Street, Constructed in 1906
- 3. Pacific National Bank of Washington: 12 West Cowlitz, Constructed in 1904
- 4. Pioneer Real Estate: Corner of First and "A", Constructed in 1900
- 5. First Methodist Church: 715 First St, Constructed in 1884
- 6. Moody Residence: 308 "B" St, Constructed in 1895
- 7. Moody Residence 2: 500 Warren, Constructed in 1900
- 8. Baugh Residence: 1008 Third, Constructed in 1900
- 9. Bolar Residence: 1102 Second, Constructed in 1900
- 10. Turnbough Residence: 1211 Front St, Constructed in 1900
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

The Cowlitz River was used historically for a variety of purposes by Indians. The City's Comprehensive Plan briefly talks about the history of the area but identifies no local landmarks, cemeteries, or areas of cultural importance within the City limits outside of the historic structures listed in Question A above.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

These are nonproject actions that will not result in the ground being disturbed.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

None. This proposal will not adversely affect historical resources.

#### 14. Transportation [help]

 a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The city's transportation consists of approximately 18 miles of roads. The federal and state routes consist of Interstate-5, State Route 411, and State Route 504.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Castle Rock is served by limited public transportation provided by Lower Columbia Community Action Council which runs a rural public transportation route between Vancouver and Tumwater with the nearest connection in Longview.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

#### Not applicable.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

#### No.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

#### No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

## Not applicable.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

#### No.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

#### None.

## 15. Public Services [help]

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

#### No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

#### None.

## 16. Utilities [help]

 a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other

## Not applicable.

 Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Not applicable.

## C. Signature [HELP]

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: Ryan Shea

Position and Agency/Organization: Planner, SCJ Alliance. Contract City Planner for City of

Castle Rock, WA.

Date Submitted: September 6, 2022.

# D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [HELP]

(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?

#### They would not be likely to increase the above.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

None.

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

#### They would not be likely to affect the above.

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

#### None.

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

## They would likely not deplete energy or natural resources.

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

#### None.

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?

# The proposals would not likely use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for governmental protection.

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

#### None.

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 proposals are not likely to affect land and shoreline use.

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?

The proposals are not likely to increase demands on transportation or public services/utilities.

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

## None.

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

The proposals do not conflict with local, state, or federal laws/requirements as they relate to the protection of the environment.