

**CITY OF SELAH
Yakima County, Washington**

**CITY OF SELAH
2021 WATER SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE**

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Prepared by



**HLA Project No. 19061E
June 2020**

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. *Name of Proposal, if Applicable:* 2021 Water System Plan Update
2. *Name of Proponent:* City of Selah
Phone Number: (509) 698-7328
Address of Proponent: 222 S. Rushmore Rd.
Selah, WA 98942
3. *Person Completing Form:* Justin Bellamy, PE
Phone Number: (509) 966-7000
Address: HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc.
2803 River Road
Yakima, WA 98902
4. *Date Checklist Prepared:* June 2020
5. *Agency Requesting Checklist:* City of Selah
6. *Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):*
Water System Plan Update adoption in February 2021.
7. *Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.*
The water system plan update identifies on-going maintenance activities and replacement and growth-related improvements for the City's municipal water system.
8. *List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.*
None.
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.*
None at this time.
10. *List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.*
Department of Health – Approval of water system plan.
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.*
Adoption of the Water System Plan (WSP) for the City of Selah Urban Growth Area. The WSP identifies recommended maintenance- and growth-related improvements to the Selah water system. Construction, with potential construction-related impacts, will be necessary to implement the WSP recommendations. Further environmental review

is required for all non-exempt construction activities, and project specific checklist responses will be provided at that time

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 application related to this checklist.*

The proposed water system improvements are located throughout the incorporated and unincorporated areas within the City of Selah Growth Area boundary and are shown on Map B of the Water System Plan.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH

- a. *General description of the site (underline one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.*
- b. *What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?*
25% slope.
- 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.*
A wide variety of soils exist within the current Selah water service areas, including silt, clay, sand, and gravel. Some of the soils within the Selah area are classified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service as Prime Farmland. Future construction of the water system to serve areas within Selah's Urban Growth Area may cross some of these prime farmland areas.
- d. *Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.*
Some steep slope areas within the Urban Growth Area may contain 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.*
None proposed.
- f. *Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.*
No.
- g. *About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or building)?*
No additional impervious surfaces.
- h. *Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:*
None.

2. AIR

- a. *What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.*
None.
- 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

a. *Surface Water:*

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.*
The Selah Ditch, the Naches River, the Yakima River, Wenas Creek, and irrigation canals and drains lie within or immediately adjacent to the current and future water service areas.
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.*
No.
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.*
None.
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.*
The City of Selah Urban Growth Area boundary contains lands located within the 100-year floodplains of the Yakima River and the Naches River.
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:*

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.*

Approximately 2,653 acre-feet of ground water is presently being withdrawn for water supply of the Selah water system. The City has rights for 4,760 acre-feet per year. It is forecast that Selah's groundwater withdrawals will increase to 3,134 acre-feet an-annually by year 2031.

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.

None.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

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

Not applicable.

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

No.

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:

Not applicable.

4. PLANTS

- a. Check or underline type of vegetation found on the site:

X deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

X evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X shrubs

X grass

X pasture

X crop or grain

X 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?

None.

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

None are known to exist.

- 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.*
None.

5. ANIMALS

- a. *List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:*
Bird: hawk, heron, eagle, songbird, other
Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other
Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other
- b. *List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.*
Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as "Threatened," are present along the Yakima and Naches Rivers in the Selah vicinity during the winter months. Mid-Columbia River Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), currently listed by National Marine Fisheries Service as "Threatened," and the Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), currently listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as "Threatened," are present in the Naches and Yakima Rivers.
- c. *Is this site part of a migration route? If so, explain.*
The City of Selah Urban Growth Area boundary may be within a migratory route for some bird species.
- d. *Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:*
None.
- e. *List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.*
None.

6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- 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.*
None.
- 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.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- 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.*
None.

2. *Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmissions pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.*
None.

3. *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.*
None.

4. *Describe special emergency services that might be required.*
None.

5. *Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:*
None.

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.*
None.

3. *Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:*
None.

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

- 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.*

The City of Selah Urban Growth Area is a combination of agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, public, and quasi-public land uses.

- b. *Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest land? 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 non-forest use?*

Historically, land within the City of Selah Urban Growth Area has been used for agriculture. However, some of the land area has been converted to non-agricultural urban uses.

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:*

No.

- c. *Describe any structures on the site.*
Not applicable.
- d. *Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?*
No.
- e. *What is the current zoning classification of the site?*
The incorporated and unincorporated City of Selah Urban Growth Area consists of a wide range of zoning classifications including agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and public.
- f. *What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?*
Not applicable.
- 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.*
No.
- 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?*
None.
- k. *Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:*
Not applicable.
- l. *Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:*
None.
- m. *Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:*
None.

9. HOUSING

- a. *Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*
None.
- b. *Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*
None.
- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:*
Not applicable.

10. AESTHETICS

- a. *What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?*
Not applicable.
- b. *What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?*
None.
- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:*
None.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

- a. *What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?*
Not applicable.
- b. *Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?*
No.
- c. *What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?*
None.
- d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:*
None.

12. RECREATION

- a. *What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?*
The City of Selah Urban Growth Area contains numerous municipal parks and school playgrounds. Numerous informal recreational opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, walking, jogging, bicycling, etc., exist within the Urban Growth Area.
- 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

- 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 located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.*
No.
- b. *Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Is 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.*
None.

- 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.*

None.

- 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.

14. TRANSPORTATION

- 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 of Selah Urban Growth Area contains numerous City of Selah, Yakima County, and Washington Department of Transportation streets and highways. Public streets are shown on Map B of the Water System Plan.

- 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?*

Public transit service is provided on First Street within the City of Selah.

- 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.*

The Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Stampede Pass main line traverses the City of Selah Urban Growth Area.

- 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?*

None.

- 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.*

None.

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

None.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

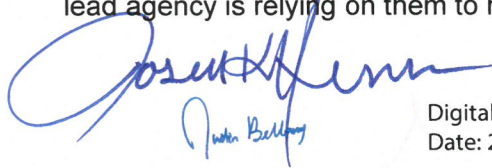
- a. *Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other?) If so, generally describe.*
No.
- b. *Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.*
None.

16. UTILITIES

- a. *Underline the utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, irrigation, cable TV, drains, other.*
- b. *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.*
None.

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.



Digitally signed by Justin Bellamy
Date: 2020.10.08 12:00:40 -07'00'

12-17-20

June 30, 2020

Justin L. Bellamy, PE
Project Engineer
HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc.

Date

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

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 2021 Water System Plan addresses and identifies improvements to and expansion of the City of Selah's water system necessary to accommodate projected growth within the City and its Urban Growth Area over the next 20-year period. Increases in treated wastewater discharge will be as described in the City's 2018 General Sewer Plan and generally correspond with increased water usage. No increases in the emissions to air, production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances, or production of noise are likely to result from this proposal.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Not applicable.

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

No effects are likely because of this proposal.

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

Not applicable.

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

Because some water system components operate electrically, this proposal may result in a minor increase in energy requirements to operate electrical equipment over current amounts.

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

The increase of electrical energy requirements will be reduced to the extent possible through use of high-efficiency electrical motors and equipment.

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 proposal is not likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas.

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

Environmentally sensitive areas were identified during the development of Selah's Water System Plan. These areas will be avoided when detailed plans are prepared, and pipeline alignments selected.

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 proposal will not affect land or shoreline use in ways incompatible with existing plans.

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?*

This proposal identifies the future demand upon the Selah water system and identifies the measures the City will take to accommodate that future demand.

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

Proposed measures include expansion of the water system to serve lands within the City's Urban Growth Area.

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

This proposal does not conflict with laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Improvements identified within this proposal will allow the City to comply with public health requirements.

