



File No. EA2020-111

CITY OF RICHLAND
Determination of Non-Significance

Description of Proposal: Text amendment to RMC Section 27.04.030 – Permits Required - Exemptions. The proposed text amendment would allow various types of governmental signs such as: Emergency warning signs, traffic signs, signs directing the public to points of interest and signs showing the location of public facilities to be installed without permit approval from the City of Richland.

Proponent: Joe Schiessl, Director, City of Richland Parks and Public Facilities Department

Location of Proposal: City-Wide.

Lead Agency: City of Richland

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it 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 a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

() There is no comment for the DNS.

() This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen days from the date of issuance.

(X) This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

Responsible Official: Mike Stevens

Position/Title: Planning Manager

Address: 625 Swift Blvd., MS #35, Richland, WA 99352

Date: July 24, 2020

Signature _____

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 [HELP]

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Richland Municipal Code Amendment
Chapter 27.04.030, (Sign) Permits required - exemptions.**

2. Name of applicant:

City of Richland
Joe Schiessl
Parks and Public Facilities Director

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

City of Richland
625 Swift Blvd
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 942-7578

4. Date checklist prepared:

April 9, 2020

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Richland

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

Upon adoption by Richland City Council

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

No, this is a stand alone text amendment.

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

None other than this SEPA Checklist. The City of Richland Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code were prepared through an EIS process.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

The proposed text amendment will be adopted via ordinance by the Richland City Council.

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 proposed text amendment to Chapter 27.04.030 will allow signs directing the public to points of interest and showing the location of public facilities as exempt from sign permit.

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 proposed text amendment will apply to all areas of the City.

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

N/A as this is a text amendment only. There are various geographic features within Richland city limits.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The Columbia and Yakima Rivers are within Richland city limits.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. Various types of vegetation exist within Richland city limits.

___deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

___evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

___shrubs

___grass

___pasture

___crop or grain

___Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

___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?

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The Richland Municipal Code has provisions for the protection of threatened and endangered species.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

5. *Animals* [\[help\]](#)

- 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only. Various birds and other animals are present within Richland city limits.

Examples include:

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

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

The City of Richland is located within the Mid-Columbia Flyway.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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:

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

b. Noise

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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)?

Indi-

cate what hours noise would come from the site.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only. There are a variety of land uses within Richland 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?

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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:

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.
N/A as this is a text amendment only. There are numerous structures located within Richland city limits.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
N/A as this is a text amendment only. There are a variety of zoning classifications within Richland city limits.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
N/A as this is a text amendment only. There are a variety of land use classifications within Richland city limits.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
N/A as this is a text amendment only. Portions of the City are located within the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Master Program; however, this text amendment will not result in any physical alterations of the land.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
N/A as this is a text amendment only. There are a number of critical areas within Richland city limits.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- l. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
N/A as this is a text amendment only. There are a variety of recreational opportunities within Richland city limits.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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?

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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).

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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?

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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.
N/A as this is a text amendment only.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

16. Utilities [help]

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
N/A as this is a text amendment only.

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____

1. 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.

N/A as this is a text amendment only.

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:

Joe Schiessl

Position and Agency/Organization: Parks and Public Facilities Director

Date Submitted:

April 9, 2020

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?

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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?

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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?

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

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

N/A as this is a text amendment only. The proposal consists only of an amendment to Chapter 27.04.030, (sign) permits required - exemptions, of the Richland Municipal Code. Any project will comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.