

WHATCOM COUNTY

Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-778-5900, TTY 800-833-6384
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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

DNS Distribution List
SEP2018-00023
Date of Issuance: June 11, 2018

Please review this Notice of Application and Optional SEPA Determination. If you have further comments, questions or would like a copy of the SEPA environmental checklist, phone the responsible official at (360) 778-5900. Please submit your response by the comment date noted on the attached notice.

SEPA Unit, WA State Department of Ecology, Olympia via email
sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov

WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife via email
Wendy Cole, wendy.cole@dfw.wa.gov

WA State Department of Natural Resources via email
Rochelle Goss, sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov
Brenda Werden, Brenda.werden@dnr.wa.gov

Lummi Nation Natural Resources
Merle Jefferson, Sr. via email - merlej@lummi-nsn.gov
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Nooksack Indian Tribe
George Swanaset, JR via email - george.swanasetjr@nooksack-nsn.gov
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City of Bellingham
Kurt Nabbeffeld via email - knabbefeld@cob.org
Brent Baldwin via email - bbaldwin@cob.org
Clare Fogelsong via email - cfogelsong@cob.org

Applicant
Doug MacLean, Western Washington University

Agent
Craig Parkinson, Cascade Engineering Group
via email - craig@cascadecivil.com

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SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

File: SEP2018-00023

Project Description: Add two ADA compliant parking spaces and pathway to the Lakewood boating facility.

Proponent: Western Washington University

Address and Parcel #: 2410 Lake Whatcom Blvd. – APN#:370406419422

Lead Agency: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

Zoning: R5A

Comp Plan: Rural Community

Shoreline Jurisdiction: Rural

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that with proper mitigation, no significant adverse environmental impacts are likely. Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c), an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required. This decision was made following review of a completed SEPA environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

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

☐ Pursuant to WAC 197-11-340(2), the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance indicated below. Comments must be received by _____ and should be sent to:

Responsible Official: Mark Personius, mpersoni@whatcomcounty.us

Title: Director

Telephone: 360-778-5900

Address: 5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

Date of Issuance: June 11, 2018

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M Personius", is written over a horizontal line.

An aggrieved agency or person may appeal this determination to the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner. Application for appeal must be filed on a form provided by and submitted to the Whatcom County Current Planning Division located at 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226, during the ten days following the date of issuance, concluding June 21, 2018.

You should be prepared to make a specific factual objection. Contact Whatcom County Current Planning Division for information about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

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: [help]

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:

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: [help]

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: *Lakewood Facility ADA Parking*
2. Name of applicant: *Western Washington University*
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Applicant: Doug MacLean – Western Washington University
516 High St. Bellingham, WA 98225 360.650.3791
Contact: Craig Parkinson – Cascade Engineering Group
119 Grand Ave, Suite D Bellingham, WA 98225 360.306.8161
4. Date checklist prepared: *March 8, 2018*
5. Agency requesting checklist: *Whatcom County*

Received
 MAR 23 2018
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6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Work to begin August, 2018

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

None known

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

*Preliminary Stormwater Design Report, Cascade Engineering Group, Pending
Critical Areas & Mitigation Report, Cantrell and Associates, 03/07/2018*

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 Known

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

Whatcom County

- *Stormwater approval*
- *Shoreline approval*
- *Land Disturbance Permit*

+ Shoreline Variance

Washington State Department of Ecology

- *NPDES Construction Permit*

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

- *HPA Permit*

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 Lakewood Recreational Facility is situated on 8.29 acres. The property is currently zoned R5A, with a shoreline designation of Rural. It is proposed to provide two ADA accessible parking spaces and allow access to the facility for recreational enjoyment of all.

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 Lakewood project site is located on tax parcel 370406 419422, within the Northeast quarter of Section 6, Township 37, Range 4 East. The property is located on the west shore of Lake Whatcom, north of the Sudden Valley residential area in Whatcom County.

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site

- ☐ Flat ☐ Rolling ☒ Hilly ☒ Steep Slopes ☐ Mountainous
☐ Other

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

The steepest slope on the site is 15%+/-.

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.

Squalicum gravelly loam

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

None known

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.

Approximately 1,500 square feet will be graded and filled to accommodate the construction of two (2) ADA parking stalls and access ramp. Fill will be from a contractor provided pit.

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

Prior to any clearing or grading activity appropriate temporary erosion control mechanisms will be installed, using best management practices. All clearing and grading plans will be prepared by a Civil Engineer and will meet current storm water management requirements. After work is complete, all stormwater will be managed resulting in a limited risk of erosion during use.

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

The project will add approximately 900 square feet of impervious surface to the property. It is estimated that approximately 5% of site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project completion.

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

Implementation of engineered stormwater management BMPs, erosion control measures and permanent stormwater detention and treatment facilities.

2. Air

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.

During construction heavy equipment will generate vehicle exhaust and dust.

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

None known

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
Limiting idling of heavy equipment during construction, watering soils if dust becomes a problem. Dust will be collected and filtered when possible through BMPs.

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 Lakewood Recreational Facility is located on the shores of Lake Whatcom.
- 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.
Due to the site's topography, the project will construct two ADA compliant parking spaces near the bottom of the access driveway, on the lawn, just to the south of the existing main building.
- 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.
No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface waters or wetlands.
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
No water withdrawals are proposed.
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.
No, proposal is not within a 100-year floodplain.
- 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 waste materials will be discharged to surface waters.

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.
No ground water will be withdrawn and no water will be discharged to ground water as part of this proposal.
- 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.
No ground discharge of waste material is proposed.

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.

Stormwater from the building and access driveway will continue to be collected in approved facilities and treated and detained to regulatory standards prior to release into Lake Whatcom.

- 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:

Project will provide SWPPP measures during construction, and construct permanent measures to meet Whatcom County stormwater regulations.

4. Plants

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

☒ 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 (*blackberry*)

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

Approximately 900 square feet of existing lawn will be removed.

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

None known

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

Landscaping will include restoration of existing lawn area.

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

None known

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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:
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.
None Known ✓
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
All of Western Whatcom County is part of the Pacific Flyway Zone ✓
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
None needed ✓
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
None known ✓

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. ✓
Electricity is available to meet the completed project's needs. Electricity will be used for parking lot illumination.
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. ✓
Project will not affect the potential use of solar energy to adjacent properties.
- 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 proposed at this time beyond those required by building code. The project design does not preclude the implementation of other energy conservation features.

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. ✓
None Known
- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. ✓
None known
- 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. ✓
None known

- 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 known
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
No special emergency services will be required.
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Contractor will follow spill prevention protocol and have appropriate spill prevention kits on site.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
None known
- 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.
During construction heavy equipment and construction activities will generate noise during daylight working hours. Upon project completion noise will be typical for recreational use.
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
During construction, operation of heavy equipment and construction activities will be limited to regular business hours as allowed by County code.

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 site is currently used as a recreation and retreat center. The facility is located on the shores of Lake Whatcom, north of the Sudden Valley residential area. The proposal will allow ADA access to the Lakewood facility. It will not affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.
- 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?
Not known; it has been used as a recreation site for almost 50 years.
 - 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.
The main facility building houses a lodge, boating activities and manger's quarters. Additional structures include a boat storage building, canoe and kayak shelter and picnic areas.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? ✓
No structures will be demolished.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? ✓
The site is zoned R5A
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? ✓
Rural
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? ✓
The shoreline is designated as Rural
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. ✓
Yes, the majority of the Lake Whatcom shoreline is HCA 5 – Eelgrass Beds
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? ✓
None
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? ✓
None
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: ✓
None needed
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: ✓
Project will comply with Whatcom County land use regulations.
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: ✓
None needed

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. ✓
No housing units will be eliminated
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: ✓
None

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? ✓
No structures are proposed
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? ✓
None
- CJA

- 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? ✓

No light or glare will be produced by the proposal.

- 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 known

- 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? ✓

Lakewood provides numerous opportunities including user risk swimming, picnic and boating recreation as well as relaxation activities and a challenge course on-site.

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

No existing recreational uses will be displaced.

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

Public recreation areas will be separated from the work area by fencing and other temporary facilities during construction.

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. ✓

None known

- 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. ✓

None known

- 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. ✓

Site is already developed and has been used as a recreation and retreat center for over 30 years. Site is classified "low risk" on the WISAARD mapping system.

- 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. ✓

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used.

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.
Lakewood is bordered by private property to the north and south, Lake Whatcom to the east and Lake Whatcom Blvd to the west. ✓
- 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?
The site is currently served by three (3) WTA stops within .5 miles. ✓
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?
Two (2) ADA compliant parking spaces would be added. Existing non-conforming accessible parking space will be redesignated as "No Parking". ✓
- 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; construction will consist of ground transportation 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?
No additional vehicular trips will be generated ✓
- 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

- 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.
Project will not result in an increased need for public services. ✓
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
None ✓

16. Utilities

- a. Check utilities currently available at the site: ✓
- ☒ electricity ☒ natural gas ☒ water ☒ refuse service ☒ telephone ☒ sanitary sewer
- ☐ septic system ☐ other

CAA

May 2014

- 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.

No new utilities are proposed



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: Doug MacLean, Architect

Position and Agency/Organization: Western Washington University Project Manager

Date Submitted:

Caffi Andrew Hicles 6/8/18