



DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

Description of proposal: The City of Kirkland proposes to update its **Comprehensive Plan** in accordance with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA). This update will address projected population, housing and employment growth to the new horizon year of 2035 and new GMA legislation, integrate newly annexed areas, and incorporate new and updated city master plans and neighborhood plans. Citizen amendment requests will be considered that may result in changes to land use and/or development regulations. File No. SEP13-00466/CAM13-00465.

The City will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Plan Update and is also exploring a potential designation for a Totem Lake Planned Action.

Location of Proposal: The proposal encompasses the entire City of Kirkland.

Proponent, Lead Agency, and Contact Person:

The City of Kirkland is both the proponent and lead agency for SEPA review.

Primary Contact: Teresa Swan, Senior Planner
Department of Planning and Community Development
City of Kirkland, 123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
tswan@kirlandwa.gov, 425-587-3258

Date of Issuance: April 24, 2014.

Elements of the Environment to be Addressed: The City has preliminarily identified the following topic areas for analysis in the EIS: land use patterns, transportation, housing and employment growth, economic development, natural environment, public services, utilities, capital facilities, and relationship to plans and policies. Additional topic areas may be analyzed based on comments received during the scoping period.

Level of Environmental Analysis: The EIS will be prepared in conjunction with updates to the Comprehensive Plan. The EIS will be programmatic, or non-project, meaning that impacts, mitigation measures, and significant unavoidable adverse impacts will be identified at a general level of detail. The EIS will consider potential citywide impacts associated with the elements of the environment listed above.

Conceptual EIS Alternatives: The City intends to study three alternatives in the EIS as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update: These are categorized as the *Existing Plan* (also termed the *No Action Alternative*) and two *Action Alternatives*. All alternatives will consider Kirkland's assigned housing and growth targets but will vary the mix, form and locations of future development.

- The *Existing Plan Alternative (No Action Alternative)*, which is required by the State Environmental Policy Act, would assume no amendments to the policies of the existing adopted Comprehensive Plan or to existing zoning regulations.
- The two *Action Alternatives* would amend the Comprehensive Plan consistent with the revised draft vision and guiding principles, and current GMA legislation, Vision 2040 and Countywide Planning Policies; incorporate the new and updated city-wide master plans and neighborhood plans; including a complete review of the Totem Lake Neighborhood Plan, and integrate newly annexed areas. The two preliminary alternatives will be studied to assess the potential impacts of distributing future growth to targeted areas of the city, such as Totem Lake, industrial and

commercial areas, and along transit routes and the Cross Kirkland Corridor/Eastside Railroad Corridor to improve use of transit, promote walkable neighborhoods and reduce the need for automobile travel. In addition, selected citizen amendment requests will be studied. The action alternatives will be refined based on community input after the scoping comment deadline.

Scoping Comments: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on EIS Alternatives, issues that should be evaluated in the EIS, probable significant adverse impacts that be studied, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving your comments is: mail written comments to the Responsible Official at the address below or **email comments to Teresa Swan** at tswan@kirklandwa.gov. The City must receive the comments before **5:00 pm Friday June 20, 2014** for the comments to be considered.

Responsible official:

Eric Shields, AICP, Director
Department of Planning & Community Development
City of Kirkland
123 Fifth Avenue
Kirkland, Washington 98033
425-587-3226

Date: April 24, 2014 Signature: 

Appeal: You may appeal this determination of significance by following the procedures in KMC 24.02.230. Any appeal must be filed in writing at Kirkland City Hall within 7 days after publication of the determination of significance (by 5:00 pm on **May 1, 2014**). The notice of appeal must contain a statement of the matter being appealed, the specific components or aspects that are being appealed, the rationale of the appellant, and a statement demonstrating standing to appeal. Contact the Planning Department at Kirkland City Hall (425-587-3235) to ask about procedures for SEPA appeals.

Appeals should be directed to:

Nancy Cox, City of Kirkland Environmental Coordinator
Department of Planning & Community Development
City of Kirkland
123 Fifth Avenue
Kirkland, Washington 98033
425-587-3228, ncox@kirklandwa.gov