

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
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**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

SEPA Distribution List  
SEP2016-00109  
Date of Issuance: October 2, 2017

Please review this determination. If you have further comments, questions or would like a copy of the SEPA checklist, phone the responsible official at (360) 778-5912. Please submit your response by the comment date noted on the attached notice of determination.

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Terry J. Wechsler via email wechslerlaw@comcast.net

Applicant  
Whatcom County Fire District #4  
Jerry Debruin, Fire Chief

Received

DEC 12 2016

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive,  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384  
360-738-2525 Fax



**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

SEP 2016 - 109

**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.

Use of Checklist for Non-Project Proposals:

For non-project proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions (Part C). 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:  
Kendall Fire Station  
Fire Apparatus Building and Fire Tank
- 2 Name of applicant: Whatcom County Fire District #14  
Applicant phone number: 360 599 2823 (Jerry Debruin, Fire Chief)  
Applicant address: P.O. Box 482  
City, State, Zip or Postal Code: Sumas, WA 98295
- 3 Contact name: J.P. Slagle, Freeland & Associates, Inc.  
Contact phone number: 360-650-1408  
Contact address: 220 West Champion Street, Suite 200  
City, State, Zip or Postal Code: Bellingham, WA 98225
- 4 Date checklist prepared: October 9, 2016
- 5 Agency requesting checklist: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services
- 6 Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
Permitting-Winter 2016  
Construction-Summer 2017
- 7 Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? Yes  No   
If yes, explain:  
Future development plans include renovation of the main fire station.
- 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?  
Yes  No   
If yes, explain.

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

Whatcom County Conditional Use Permit  
Whatcom County Land Disturbance Permit  
Whatcom County Revocable Encroachment Permit  
Whatcom County Building Permit  
Whatcom County Fire 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.)

Construction of a new 6,400 sq. ft. fire equipment/apparatus building north of the existing fire station and construction of a fire tank.



- 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.

7528 Kendall Road, Maple Falls, WA 98266  
Section 34, Township 40N, Range 05E  
Tax Parcel No. 4005343664250000



## B Environmental Elements

### 1 Earth

- a. General description of the site:

- |                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Flat         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Rolling      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Hilly        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Steep Slopes |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Mountainous  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other        |



- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?  
**Approximately 2%.**

- 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.

**Winston silt loam #186, of Hydrologic Group B is the primary soil on site according to the UC Davis Soils Map. The Winston series consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in glacial outwash, or old alluvium, with a mantle of loess and volcanic ash. Winston soils are on terraces and terrace escarpments and have slopes of 0 to 65 percent.**

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? Yes  No

If so, describe.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling excavation or grading proposed.

**Structural fill will be imported to achieve site grades. Approximately 1,500 cubic yards will be excavated and filled for the new building.**

Indicate source of fill.

**Permitted gravel pit.**

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use?

Yes  No

If so, generally describe.

**Site grading during construction will expose soils and may cause erosion.**

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

**Approximately 40%.**

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

**Best Management Practices in accordance with Volume II of the DOE Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington. Compliance with OSHA, WISHA, EPA, and rules and regulations.**

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 (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, or industrial wood smoke)?

Exhaust from construction equipment will occur during construction. Exhaust from fire apparatus and emergency vehicles associated with the station will occur when the project is completed.

If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Not known.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? Yes  No

If so, generally describe.

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

Reduce unnecessary idling.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- (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)? Yes  No

If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

- (2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? Yes  No

If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Not applicable.

- (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. **Not Applicable.**

Indicate the source of fill material.



- (4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions?

Yes  No



Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain?

Yes  No



If so, note location on the site plan.

- (5) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters?

Yes  No



If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge

b. Ground Water:

- (1) Will ground water be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? Yes  No

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.

Drinking water will be withdrawn from a private well located on the western portion of the project site for drinking water purposes.

- (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 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 stormwater):

- (1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known).

Stormwater runoff will occur from the proposed building's roof. The runoff will be collected in a storm drain and disposed by infiltration.



Where will this water flow? Surface water will be infiltrated into the ground.



Will this water flow into other waters? Yes  No

If so, describe.

- (2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters?

Yes  No

If so, generally describe.

Stormwater will be treated before entering groundwater.



- (3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site: Yes  No

If so, describe.



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

Surface water impacts will be reduced and controlled through engineered treatment and infiltration systems.





#### 4 Plants

a. Check 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

J

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

Trees will be removed in order to accommodate the new development.

J

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

None.

J

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

Limit tree clearing limits only to the area necessary for construction.

J

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

None.

J

#### 5. Animals

a. Check any birds and animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Birds:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawk,  | <input type="checkbox"/> Heron,                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eagle, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Songbirds; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:            |  |

J

Mammals:

- Deer,  
 Elk,  
 Other:

- Bear,  
 Beaver;

Fish:

- Bass,  
 Trout,  
 Shellfish;

- Salmon,  
 Herring,  
 Other:

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

None known.



- c. Is the site part of a migration route? Yes  No

If so, explain.

This site is located within the Pacific Flyway.



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

None.



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

Electric-Lighting  
Propane Tank-Heating



- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? Yes  No

If so, generally describe.



- 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:

The new fire station equipment building shall comply with the Energy Code.



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? Yes  No

If so, describe.



- (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 transmission 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 projects 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 measure 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)?

Traffic and construction noise may affect the project.



- (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.

Construction noise may affect the neighborhood on a short term basis. Long term noise impacts include fire sirens and noise associated with emergency vehicle operation. The hours of noise will vary based on call volume.



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

Construction will be limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Pursuant to WCC 20.80.620, no development shall exceed the maximum environmental noise level established by WAC 173-60.



8 Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The current use of the site is a fire station. Adjacent properties include: South-Gas Station East-Public Library North/West-Undeveloped



Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? Yes  No

If so, describe.



- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? Yes  No

If so, describe.



How much agriculture or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any?

None.



If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to non-farm or non-forest use?

None.



- (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? Yes  No

If so, how:  
Not anticipated.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.  
Existing structures include a 5,120 sq. ft. fire station and parking lot.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? Yes  No   
If so, what?  
No structure demolitions are proposed as part of the proposal.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?  
Commercial
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?  
Small Town Commercial (STC)
- 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? Yes  No   
If so, specify.  
Yes. The site is located with a lahar inundation zone. Fire stations are considered a "critical facility" per WCC 16.16.350(C) and construction in a lahar inundation zone is allowable.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?  
Fire Station Employees/Volunteers=15
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?  
None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:  
**No displacement impacts are anticipated.**



- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:  
**The proposal includes a facility related to the current fire station/emergency services land use. The project will improve the Kendall Fire Station's capacity to serve the community.**



- 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.

**Not applicable.**

- High  
 Middle  
 Low-income



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

**Not applicable.**

- High  
 Middle  
 Low-income



- 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?

**The tallest height of the proposed fire station building is 30 feet.  
The principal exterior material is metal.**



- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?  
**None.**



- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:  
**The proposed fire station equipment building will have an architectural design that is compatible with the existing station and surrounding land use designation (Small Town Commercial).**

11 Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?  
**No production of light or glare is anticipated as a result of the project.**

- 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:  
**Outdoor lights will be directed downward.**

12 Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?  
**The North Fork Community Library is located east of the project site.**

- 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 proposed.**

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? Yes  No   
If so, specifically describe.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian, historic use or occupation, this may include human burials or old cemeteries?

Yes  No

Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Yes  No

Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

- 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 proposed.

- 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.

No resources have been identified.

#### 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 plan, if any.

Kendall Road (SR 547)

- b. Is site or geographic area currently served by public transit?

Yes  No

If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Yes. Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) serves the site. The distance to the nearest transit stop is 200 ft. south outside of the gas station adjacent to the fire station project site.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Existing=11

Proposed=0

Total=11



- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? Yes  No   
If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

- e. Will the project 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 non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Vehicle trips per day=19 per W.C. Preliminary Traffic and Concurrency Information

- g. 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)?  
Yes  No   
If so, generally describe.

- 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,
- Water,
- Telephone,
- Septic system,

- Natural gas,
- Refuse service,
- Sanitary sewer,
- Other **Propane Tank**



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.

- Water Service-Private Well
- Fire Protection-Private Fire Tank
- Sewer Service-Septic System
- Electrical Service-Puget Sound Energy
- Telephone-Qwest
- Refuse Service-Nooksack Valley Disposal



**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.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: 12-9-16

### **C Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions**

*(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?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

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

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

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

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?

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

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?

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

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

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

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