



EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC

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January 10, 2022

Mr. Rick Benner, Director
Capital, Planning and Development, MS 9122
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: *WWU Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Project – Displaced Parking*

Dear Mr. Benner:

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC (EA) has prepared this letter with our recommendation for a SEPA threshold determination on the proposed ***Western Washington University (WWU) Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (EECS) Project – Displaced Parking***.

EA is recognized for our expertise in the management of SEPA/NEPA compliance and permitting on large and small projects throughout the region, including projects in Bellingham and on the WWU campus. The planning group in our Seattle office specializes in SEPA/NEPA compliance and permitting. Our senior environmental planning staff members each have 25+ years of SEPA/NEPA experience. EA has prepared over 500 environmental review documents under SEPA and NEPA for a wide range of projects, including for numerous college/university master plans and projects. We will use this experience to make our recommendation on the proposed ***WWU EECS Project – Displaced Parking***.

EA, together with Perkins&Will the project architect, prepared and submitted the Expanded SEPA Checklist for the proposed ***WWU EECS Project – Displaced Parking***. Technical input to the Checklist was provided by the following qualified consultants:

- Civil Engineering – KPFF
- Geotechnical – Associated Earth Sciences, Inc.
- Tree Inventory and Assessment – Tree Solutions
- Landscaping – Berger Partnership
- Lighting – Blanca

In preparing the SEPA Checklist, EA reviewed and determined the consistency of the proposed ***WWU EECS Project – Displaced Parking*** with the following land use plans and regulations:

- WWU Campus Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, July 1993;
- Addendum #1 WWU Campus Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, Nov. 1996;
- Addendum #2 WWU Campus Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, Dec. 2000;

- WWU Institutional Master Plan – An Addendum to the WWU Neighborhood Plan, Oct. 2001;
- City of Bellingham Neighborhood Plan WWU, January 2005; and,
- Applicable City of Bellingham regulations.

Based on our knowledge of SEPA, and particularly the threshold determination process (WAC 197-11-310); familiarity with the proposed **WWU EECS Project – Displaced Parking** through preparation of the Expanded SEPA Checklist; and review of the consistency of the proposed project with the above listed plans and regulations, it is our opinion that construction and operation of the project will result in no probable significant adverse environmental impacts. The number of mitigation measures that are incorporated into the project contribute to our conclusion of no significant impacts and in our opinion no other mitigation measures, beyond those listed in the Expanded SEPA Checklist, are required to reduce impacts to nonsignificant levels. Therefore, we recommend that WWU issue a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) on the proposed project (in accordance with WAC 197-11-340).

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss our recommendation for a SEPA threshold determination further.

Sincerely,

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC



Gretchen Brunner
Senior Planner

Cc:

Anthony Gianopoulos, Principal, Operations Director, Seattle, Perkins&Will

Andrew Clinch, Principal, Perkins&Will

Shanni Hanein, Technical Coordinator, Perkins&Will