DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

for the proposed

West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project

prepared by

September 2019

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC
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Perteet
Heffron Transportation, Inc.
PREFACE

The purpose of this Draft Environmental Checklist is to identify and evaluate probable environmental impacts that could result from the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project and to identify measures to mitigate those impacts. The West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project would add approximately 28,000 square feet of new building space and renovate approximately 7,700 square feet of existing building space. The new building additions would be located to the southwest and northwest of the existing building and existing portables would be removed from the site. The proposed addition would increase the student capacity of the school from an existing capacity of approximately 550 students to a new capacity of approximately 620 students.

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires that all governmental agencies consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before the proposal is decided upon. This Draft Environmental Checklist has been prepared in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act; the SEPA Rules, effective April 4, 1984, as amended (Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code); and the Seattle City Code (25.05), which implements SEPA.

This document is intended to serve as SEPA review for site preparation work, building construction, and operation of the proposed development comprising the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project. Analysis associated with the proposed project contained in this Environmental Checklist is based on Schematic Design plans for the project, which are on file with Seattle Public Schools. While not construction-level detail, the schematic plans accurately represent the eventual size, location and configuration of the proposed project and are considered adequate for analysis and disclosure of environmental impacts.

This Environmental Checklist is organized into three major sections. Section A of the Checklist (starting on page 1) provides background information concerning the Proposed Action (e.g., purpose, proponent/contact person, project description, project location, etc.). Section B (beginning on page 5) contains the analysis of environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project, based on review of major environmental parameters. This section also identifies possible mitigation measures. Section C (page 31) contains the signature of the proponent, confirming the completeness of this Environmental Checklist.

Project-relevant analyses that served as a basis for this Environmental Checklist include: the Geotechnical Engineering Report (AESI, 2019), the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Worksheet (EA Engineering, 2019), the Tree Inventory and Arborist Report (Tree Solutions, Inc., 2019), the Cultural Resources Assessment (Perteet, 2019), and the Transportation Technical Report (Heffron Transportation, Inc., 2019).

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1 Chapter 43.21C. RCW


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PURPOSE

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help identify impacts from the proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts, if possible) and to help Seattle Public Schools to make a SEPA threshold determination.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of Proposed Project:

   West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project

2. Name of Applicant:

   Seattle School District No. 1 (Seattle Public Schools)

3. Address and Phone Number of Applicant and Contact Person:

   Paul Wight
   Project Manager
   Seattle Public Schools
   2445 – 3rd Ave. S.
   MS 22-334
   Seattle, WA 98124-1165
   206-252-0648

4. Date Checklist Prepared

   September 26, 2019

5. Agency Requesting Checklist

   Seattle School District No. 1
   2445 – 3rd Avenue South
   MS 22-332, P.O. Box 34165
   Seattle, WA 98124-1165

6. Proposed Timing or Schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

   The West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project that is analyzed in this Draft Environmental Checklist involves site preparation work, construction, and operation of the project. Site preparation and construction could begin in approximately June 2020 with building occupancy in approximately August 2021. Students and staff would be relocated to a temporary school during the 2020-2021 school year.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No future plans for further development of the project site are proposed.

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

- Geotechnical Engineering Report (AESI, 2019);
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Worksheet (EA Engineering, 2019);
- Tree Inventory and Arborist Report (Tree Solutions, 2019);
- Cultural Resources Assessment (Perteet, 2019);

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:

There are no known other applications that are pending approval for the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project site.

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

City of Seattle

- Department of Construction and Inspections

  Permits/approvals associated with the proposed project, including:
  - Demolition Permit
  - Grading/Shoring Permit
  - Building Permit
  - Mechanical Permits
  - Electrical and Fire Alarm Permits
  - Drainage and Side Sewer Permit
  - Comprehensive Drainage Control Plan Approval
  - Drainage Control Plan with Construction Best Management Practices, Erosion and Sediment Control Approval
  - Land Use Code Departure Approval (building height, setbacks, on-site parking, bicycle parking, and electric message boards)

- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
  - Street Use and Construction Use Permit (temporary – construction related)
  - Street Use and Utility Permit

King County

- Plumbing Permit
11. Give a 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.

**Existing Site Conditions**

The proposed *West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project* site is located within Seattle’s Phinney Ridge neighborhood (see Figures 1 and 2). The school campus is generally bounded by NW 58th Street to the north, 4th Avenue NW to the east, NW 56th Street to the south and single family residences to the west.

The existing two-story West Woodland Elementary School contains approximately 57,200 sq. ft. of building space with 22 classrooms (including one special education classroom and one childcare classroom), an art room, a music room, a library, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, and offices/administrative space; five portable buildings (with a total of 7 classrooms) are also located in the south and central portion of the campus. A playground, play areas and a field are located to the west of the existing building. A parking lot with approximately 16 parking stalls is located to the northwest of the existing building; an additional parking lot with approximately four parking stalls is located to the south of the building. The school has an existing capacity for approximately 550 students (including existing portable buildings onsite). Enrollment for the most recent school year (2018-2019) was approximately 545 students.

**Proposed Project**

The proposed *West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project* is intended to address school capacity issues and upgrade the quality of the student learning environment at the school. The proposed project would add approximately 28,000 square feet of new building space and renovate approximately 7,700 square feet of existing building space. New building additions would be located to the southwest and northwest of the existing building and existing portables would be removed from the site (See Figure 3). The project would include 12 new classrooms; an expanded gymnasium, student commons area and cafeteria; and, associated support and building infrastructure spaces. The project would be funded by a Distressed Schools Grant and a K-3 Classroom Reduction Grant that was awarded to Seattle Public Schools by the State of Washington, as well as the BEX V levy.

The north wing addition and renovated existing building space would contain the gymnasium, student commons area, library, computer lab and administrative support

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2 Certain portable buildings on the site are double classroom portables with two classrooms within the building.
space. The south wing addition and renovated existing building space would contain kindergarten classrooms on the first level and flexible classrooms for upper grades (4\textsuperscript{th} grade and 5\textsuperscript{th} grade); learning commons areas and small group rooms would also be located on each level. The proposed addition would increase the student capacity of the school from an existing capacity of approximately 550 students to a new capacity of approximately 620 students.

No changes to bus and parent vehicle access to the site would occur. Bus loading/unloading would continue to occur along the west side of 4\textsuperscript{th} Avenue NW in front of the school building. Parent vehicle loading/unloading would continue to occur along NW 56\textsuperscript{th} Street. The existing north parking lot would be displaced by the proposed addition and a new parking lot would be provided in the northwest corner of the site with space for approximately seven parking stalls; the existing parking lot in the southeast portion of the site would remain (approximately four parking stalls).

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. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s).

The proposed *West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project* site is located at 5601 4\textsuperscript{th} Avenue NW within Seattle’s Phinney Ridge neighborhood. The school campus is generally bounded by NW 58\textsuperscript{th} Street to the north, 4\textsuperscript{th} Avenue NW to the east, NW 56\textsuperscript{th} Street to the south and single family residences to the west (see Figures 1 and 2). The site of the proposed building addition is located to the northwest and southwest of the existing building.
B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one):
   Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:_______________________________________

   The majority of the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project site is relatively level. The school campus slopes from east to west along the western edge of the campus.

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

   According to the City of Seattle’s Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) Maps, small portions of the western edge of the school campus contain slopes that are approximately 40 percent or greater and are classified as an environmentally critical area but these areas are not located within the proposed addition project area (City of Seattle, 2019).

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.

   A geotechnical report was completed for the project site by Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. and included three site exploration borings. Borings were completed to a depth of 20.5 to 31.5 feet deep. The soils encountered on the site generally consisted of fill, Vashon recessional outwash, pre-Fraser non-glacial deposits, and pre-Olympia glacial till (see Appendix A).

   The proposed project site does not contain agricultural land areas of commercial significance.

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

   There are no indications or history of unstable soils on the site or adjacent to the site. According to the City of Seattle’s Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) Maps, there are no potential slide areas or liquefaction-prone areas on the site or adjacent to the site (City of Seattle, 2019).
e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of material would be excavated from the site during construction activities and approximately 5,000 cubic yards of structural fill would be imported to the site. The specific source of fill material is not known at this time but it would be obtained from a source approved by the City of Seattle.

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

Temporary erosion is possible in conjunction with any construction activity. Site work would expose soils on the site, but the implementation of a Temporary Erosion Sedimentation Control (TESC) plan that is consistent with City of Seattle standards and the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) during construction would mitigate any potential impacts.

Once the project is operational, no erosion is anticipated.

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

Approximately 60 percent of the school campus is currently covered with impervious surfaces, including buildings, paved play areas, walkways, parking areas and other impervious surfaces. The site of the proposed additions are generally comprised of existing building area/portable buildings, paved areas, landscaped areas, and paved walkways.

With the completion of the addition project, approximately 65 percent of the campus would be covered with impervious surfaces. New impervious surfaces would primarily consist of the proposed building addition.

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

The proposed project would comply with City of Seattle regulations, including providing a Temporary Erosion and Sedimentation Control (TESC) Plan and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Appendix B also provides a summary of Construction BMPs that are typically utilized by Seattle Public Schools during the construction process. The following measures would be implemented during construction to control erosion:
- Provide storm drain inlet protection;
- Route surface water away from work areas;
- Keep staging areas and travel areas clean and free of track-out;
- Cover work areas and stockpiled soils when not in use; and,
- Complete earthwork during dry weather and site conditions, if possible.

2. **Air**
   
a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

During construction, the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project could result in temporary increases in localized air emissions associated with particulates and construction-related vehicles. It is anticipated that the primary source of temporary, localized increases in air quality emissions would result from particulates associated with demolition, on-site excavation and site preparation. While the potential for increased air quality emissions could occur throughout the construction process, the timeframe of greatest potential impact would be at the outset of the project in conjunction with the site preparation and excavation/grading activities. However, as described above under the Earth discussion, minimal amounts of excavation would be required for the project and air quality emission impacts are not anticipated to be significant.

Temporary, localized emissions associated with carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons would result from diesel and gasoline-powered construction equipment operating on-site, construction traffic accessing the project site, and construction worker traffic. However, emissions from these vehicles and equipment would be small and temporary and are not anticipated to result in a significant impact.

Upon completion of the project, the primary source of emissions would be from vehicles travelling to and from the site. Seattle Public Schools maintains an anti-idling policy for buses which minimizes potential emissions. As a result, significant adverse air quality impacts would not be anticipated.

Another consideration with regard to air quality and climate relates to Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). In order to evaluate climate change impacts of the proposed project relative to the requirements of the City of Seattle, a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Worksheet has been prepared (Appendix C of this Environmental Checklist). This Worksheet estimates the emissions from the following sources: embodied emissions; energy-related emissions; and, transportation-
related emissions. In total, the estimated lifespan emissions for the proposed project would be approximately 29,270 MTCO₂e³. Based on an assumed building life of 62.5 years,⁴ the proposed building addition project would be estimated to generate approximately 470 MTCO₂e annually. For reference, the Washington State Department of Ecology threshold for potential significant GHG emissions is 25,000 MTCO₂e annually. Therefore, the proposed project would not be anticipated to generate a significant amount of GHG emissions.

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

The primary off-site source of emissions in the site vicinity is vehicle traffic on surrounding roadways, including 4th Avenue NW, NW 58th Street, and NW 56th Street. There are no known offsite sources of air emissions or odors that may affect the proposed project.

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

The following measure would be provided to reduce/control air quality impacts during construction:

- Construction activities would be required to comply with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) regulations, including Regulation I, Section 9.11 (prohibiting the emission of air contaminants that would be injurious to human health) and Regulation I, Section 9.15 (prohibiting the emission of fugitive dust, unless reasonable precautions are employed). Additional mitigation measures to minimize air quality impacts during construction are identified in Appendix B.

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

There is no surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project site. The

³ MTCO₂e is defined as Metric Ton Carbon Dioxide Equivalent and is a standard measure of amount of CO₂ emissions reduced or sequestered.

⁴ According to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Worksheet, 62.5 years is the assumed building life for educational buildings.
nearest surface water body is Greenlake, which is located approximately 0.8 mile to the northeast of the project site (see Figure 1).

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.**

The proposed project will not require any work over, in, or adjacent (within 200 feet) to any water body.

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 would be placed in or removed from any surface water body as a result of the proposed project.

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

The proposed project would not require any surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

The proposed project site does not lie within a 100-year floodplain and is not identified as a flood prone area on the City of Seattle Environmentally Critical Areas map (City of Seattle, 2019).

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.**

There would be no discharge of waste materials to surface waters.

b. **Ground:**

1) **Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? 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 groundwater would be withdrawn or water discharged to ground water as part of the proposed project. A two-inch diameter ground
water monitoring well was installed as part of geotechnical drilling investigations. Groundwater was encountered at a depth of 14.5 feet below the ground surface. It is possible that limited zones of shallow perched water could be encountered elsewhere on the site, particularly during wetter months. Construction dewatering may be required during development of the project and could be accomplished with ditches and sumps (see Appendix A).

2) **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources**; 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.

Waste material would not be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources as a result of the proposed project.

c. **Water Runoff (including storm water):**

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.

Approximately 60 percent of the West Woodland Elementary campus is comprised of impervious surfaces, including existing buildings and paved surfaces (parking areas, play areas, walkways, etc.). The site of the proposed additions are generally comprised of existing building area/portable buildings, paved areas, landscaped areas, and paved walkways. Existing stormwater drainage systems on the campus collect stormwater from the existing building, parking lots, and hardscape play areas and convey the water through a piped system to the public stormwater drainage system in NW 56th Street and NW 58th Street. Stormwater from the public system ultimately discharges to the ship canal to the south.

As part of the **West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project**, the site stormwater design would be compliant with the City of Seattle’s 2017 storm water manual. The project is required to apply Onsite Stormwater Management (OSM) for all new and replaced impervious surfaces, to the maximum extent feasible. Typical measures on school sites include rain gardens and storm water swales. A storm water planter for the new classroom addition and a rain garden for the expanded gym are proposed. As new pollution generating surfaces currently will not exceed 5,000-SF, stormwater quality treatment requirements are not needed.
2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

The existing and proposed stormwater management system for the site would continue to ensure that waste materials would not enter ground or surface waters as a result of the proposed project.

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

The proposed project would not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the site vicinity.

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

The following measures would be implemented to control surface, ground and runoff water impacts:

- A Temporary Erosion and Sedimentation Control (TESC) Plan and Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented during construction to reduce erosion and minimize impacts to water resources.

- Stormwater management for the proposed addition would comply with applicable City requirements, include the City’s Stormwater Code (SMC 22.800).

4. Plants

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

   X  deciduous tree:
   X  evergreen tree:
   X  shrubs
   X  grass
   __ pasture
   __ crop or grain
   __ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
   __ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
   __ other types of vegetation

A tree inventory and assessment (Appendix D) was completed for the project. Approximately 110 trees are located on the school campus, including Western red cedar, English oak, Amur maple, Green ash, Indian summer crabapple, Cornelian cherry dogwood, Golden chain tree, Sawara cypress, and Garry oak. The trees range in size from 6 inches in diameter to 18 inches in diameter. None of the trees on the
school campus meet the City of Seattle’s criteria for an exceptional tree (City of Seattle Director's Rule 16-2008).

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

   Approximately 13 existing trees would be removed from the project site as part of the **West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project**, including six Green ash, three Amur maple, two Indian summer crabapple, and two English oak. All other trees on the school campus would be retained and protected during construction by following tree protection measures that are outlined in Appendix D.

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

   No known threatened or endangered species are located on or proximate to the project site.

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

   New landscaping would be provided on the site as part of the **West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project**. New planter areas would be located adjacent to the proposed building additions and the proposed new parking area. Planting in this area would generally consist of evergreen shrubs that would be suitable for the Pacific Northwest climate. In addition, a bioretention planter area would be provided to the proposed south building addition as part of the stormwater management system for the project. Plants within this area would be selected from the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) recommended list.

   New replacement trees would also be provided on the site at a 1:1 ratio to replace those trees that would be removed as part of the construction process.

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

   Noxious weeds or invasive species that could be present in the vicinity of the site include giant hogweed, English Ivy and Himalayan blackberry.
5. **Animals**
   
a. Circle (underlined) any birds and animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:
   
birds: **songbirds**, hawk, heron, eagle, other: **seagulls, pigeons**.
   
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: **squirrels, raccoons, rats, mice**
   
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: **None**.

Birds and small mammals tolerant of urban conditions may use and may be present on and near the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project site. Mammals likely to be present in the site vicinity include: raccoon, eastern gray squirrel, mouse, rat, and opossum.

Birds common to the area include: European starling, house sparrow, rock dove, American crow, seagull, western gull, Canada goose, American robin, and house finch.

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

The following are listed threatened or endangered species that could affected by development on the site or surrounding vicinity based on data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: marbled murrelet, streaked horned lark, yellow-billed cuckoo, bull trout, grey wolf and north american wolverine. However, it should be noted that none of these species have been observed at the site and due to the urban location of the site, it is unlikely that these animals are present on or near the site.

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

The entire Puget Sound area is within the Pacific Flyway, which is a major north-south flyway for migratory birds in America—extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Every year, migratory birds travel some or all of this distance both in spring and in fall, following food sources, heading to breeding grounds, or travelling to overwintering sites.

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

New landscaping would be provided adjacent to the proposed building addition, as well as within the bioretention planting area. New trees would also be planted on site to replace those trees that would be removed during construction. The project is not anticipated to have a substantial impact on wildlife located in the vicinity of the site.

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

Invasive species known to be located in King County include European starling, house sparrow and eastern gray squirrel.

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 and natural gas are the primary source of energy that would serve the proposed *West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project* and would generally be utilized for lighting, electronics, and heating.

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

   The proposed project would not affect the use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

d. 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 proposed project would be required to meet or exceed the requirements of the City of Seattle Energy Code, as well as the Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol. A rooftop mounted solar hot water heater will charge the existing ground-source well field to improve the long-term efficiency of ground-source wells.

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.

   As with any construction project, accidental spills of hazardous materials from equipment or vehicles could occur; however, a spill prevention plan would minimize the potential of an accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment.
1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Due to the age of the existing building, hazardous building materials such as lead based paint and/or asbestos could be present within the building. Demolition, renovation and construction activities within the building could result in exposure to hazardous materials. A hazardous materials survey would be completed for the project prior to demolition and construction. If such materials are located within the building, appropriate provisions for removal, disposal and worker safety would be followed during redevelopment.

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.

As described above, the existing building could contain hazardous building materials such as lead-based paint and/or asbestos. A hazardous materials survey would be completed for the project prior to demolition and construction. If necessary, development on the site would comply with applicable regulations for removal and disposal of hazardous materials.

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.

During construction, gasoline and other petroleum-based products would be used for the operation of construction vehicles and equipment.

During the operation of the school, chemicals that would be used on the site would be limited to cleaning supplies and would be stored in an appropriate and safe location.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services are anticipated to be required as a result of the project. As is typical of urban development, it is possible that normal fire, medical, and other emergency services may, on occasion, be needed from the City of Seattle.

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

A spill prevention plan would be developed and implemented during construction to minimize the potential for an accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment.
A hazardous materials survey would be completed for the project prior to demolition and construction. If any hazardous materials are located within the existing building, the construction contractor would comply with applicable regulations and standards for removal and disposal of such material.

b. Noise

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

Traffic noise associated with adjacent roadways (4th Avenue NW, NW 58th Street, and NW 56th Street) is the primary source of noise in the vicinity of the project site. Existing noise in the site vicinity is not anticipated to adversely affect the proposed West Woodland Elementary School Addition 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 site.

**Short-Term Noise**

Temporary construction-related noise would occur as a result of on-site construction activities associated with the project. Existing residential land uses surrounding the school would be the most sensitive noise receptors and could experience occasional noise-related impacts throughout the construction process. Pursuant to Seattle’s Noise Code (SMC, Chapter 25.08), maximum sound levels in residential communities shall not exceed 55 dBA. However, construction activities are allowed to exceed the maximum noise levels between 7 AM and 7 PM on weekdays and 9 AM to 7 PM on weekends. The proposed project would comply with provisions of Seattle’s Noise Code (SMC, Chapter 25.08) as it relates to construction-related noise to reduce noise impacts during construction.

**Long-Term Noise**

The proposed West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project and associated increase in student capacity would likely result in a potential minor increase in noise from human voices and vehicles travelling to and from the site, particularly during the school day and during student drop-off and pickup. The potential increase in noise is anticipated to be minor and would not extend beyond 10 PM. As a result, no significant noise impacts would be anticipated.
3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

The following measures would be provided to reduce noise impacts:

- As noted, the project would comply with provisions of the City’s Noise Ordinance (SMC 25.08); specifically: construction hours would be limited to standard construction hours (non-holiday) from 7 AM to 7 PM and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 AM to 7 PM.

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 West Woodland Elementary school campus is comprised of the existing two-story building which is located on the east side of the campus, adjacent to 4th Avenue NW (see Figure 2 for an aerial photo of the site). Existing surface parking lots are located to the northwest and to the south of the existing building and contain space for approximately 20 vehicles. Existing play areas, a playground, and a field are located in the central and west portions of the campus.

The site of the proposed West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project is located adjacent to the existing building. An addition would be located to the northwest of the existing building, as well as to the southwest of the existing building. The site of the proposed additions is currently comprised of paved areas (including parking areas), existing portable buildings, and landscaped areas (see Figure 2 for an aerial photo of the site and Figure 3 for the site plan of the project).

Adjacent land uses north, south, east and west of the school campus are generally comprised of two- to three-story single family and multifamily residences. The Woodland Hall Preschool is located to the southeast of the campus.

The site would continue to be utilized as a school and would not be anticipated to affect current land uses on adjacent properties.
b. Has the 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?

The project site has no recent history of use as a working farmland or forest land.

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:

The project site is located in an urban area and would not affect or be affected by working farm or forest land; no working farm or forest land is located in the vicinity of this urban site.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The two-story West Woodland Elementary School currently contains approximately 57,200 sq. ft. of building space including classrooms, a library, a cafeteria, administrative and support space, and a gymnasium. Five portable buildings (containing 7 classrooms) are also located on the campus to the west and south of the existing building.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Portions of the existing building would be demolished as a result of the proposed project to allow for internal connections between the existing building and proposed additions. The five portable buildings (containing seven classrooms) would also be removed from the site.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The site is currently zoned as Single-Family Residential (SF 5000). Public schools are a permitted use in the SF 5000 zone.

The surrounding areas to the north, south, east and west, are also currently zoned as Single-Family Residential (SF 5000). To the southeast and further to the south are Multifamily Residential zoned areas (LR1)
f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

   The current comprehensive plan designation for the site is Single Family Residential (*City of Seattle, 2018*).


g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

   The project site is not located within the City’s designated shoreline boundary.


h. **Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**

   As noted in Section 1b, according to the City of Seattle’s Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) Maps, small portions of the western edge of the school campus contain slopes that are approximately 40 percent or greater and are classified as an environmentally critical area. No other environmentally critical areas are located on or adjacent to the project site (*City of Seattle, 2019*).


i. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

   The proposed *West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project* would not provide any residential opportunities. Development of the project would create new classroom space that would increase the student capacity for the school to approximately 620 students (current capacity is approximately 550 students, including the existing portables).

   It is anticipated that the proposed addition would also provide space for up to approximately 8 new full-time employees and 4 new part-time employees at the school.


j. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

   The proposed project would not displace any people.


k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:**

   No displacement impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.
I. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposed project is compatible with existing land uses and plans. Due to the size of the site and configuration of the site and existing building, the project would require land use departures for building height, setback, on-site parking, bicycle parking, and electric message boards. The project would comply with the requirements of the departures process.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The project site is not located near agricultural or forest lands and no mitigation measures are necessary.

9. Housing

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

No housing units would be provided as part of the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project.

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

No housing presently exists on the site and none would be eliminated.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

No housing impacts would occur and no mitigation would be necessary.

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 height of the existing two-story school is approximately 28 feet tall at its tallest point at the north portion of the building. The proposed addition would be two stories tall at its highest point and would be intended to closely match the existing height of the building.

The exterior building materials for the proposed West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project would be intended to match as
closely as possible to the existing building materials. The new building addition would be constructed of concrete masonry, brick, glass and galvanized metal detailing to be complimentary with the existing building.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Views of the site would generally remain similar to the existing conditions and would be reflective of the existing school uses on the site. The proposed addition would increase the amount of building area on the site, but as noted above, it would be the same height as the existing building. Proposed building materials would also be selected to closely match the existing building. Views of the proposed addition would primarily be available from areas that are proximate to the north and south boundaries of the school campus (see Figure 3 for a site plan).

The City’s public view protection policies are intended to “protect public views of significant natural and human-made features: Mount Rainier, the Olympic and Cascade Mountains, the downtown skyline, and major bodies of water including Puget Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Union and the Ship Canal, from public places consisting of specified viewpoints, parks, scenic routes, and view corridors identified in Attachment 1” to the SEPA code. No public view protection sites are located on or adjacent to the proposed project site.

View protection from City-designated Scenic Routes is also encouraged but there are no scenic routes in the vicinity of the site.

Views of designated historic structures are also a consideration. However, there are no designated landmarks or historic structures on or adjacent to the project site.

There are no designated views of the Space Needle on or adjacent to the project site.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

No significant impacts are anticipated with regard to aesthetic impacts and no measures are proposed.

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6 Seattle Municipal Code Chap. 25.05.675 P.2.a.i. and the accompanying Seattle Views: An Inventory of 86 Public View Sites Protected under SEPA (May 2002) document.
7 Ord. #97025 (Scenic Routes Identified by the Seattle Engineering Department’s Traffic Division) and Ord. #114057 (Seattle Mayor’s Recommended Open Space Policies).
8 Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05.675 P.2.b.i.
9 Seattle Municipal Code Chap. 25.05.675 P. and Seattle DCLU, 2001
11. **Light and Glare**

a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

**Short-Term Light and Glare**

At times during the construction process, area lighting of the job site (to meet safety requirements) may be necessary, which would be noticeable proximate to the project site. In general, however, light and glare from construction of the proposed project are not anticipated to adversely affect adjacent land uses.

**Long-Term Light and Glare**

Under the proposed *West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project*, there would be an increase in light and glare with the proposed building addition; however, light and glare on the site would remain similar to the existing conditions and would primarily consist of interior and exterior building lighting, as well as lights from vehicles travelling to and from the site. Exterior building lighting would be designed to focus light on the site and minimize impacts to adjacent properties.

b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

Light and glare associated with the proposed project would not be expected to cause a safety hazard or interfere with views.

c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

No off-site sources of light or glare are anticipated to affect the proposed project.

d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

Interior and exterior building lighting would be programmed as part of the building facilities system to limit the amount of light utilized when the building is not in use. Evening activities/events currently occur periodically during the school year and increase light during the evening on those days; however, the number of evening events is not anticipated to change with the proposed addition and the amount of light would not be anticipated to result in a significant impact.
12. Recreation
   a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

   West Woodland Elementary School includes recreation areas in the central and western portions of the campus, including paved open play space areas, playground/play structure areas, and a field.

   There are several additional parks in the vicinity (approximately 0.5 miles) of the project site, including:
   
   - Gilman Playground is located approximately 0.25 miles to the southwest of the site
   - Woodland Park Zoo is located approximately 0.35 miles to the east of the site.

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

   Development of the proposed project would result in the displacement of a small portion of the existing hard surface play area in the northwest portion of the site to accommodate a new parking area on the site. As a result of the removal of the existing portables, the proposed project would also expand a portion of the existing outdoor learning courtyard in the central portion of the site and an early learning play area in the south portion of the site.

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

   The proposed project would expand a portion of the existing outdoor learning courtyard in the central portion of the site and an early learning play area in the south portion of the site.

   No impacts to recreation would occur and no mitigation is necessary.

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.

   According to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation’s (DAHP) Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD), the closest listed structure is the John B. Allen School which is located...
approximately 0.6 mile to the northeast and is listed on the Washington Heritage Register (WHR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Hawthorne Square Apartments is also located approximately 0.7-mile southeast of the project site and is listed on the WHR and the NRHP.

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.

The project site is not located within an area that is designated as the Government Meander Line Buffer area in the City of Seattle and only properties located within that area are required to prepare an archaeological investigation as part of the SEPA and MUP processes. A review of Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) indicates that the site and surrounding areas are considered a high potential for archaeological resources based on the WISAARD predictive model.

A cultural resources assessment was completed for the project site (Perteet, 2019) and included an analysis of the natural and cultural setting, a discussion of previous cultural resource investigations in the site vicinity, review of geotechnical investigations on the site, and an on-site investigation. Geotechnical investigations indicate that glacial sediments are directly below impervious surfaces in the eastern portion of the site and directly underlay fill to the west of the existing building. Since there is no indication of Holocene soil development, there is a low potential for pre-contact period archaeological material to be present below fill. Onsite investigations were conducted on the project site, including a pedestrian survey of the site; no subsurface investigations were conducted since the proposed development areas are presently occupied by paved areas, portable buildings or underground utilities. Based on geotechnical investigations, field surveys, and the substantial modification of the natural landform that has occurred throughout the school campus, including grading in the southwest corner and placement of fill in the north portion of the campus, it is anticipated that there is a low potential for encountering archaeological materials in the project site and no further archaeological assessments are recommended at this time (Perteet, 2019).
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.

The DAHP website, WISAARD, and City of Seattle Landmarks website were consulted to identify any potential historic or cultural sites in the surrounding area, as well as the potential for encountering archaeological resources in the area.

In addition, a cultural resources assessment was completed for the school site (*Perteet, 2019*). The assessment included a review of existing documentation on the natural, cultural and historic setting of the site and surrounding area; a review of previous studies that were conducted in the project area; on-site surface investigations.

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.**

Although no impacts to historic or cultural resources are anticipated with the proposed project, the following measure would be implemented to minimize impacts from a potential inadvertent discovery of cultural resources:

- Although archaeological resources are not anticipated on the site, an inadvertent discovery plan (IDP) has been prepared as part of the cultural resources assessment that details procedures that would be followed in the event that pre-contact or historic period cultural resources are encountered during construction.

14. **Transportation**

A Transportation Technical Report for the *West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project* was prepared by Heffron Transportation, Inc. (*Heffron Transportation, 2019*). Information from the technical report is summarized in this section. See Appendix E for the full technical report.

a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe the proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

West Woodland Elementary School is located at 5601 – 4th Avenue NW in the West Woodland / Phinney Ridge neighborhood of Seattle. The
school is bounded by 4th Avenue NW to the east, NW 58th Street to the north, NW 56th Street to the south, and private parcels to the west (seven single-family parcels and one daycare center).

The site has two small surface parking lots—one on the north and one on the south. The north lot has 15 spaces and is accessed from a driveway on NW 58th Street; the south lot has 4 spaces and is accessed from a driveway on NW 56th Street. There is a gated access driveway on NW 58th Street located opposite 5th Avenue NW. It generally remains gated and closed, but allows for occasional maintenance vehicle access to the hard-surface play area. The project would relocate the north parking lot and the existing access driveway serving that lot would be removed. The relocated north parking lot (with 7 spaces) would be accessed from the existing driveway that is located opposite 5th Avenue NW.

Neighborhood vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns to and around the site would not change.

b. Is site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

King County Metro Transit (Metro) provides bus service in the site vicinity. The closest bus stops are located about 400 feet to the south on NW Market Street (westbound stop west of 5th Avenue NW, eastbound stop east of 8th Avenue NW) and are served by Route 44. Route 44 provides daily full-day service between Ballard, Wallingford, and the University District. The route operates weekdays from about 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. with headways (time between consecutive buses) of 7 to 15 minutes. There are also stops serving Route 28 located about 1,200 feet west of the site (at the NW Market Street / 8th Avenue NW intersection) that provides express service between Broadview / Carkeek Park and Downtown Seattle.

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

Site work would improve landscape and play areas on the western portion of the site. Delivery access and the loading dock would be reconfigured and the north parking lot would be relocated westward providing seven spaces for staff (a reduction of 8 spaces). The south parking lot would not be affected.

Added enrollment could also increase event-related demand at the school during evening events. However, due to the relative infrequency of large events and proportionally small project-related increase in demand, the event-related parking impacts would not be considered significant (see Appendix E).
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).

The proposal would not require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities.

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

The project would not use or occur in the immediate vicinity of water, rail, or air transportation.

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?

The traffic analysis conducted for this SEPA Checklist reflected conditions with the classroom addition and increased enrollment capacity up to 620 students (a net increase of about 75 students compared to spring 2019 enrollment and an increase of 68 over current capacity). Based on daily trip generation rates published for elementary schools by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the added capacity at West Woodland Elementary School is expected to generate a net increase of about 130 trips per day (65 in, 65 out). The peak traffic volumes are expected to occur in the morning just before classes begin (between 7:15 and 8:15 a.m.) and in the afternoon around dismissal (between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.).

The number of school-bus and delivery trips that would occur at the site is not expected to change with the classroom addition.

For more information about the anticipated school traffic generation, refer to Appendix E.

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.

There are no agricultural or forest product uses in the immediate site vicinity and the project would not interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural or forest products.
h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

With the larger enrollment capacity, events could draw proportionately larger attendances. Based on the observed evening utilization of parking in the site vicinity (63% with 214 unused spaces), during evenings when large events are held at the school (typically four or five times per year), on-street parking demand surrounding the school is expected to continue to be well utilized. The added enrollment could increase the event-related demand. Due to the relative infrequency of large events and the proportionally small project-related increase in demand, the event-related parking impacts would not be considered significant.

Construction is planned to occur in one 14-month phase with students and staff relocated to an interim site for the duration of construction over the 2020-21 academic year.

The construction effort would include some earthwork that would consist of excavation and fill for foundations and grading. It is estimated to require removal of about 3,000 cubic yards (cy) of material from the site and import of about 5,000 cy of structural fill for a total transport amount of about 8,000 cy. Assuming an average of 20-cubic yards per truck (truck/trailer combination), the excavation and fill would generate about 400 truckloads (400 trucks in and 400 trucks out). The earthwork activities are likely to occur intermittently over four to six weeks. This would correspond to an average of 26 to 40 truck trips per day (13 to 20 in, 13 to 20 out) and 3 to 5 truck trips per hour during the earthwork transport. This volume of truck traffic may be noticeable to residents living adjacent to the site, but would not result in significant impacts to traffic operations in the site vicinity.

The construction of the project would also generate employee and equipment trips to and from the site. It is anticipated that construction workers would arrive at the construction site before the AM peak traffic period on local area streets and depart the site prior to the PM peak period; construction work shifts for schools are usually from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with workers arriving between 6:30 and 6:45 a.m., but work not starting until 7:00 a.m. The number of workers at the project site at any one time would vary depending upon the construction element being implemented.

Based on the findings presented above, the following measures are recommended to reduce the traffic and parking impacts associated with construction of the West Woodland Elementary School classroom addition project.

- Large Event Parking – Explore options to accommodate parking demand from large attendance events on the hard-surface play area.
• Construction Transportation Management Plan (CTMP): The District will require the selected contractor to develop a CTMP that addresses traffic and pedestrian control during construction of the classroom addition. It would define truck routes, lane closures, walkway closures, and parking or load/unload area disruptions, as necessary. To the extent possible, the CTMP would direct trucks along the shortest route to arterials and away from residential streets to avoid unnecessary conflicts with resident and pedestrian activity. The CTMP may also include measures to keep adjacent streets clean on a daily basis at the truck exit points (such as street sweeping or on-site truck wheel cleaning) to reduce tracking dirt offsite.

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)? If so, generally describe.

      While the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project would add student capacity to the school, it is not anticipated to generate a significant increase in the need for public services. To the extent that emergency service providers have planned for gradual increases in service demands, no significant impacts are anticipated.

   b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

      The increase in capacity of the school and number of students and staff on the site may result in incrementally greater demand for emergency services; however, it is anticipated that adequate service capacity is available within the Phinney Ridge area to preclude the need for additional public facilities/services.

16. Utilities
   a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

      All utilities are currently available at the site with the exception of natural gas.
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 immediate vicinity that might be needed.

Electrical (Seattle City Light) and telephone/internet would continue to be provided to the school and Seattle Public Schools would coordinate with each purveyor regarding service for the proposed addition.

Water service, sewer service and stormwater are provided by Seattle Public Utilities. Water service for the existing school are located on the east side of the main building. Service for the West Woodland Elementary School Addition Project would be provided through the existing connection and would not require any upgrades. Sewer service is provided through existing side sewers located to the east of the building and new connections for the proposed project would be provided through the existing side sewers. Connections to the existing stormwater system would also be required for the proposed stormwater management facilities.
C. SIGNATURES

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:

[Signature]

Name of Signee:

Paul Wright

Position and Agency/Organization:

Project Manager / SPS

Date:

09/26/2019
REFERENCES


