



To: Public Agencies, Tribes, and Interested Persons
From: Fred Podesta, Chief Operations Officer, SEPA Official
Date: January 16, 2024
Re: Determination of Significance (DS) and request for comments on scope for the Building Excellence (BEX) VI Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Determination of Significance and Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement:

Pursuant to WAC 197-11-360, as the Responsible State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Official for Seattle School District No. 1 (“District”), I have determined that some of the projects included in the BEX VI Program (“Proposal”) may have an adverse impact on the environment and that an environmental impact statement is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared.

Description of the Proposal, Proposal Location, Proponent and Lead Agency: The Proposal is a non-project action. It is a decision on a capital construction program, to meet the needs of the lead agency and proponent, Seattle School District. The Proposal includes construction, renovation, replacement, and modernization of school buildings located throughout the city of Seattle. The Proposal also includes upgrades to athletic fields and recreation areas, and other school site improvement projects. These projects require SEPA evaluation, and the impacts will be evaluated in a programmatic EIS.

Scoping: The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS: land use; trees and environmentally critical areas; recreation, aesthetics/light and glare; noise; air quality; energy, historic resources; cultural resources; transportation; and construction. The EIS will evaluate the impacts of three alternatives:

- **Alternative 1 - No Action Alternative.** Under this alternative, the District would not implement the BEX VI capital construction program. No major construction projects, play area or field improvements, upgrades or lighting projects would be completed.
- **Alternative 2 - Improved Conditions with Replacement Schools, Additions, Modernizations, Play Area, or Field Improvements.** This alternative would include up to three elementary school or K-8 replacement projects, up to one elementary school addition or modernization projects, up to two middle school replacement projects, up to one middle school modernization/addition, up to three interim site modernization/addition, up to two high school modernization projects, up to two interagency school replacement or modernization projects, up to one skills center replacement and three modernization projects, up to one replacement gym, up to one support facility replacement or modernization project, up to one early learning center replacement or modernization project, up to one warehouse

modernization project, system repair and maintenance projects, play area improvements, athletic field upgrades, geothermal wells and new or upgraded lighting at up to five schools.

- **Alternative 3 - Improved Conditions with Additions, Modernizations, Play Area, or Field Improvements.** This alternative would include approximately up to two elementary school or K-8 modernization and addition projects, up to one middle school modernization projects, up to three interim site modernization/addition, up to two high school addition projects, two high school modernization projects, up to two interagency school modernization projects, up to four skills center modernization projects, up to one support facility modernization project, up to one early learning center modernization project, up to one warehouse modernization project, system repair and maintenance projects, play area improvements and athletic field upgrades, geothermal wells and new or upgraded lighting at up to five schools.

Phased Review: The District will conduct a phased environmental review of the proposed projects under the BEX VI capital construction program. Following issuance of the final programmatic EIS, project-specific SEPA environmental review will be completed for each individual site/project when the District begins project-specific planning, design and construction activities.

Public Comment: Comments may be submitted on the scope of the programmatic EIS, including the alternatives and environmental elements to be analyzed. Comments may be submitted no later than **February 15, 2024 at 5 p.m.** to Fred Podesta, Responsible SEPA Official, by mail at Seattle Public Schools, P.O. Box 34165, Mail Stop 22-332, Seattle, WA 98124-1165 or by email to: SEPAcomments@seattleschools.org.

No Agency Appeal: There is no agency appeal of this Determination and Scoping Notice.