DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE “DNS”

FILE NO(S): 2019147

PROPOSED: City of Spokane, Department of Engineering Services

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:
CSO 6 Outfall Pipe Replacement

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL, INCLUDING STREET ADDRESS, IF ANY:
East bank of the Spokane River below Aubrey L. White Parkway to Kiernan Avenue (projected)

LEAD AGENCY: City of Spokane, Department of Engineering Services

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

[ ] There is no comment period for this DNS.

[ ] This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in section 197-11-355 WAC. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

[X] This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for at least 14 days from the date of issuance (below).

***********************************************************************************************************************************************

Responsible Official: Kyle Twohig
Position/Title: Director of Engineering Services  Phone: (509) 625-6700
Address: 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201
Date Issued: January 27, 2021  Signature: ________________________________________________________________________________

***********************************************************************************************************************************************

APPEAL OF THIS DETERMINATION, after it becomes final, may be made to the City of Spokane Hearing Examiner, 808 West Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201. The appeal deadline is fourteen (14) calendar days after the signing of the DNS. This appeal must be on forms provided by the Responsible Official, make specific factual objections and be accompanied by the appeal fee. Contact the Responsible Official for assistance with the specifics of a SEPA appeal.

Contact Brittany Kraft at (509) 625-6700 to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

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DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR COMMENTS
PROJECT NAME: CSO 6 Outfall Pipe Replacement
FILE No.: 2019147

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Washington State Agencies
- Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Dave Harsh
- Department of Natural Resources Aquatics
- Department of Natural Resources, Attn: SEPA Center
- Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, Attn: Gretchen Kaehler
- Department of Ecology, Attn: Environmental Review Section
- Department of Ecology, Attn: Jacob McCann
- Department of Ecology, Eastern Region, Attn: David Moore, Wetlands/Shoreline
- Department of Transportation, Attn: Char Kay
- Department of Transportation, Attn: Greg Figg
- Department of Fish & Wildlife, Attn: Jeff Lawlor
- Department of Fish & Wildlife, Attn: Leslie King
- Department of Fish & Wildlife, Attn: Renee Kinnick

Other Agencies
- U.S. Army corps of Engineers, Attn: Jess Jordan
- U. S. Air Force, Community Project Coordinator
- U. S. Air Force, Attn: Jamie Kowalski
- U. S. Postal Service, Attn: Dianne Taylor
- Avista Utilities, Attn: Lu An Weingart
- Avista Utilities, Attn: Larissa Pruitt
- Avista Utilities, Attn: Randy Myhre
- Avista Utilities, Attn: Dave Byus
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- City of Airway Heights, Attn: Heather Trautman
- City of Spokane Valley Planning, Attn: Lori Barlow
- City of Spokane Valley Planning, Attn: Mike Basinger
- Spokane Public Schools Capital Projects, Attn: Candy Johnson
- Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, Attn: Tonilee Hanson
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- Spokane Transit Authority, Attn: Kathleen Weinand
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- Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Attn: Ryan Stewart
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- Spokane County Planning Department, Attn: John Pederson
- Spokane County Engineering Dept., Attn: Gary Nyberg
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- Spokane Regional Health District, Attn: Jeff McClure

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Spokane Tribe of Indians, Attn: Randy Abrahamson
(Section 2 SW 1/4, Township 25, Range 42)
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST  
File No. 2019147

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE CHECKLIST!

Purpose of Checklist:
The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:
This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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 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 nonproject proposals:
Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply."

IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.
A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project: CSO 6 Outfall Pipe Replacement
2. Applicant: City of Spokane, Department of Engineering Services
3. Address: 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard
   City/State/Zip: Spokane, WA 99201 Phone: (509) 625-6700
   Agent or Primary Contact: Dan Buller
   Address: 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd
   City/State/Zip: Spokane, WA 99201 Phone: 509-625-6391
   Location of Project: Spokane River below Aubrey L White Pkwy at Keim Ave (projected)
   Address: n/a
   Section: 2 Quarter: SW Township: 25 Range: 42
   Tax Parcel Number(s) just west of 25023.0603
4. Date checklist prepared: 1-18-21
5. Agency requesting checklist: City of Spokane, Department of Engineering Services
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
   Likely Jul-Aug, 2021 or Jul-Aug 2022

7. a. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

   No

b. Do you own or have options on land nearby or adjacent to this proposal? If yes, explain.

   The City owns parcels to the north, south and east of this parcel (to the west is the river).

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

   This project requires an HPA, likely a 404 permit, a shorelines permit (or exemption), potentially a critical areas permit and an easement from DNR, all of which are underway.
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.

All of the permits referenced in the prior questions have been applied for or are being applied for.

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

State stormwater permit coverage and the various permits described in question 8 above.

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.

This project consists of replacement of the final 35’ of 48” diameter CSO outflow pipe, essentially all of which is below the ordinary high water mark on the east bank of the Spokane River below Aubrey L. White Pkwy. The proposed replacement pipe will be the same diameter and in the same location as the existing pipe.

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 application related to this checklist.

East bank of the Spokane River below Aubrey L. White Pkwy at Keiman Ave (projected)

13. Does the proposed action lie within the Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)? The General Sewer Service Area? The Priority Sewer Service Area? The City of Spokane? (See: Spokane County’s ASA Overlay Zone Atlas for boundaries).

yes to all

14. The following questions supplement Part A.

a. Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) / Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)
(1) Describe any systems, other than those designed for the disposal of sanitary waste installed for
the purpose of discharging fluids below the ground surface (includes systems such as those for
the disposal of stormwater or drainage from floor drains). Describe the type of system, the amount
of material to be disposed of through the system and the types of material likely to be disposed of
(including materials which may enter the system inadvertently through spills or as a result of
firefighting activities).

*The only utility at the project site is the CSO outfall pipe, the end of which is proposed for
replacement as part of this project.*

(2) Will any chemicals (especially organic solvents or petroleum fuels) be stored in aboveground or
underground storage tanks? If so, what types and quantities of material will be stored?

*No*

(3) What protective measures will be taken to insure that leaks or spills of any chemicals stored or
used on site will not be allowed to percolate to groundwater.

*No*

(4) Will any chemicals be stored, handled or used on the site in a location where a spill or leak will
drain to surface or groundwater or to a stormwater disposal system discharging to surface or
groundwater?

*No*

b. Stormwater

(1) What are the depths on the site to groundwater and to bedrock (if known)?

*Groundwater matches the level in the immediately adjacent river*

(2) Will stormwater be discharged into the ground? If so, describe any potential impacts.

*No*
B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth
   a. General description of the site (check one):
      - Flat
      - Rolling
      - Hilly
      - Steep slopes
      - Mountainous
      Other: _____

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

      *The project site is flat but is adjacent to the steep riverbank which is approximately 45 degrees. No work is proposed on the sloped riverbank.*

   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.

      *Sand, gravel, cobbles and boulders*

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

      *No__

   e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill:

      *Approx. 10 CY affecting approx. 1500 SF*

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

      *No, area is flat__

   g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt, or buildings)?
None

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

While erosion isn't a concern, sedimentation of the river is and so sediment traps and (sandbag, plastic, etc.) will be installed. 

2. Air

a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

None other than temporary construction vehicles

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

None

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

None

3. Water

a. SURFACE WATER:

(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.

Yes, Spokane River is immediately adjacent

(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.
Yes. The project requires removal and replacement of approx. 35’ of existing 48” dia. pipe buried just below the surface. Said work will be done during the low water time of year which, depending on the snowpack, may or may not result in the work being out of the water. If part of the work is below the water, sandbags and plastic sheeting will be used to prevent sedimentation of the river.

(3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from the surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

10 CY

(4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? If yes, give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

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

Yes

(6) Does the proposal involve any discharge of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Yes, this project replaces the last 35’ of an existing combined sewer overflow pipe which currently discharges to the Spokane River

b. GROUNDWATER:

(1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? 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
(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 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.

None

c. WATER RUNOFF (INCLUDING STORMWATER):

(1) Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) 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.

N/A – this project does not collect stormwater

(2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

This project replaces the last 35' of an existing combined sewer overflow pipe that currently routes overflow water to the river

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

No

d. PROPOSED MEASURES to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any.

None

4. Plants

a. Check the type of vegetation found on the site:
Deciduous tree:  ☒  Alder  ☐  Maple  ☐  Aspen

Other:  _willow, cottonwood_  

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:  ____

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

_There would be approximately 250 SF of soil disturbance at the CSO site and some additional disturbance on the access route which is approximately 600’ in length. Much of the area is rock with minimal vegetation but several shrub willows and honeysuckles will be removed near the outfall. Herbaceous species that may be disturbed include poison ivy, silver wormwood, narrowleaf milkweed, hemp dogbane and rough cocklebur._

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

_None per the HMP done for this project_

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

_Disturbed soils will be restored to preconstruction grades if needed and reseeded with native species following construction._

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

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

Birds: □ Hawk □ Heron □ Eagle □ Songbirds
Other: osprey

Mammals: □ Deer □ Bear □ Elk □ Beaver
Other: bats, small mammals

Fish: □ Bass □ Salmon □ Trout □ Herring □ Shellfish
Other: _____
Other (not listed in above categories): _____

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

None likely per HMP prepared for this project.

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

Yes. Within 20 miles of bird sanctuary.

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

Access route and disturbance limits will be flagged to preserve adjacent habitat. Would debris will be left in place to provide habitat. Tree removal is not expected to be needed. If shrubs are removed, they will be cut at the base so the root masses remain in the ground to stabilize soils and plant regeneration may occur._____  

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

None known _____

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.

_N/A_

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

_No._

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:

_N/A_

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.

_No._

(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/conditions 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.
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.

   *Construction site is a riverbank - all natural uses within 100' in all directions*

b. Has the project 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?

No

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:

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

None aside from the combined sewer overflow pipe that is the focus of the proposed project.

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

No.

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

Adjacent properties are zoned residential single family

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Conservation open space

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

Natural environment

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

Priority habitat area, riparian habitat area, FEMA flood zone, erodible soil, critical aquifer recharge area.
i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

   None.

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

   None.

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

   None.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

   None - it is compatible.

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

   N/A.

9. Housing

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

      None.

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

      None.

   c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
None.

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?

0 - all improvements will be buried.

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

None.

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

None.

11. Light and Glare

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

None.

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:

None.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Spokane River but note that the proposed project does not pertain to, create, eliminate or affect recreational opportunities.
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.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the sited 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.

   No.

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

   No.

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 archaeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

    Randy Abrahamson with the Spokane Tribe was consulted and conducted an on-site visit. The city also did a resource revery report to the adjacent wastewater treatment plant upgrade project.

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.

    None - project impacts a very small area

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 plans, if any.
None - Aubrey L White Parkway is located approximately 100' above the project site but no vehicular access to the site is possible.

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

No

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

None.

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).

No.

e. Will the project or proposal 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?

None

(Note: to assist in review and if known, indicate vehicle trips during PM peak, AM Peak, and Weekday (24 hours).)

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, general describe.

No

h. 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, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

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
☐ natural gas
☐ water
☐ refuse service
☐ telephone
☐ sanitary sewer
☐ septic system

Other: _____

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:

None. There are no utilities onsite aside from the combined sewer overflow pipe which is what this project is about.
C. SIGNATURE

I, the undersigned, swear under penalty of perjury that the above responses are made truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that, should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part, the agency must withdraw any determination of Nonsignificance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist.

Date: 1/25/2021

Signature:

Please Print or Type:

Proponent: City of Spokane

Address: 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard

Phone: (509) 625-6700

Person completing form (if different from proponent): Dan Buller

Phone: 768-2771

Address: 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

Staff member(s) reviewing checklist: Dan Buller

Based on this staff review of the environmental checklist and other pertinent information, the staff concludes that:

- [x] A. there are no probable significant adverse impacts and recommends a Determination of Nonsignificance.

- [ ] B. probable significant adverse environmental impacts do exist for the current proposal and recommends a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance with conditions.

- [ ] C. there are probable significant adverse environmental impacts and recommends a Determination of Significance.