

FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Description of proposal: Adoption of an updated Comprehensive Plan document (2018-2038), including revisions to the official Land Use map and to Urban Growth Areas. (*Franklin County Periodic Review*)

File Number: SEPA 2020-15

Proponent: Franklin County Planning and Building Department

Location: County-Wide

Legal Description: Franklin County, WA.

Lead agency: Franklin County, Washington.

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.

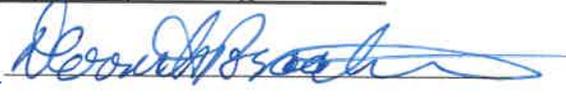
This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-350; the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of publication (January 14, 2021). Comments must be submitted by: January 28, 2021.

Responsible official: Derrick Braaten

Position/title/Phone: Planning and Building Director – (509) 545-3521

Address: 502 W Boeing St, Pasco, Washington 99301

Date/Signature:

1/17/2021 - 

Any agency or person may appeal this SEPA determination by filing a written appeal to the responsible official no later than **January 28, 2021**. Contact the responsible official to read or ask about the procedure for SEPA appeals.

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

**For guidance on completing this form or assistance in understanding a question, visit
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/ChecklistGuidance.html>**

**The SEPA Handbook is available online at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/handbk/hbintro.html>**

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the supplemental sheet for nonproject actions (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Franklin County Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and implementing Development Code Update

2. Name of applicant:

Franklin County

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Mr. Derrick Braaten

Planning and Building Director

Franklin County Planning and Development Department

502 W Boeing Street

Pasco, WA 99301

509.545.3521

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 11, 2020 by Nicole Stickney, AICP of AHBL, Inc.

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Franklin County Planning and Building Department

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Adoption of the amended Comprehensive Plan is anticipated to occur in February 2021.

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

No.

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

- **DNS for the original establishment of the Urban Growth Area Boundaries in 1995, as well as the Comprehensive Plan adoption in 1995**
- **DNS and SEPA Checklist (April 2001) to amend the Comprehensive Plan designation from Agricultural Production to Industrial on a 20.0-acre parcel located southwest of the intersection of Selph Landing Road and Glade North Road**
- **SEPA Checklist (June 2004)**
- **DNS, SEPA Checklist (March 2005) -UGA amendments and Comprehensive Plan**
- **DNS (November 2, 2007) and SEPA Checklist (October 2007) - CPA 2007-01 amending the UGA boundaries for the cities of Connell, Kahlotus, Mesa, and Pasco; CPA 2007-02 for the 2007 county GMA Comprehensive Plan update**
- **Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pasco, Washington Comprehensive Plan: "City of Pasco Comprehensive Plan: Non-Project Final Environmental Impact Statement" dated September 2020; the statement addresses three alternatives relating to Urban Growth Area expansion proposals (size of UGA and land use designations proposed, and also various options for increased infill development and higher density development, including redevelopment, within the City)**

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.

No.

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

Following review and the issuance of a recommendation by the Franklin County Planning Commission, the matter will be referred to the Board of County Commissioners.

The proposal is subject to the 60-day notice / review period which is coordinated by the Department of Commerce.

Final approval is given via the adoption of an ordinance by the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the County's Comprehensive Plan and related appendixes and to modify the Urban Growth Areas of the City of Connell and the City of Pasco.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposal is a non-project action that includes the periodic update and amendment of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan as required by the Growth Management Act (GMA, RCW 36.70A) and a concomitant amendment to the implementing development code. The Comprehensive Plan was last amended in 2008.

The amendment is based on a vision of Franklin County that has been expressed by its citizens and elected officials. The County conducted a public outreach and involvement program to identify its local vision and community values, encompassing many facets of community life (e.g., social, economic, and environmental).

The Comprehensive Plan update includes the following elements: Introduction; Land Use; Resource Lands; Rural Lands; Natural; Economic Development; Housing; Historical and Cultural Resources; Capital Facilities; Utilities; and Transportation and Circulation. Each element contains goals and policies, and typically provides a discussion of the purpose and intent of the policy or group of policies. The update represents a re-write and re-organization of the 2008 plan, although the substance of the plan remains largely unchanged. The update also includes amendments to the Land Use Map, specifically to the Urban Growth Boundaries of the cities of Pasco (addition of approximately 3,448 net acres in various designations) and Connell (addition of approximately 80 acres of land to be designated as Industrial, and for the removal of approximately 300 acres of land which is designated for Agriculture, for a net reduction of 220 acres). Development Code changes are proposed to aid in implementation of the plan.

Each element of the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed for consistency with GMA requirements, the other elements of the Plan, and with other local planning and regulatory documents. The following provides brief descriptions of each element included in the update.

The Introduction includes a discussion of the legal framework and purpose for a comprehensive plan. It provides a history of comprehensive planning in Franklin County and describes the public participation involved in the current update. Franklin County's Vision Statement remains unchanged since the 2008 adopted plan and is included in the Introduction. Also included are the County-Wide Planning Policies (CWPPs) that have been edited and adopted by Franklin County in coordination with the cities in Franklin County in order to establish a framework to ensure that county and city comprehensive plans are consistent with one another as required by the Growth Management Act.

The Land Use element of the Comprehensive Plan provides a general guide for the future use of land within the County. Included are a discussion of historic population totals and the spatial distribution of County residents; population projections; and an explanation of the allocation of the County-wide population. There are also discussions of particular land use needs and land use compatibility. The Land Use Map is included in this Element with a brief breakdown of the uses in Franklin County and an explanation of Urban Growth Boundaries for the cities within Franklin County. The general goals and policies for the element remain mostly unchanged with a few statements removed to avoid redundancy and a few statements added for clarity.

The subject of resource lands was included within the Land Use Element of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The proposed update pulls information regarding resource lands into a stand-alone chapter, the Resource Lands Sub-Element. This sub-element includes mapping that shows the designation of Resource Lands; selected areas are designated as "Agricultural Resource Lands" or "Mineral Resource Lands" which is an "overlay" to the County Land Use Map. Also included are criteria for the designation of resource lands, conservation of these areas and updated goals and policies.

The Rural Lands Sub-Element of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan addresses unincorporated portions of the County outside of UGAs. The element works in tandem with the Land Use Element to form the basis for future land use patterns and uses. An explanation of LAMIRDS from the 2008 Comprehensive Plan has been updated for better organization and maps have been added for clarity. Furthermore, the policies contained in the element relate to the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map designations that are included in the Land Use Element.

The Natural Element describes the natural setting in Franklin County and discusses how environmental protection and stewardship may occur. The primary purpose of the Natural Element is to discuss Franklin County's natural features and functions, to identify goals and policies for the protection and enhancement of these areas, and to protect critical areas from alterations and impacts resulting from development. The natural setting of Franklin County comprises natural areas, shorelines, and critical areas. The County uses the best available science to develop regulations to protect the functions and values of these areas.

The Economic Development Element coordinates with Franklin County Board of Commissioners' Resolution No. 2016-211, the Franklin County Economic Development Plan. The Element provides an overview of the economy of Franklin County which mostly consists of agriculture and its related businesses with a few non-agricultural economic contributors. The Element also contains information about Opportunity Zones; the need for diversification and economic resilience; resources for business recruitment and retention; and goals and policies for nurturing, improving, and sustaining the economy of Franklin County.

As required by GMA, the Housing Element recognizes the vitality and character of established neighborhoods. The Element includes an inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs based on population forecasts published by the Office of Financial Management. The Housing Element also includes a statement of goals, policies, and objectives for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing; identifies sufficient land for housing including, but not limited to government assisted housing, housing for low-income families, manufactured housing, multifamily housing, and group homes and foster care facilities; and makes adequate provisions for existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the population in unincorporated Franklin County.

The Historical and Cultural Resources Element provides an explanation of the designation and nomination of historic properties; an inventory of historically or culturally significant places; and goals and policies to preserve and enhance these properties.

The Capital Facilities Element serves to ensure that other elements of the Comprehensive Plan are fiscally achievable. In this Element, Franklin County is able to determine what types of capital facilities are required in the planning areas and establish minimum level of service requirements which are used to assess future land development and growth impacts. It also addresses those facilities for which the County must plan and budget as part of its Capital Improvement Program. The facilities include transportation and circulation, law and justice (enforcement, prosecution, and correction/detention), general government, and parks and recreation. Each of these functions is considered in separate elements of this plan. Certain services, systems and amenities which are provided by other agencies are also addressed, to provide a complete assessment of Capital Facilities related to growth.

The Utilities Element has been developed in accordance with the Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.070(4)) to discuss utility services for the twenty-year term of the plan. This Element consists of the general location of existing and proposed utilities including, but not limited to, electrical, natural gas and the general location of lands useful for public purposes such as utility corridors, and other public uses. The general locations of these facilities are noted on several maps within the Element. The intent of this Element is to support the coordination of infrastructure and land use planning among the County and agencies, districts, or private enterprises providing utilities.

The Transportation Element establishes the county's transportation and circulation goals, policies, and strategies during the 20-year planning period. It provides direction for the update of implementing measures including the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, the Capital Facilities Plan and the Annual Budget. This element will additionally affect project development review and approval, land use and zoning decisions, and continuing transportation programs.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The amended Comprehensive Plan applies generally to all properties located within the current limits of Franklin County. Franklin County is located in eastern Washington State, in the mid-Columbia

Valley. To the West, the Columbia River flows and provides the border with Benton County. Grant and Adams County are located to the north. The Snake River and its tributary, the Palouse River, create the separation from Walla Walla and Whitman counties.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

Many types of terrain, including flat, rolling, hilly, and steep slopes are found within Franklin County.

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

Some areas of the County have slopes exceeding 100 percent.

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.

Soils within Franklin County are addressed at length in the "Natural" Element of the plan.

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

Yes, there are areas with indications or history of unstable soils in the County. In particular, steep slopes occurring where Ringold Fines soils are predominate are particularly unstable.

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.

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

Through the application of the County's Critical Areas Ordinance and other regulations.

2. Air

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

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

None proposed as this is not a site specific proposal.

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.

There are many areas throughout the county. The Columbia River, Palouse River and Snake River borders the County in several locations. Lakes include, but are not limited to, Bailie Lake, Camp Lake, Change Lake, Clark Pond, Eagle Lakes, Mesa Lake, Scooteny Reservoir, and several additional unnamed water bodies. See the County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) for further detail.

- 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.

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

- 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.

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

Give general

description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

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

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal. There are specific locations in the County which lie within a 100-year floodplain. However, the proposed changes to the comprehensive plan do not affect or change the use of these lands. Evaluations of future proposed site-specific projects will be conducted where it is determined that a potential impact to the 100-yr floodplain exists.

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.

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

b. Ground Water:

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.

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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.

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, not a site specific proposal.

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

None proposed as this is not a site specific proposal. Compliance with the County's Critical Areas Ordinance, the SMP and other regulations are compulsory.

4. Plants

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 shrubs
 grass
 pasture
 crop or grain
 Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 other types of vegetation

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

None, this is not a site specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

The Comprehensive Plan contains specific information, goals and policies related to vegetation in the "Environment" Element. In areas located within Shoreline Jurisdiction, the SMP regulations apply.

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

None, this is not a site specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts. Species are addressed in the "Neutral" Element.

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

None, this is not a site specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

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

Does not apply, this is not a site specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

5. Animals

- a. 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.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. However, nearly all the above listed species have occasionally been observed in Franklin County except bear, herring and shellfish).

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. However, relative to listed species, future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

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

Yes. Franklin County is located within known migratory routes for salmonids and migratory birds.

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

Not applicable since this is not a site specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts as well as site specific mitigation of determined impacts where such mitigation is required. All projects will be required to comply with the County's Critical Areas Ordinance.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. However, relative to listed species, future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts and for compliance with the County's adopted Critical Areas Ordinance.

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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

The comprehensive plan identifies goals and policies related to energy and natural resources.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project.

- 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:

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project.

The comprehensive plan identifies goals and policies related to energy and natural resources.

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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific conditions.

- 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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific conditions. Underground liquid and gas transmission pipelines are addressed in the Utilities Element of the plan.

- 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.
Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific needs.

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

None proposed as this is not a site specific proposal.

b. Noise

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific conditions.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific project. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

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

None proposed as this is not a site specific proposal.

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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- 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?

The Plan addresses agricultural lands of long-term significance at length, in the Resource Lands sub-element to the Land Use Element.

- 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:

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Zoning classifications vary throughout the County.

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

Comprehensive Plan land use designations vary throughout the City. Once approved, this plan will implement an updated Land Use Map.

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

There are several different shoreline master program shoreline environment designations throughout the County along shorelines.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal. Variety of sensitive areas have been designated throughout the City. These areas are typically related to shorelines, floodplains, steep slopes, wetlands, and miscellaneous habitat areas.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal. Growth forecasts are discussed in the Land Use Element of the plan.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal

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

None proposed as this is not a site-specific proposal

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

Application of policies and guidelines as established by the comprehensive plan.

- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Application of policies and guidelines as established by the comprehensive plan. The County has a "Right to Farm" ordinance. In addition, specific goals and policies are listed in the Resource Lands sub-element to the Land Use Element.

9. Housing

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

None.

The Comprehensive Plan contains specific information, goals and policies related to existing and future housing in the "Housing" and "Land Use" Elements.

- 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 proposed, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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?

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

11. Light and Glare

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

12. Recreation

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

No, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

None, this is not a site-specific proposal. The Comprehensive Plan identifies recreational opportunities in Franklin County.

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? If so, specifically describe.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal. The Historic and Cultural Resources Element provides detailed information on this topic.

- 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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- 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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- 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.

The Historic and Cultural Resources Element of the plan includes such measures.

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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- b. Is the 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?

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal. Some locations within the area served by Ben Franklin Transit.

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

None. This is not a site-specific proposal.

- 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 Comprehensive Plan provides policies and plans for the future developments of roads, streets, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities in the future.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- 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?

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- 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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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.

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal.

16. Utilities

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

Not applicable, this is not a site-specific proposal. All utilities listed are available within Franklin County, to various extents.

The Comprehensive Plan contains specific information, goals and policies related to utilities in the "Utilities" Element.

- 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, this is not a site-specific proposal.

C. Signature

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

Signature: 

Name of signee Derrick Braaten

Position and Agency/Organization Director, Planning + Bldg Dept.

Date Submitted: 1/2/2020

D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

As a non-project action, the proposal will not increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. Projected population growth and associated development will increase the impacts to water, air, and noise regardless of the draft Comprehensive Plan updates. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

In order to prevent and reduce negative impacts to water from future development, the Natural Element of this update includes an added discussion of Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and the Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) which is a voluntary initiative that seeks to address elevated nitrate levels in groundwater in Franklin, Adams, Grant, and Lincoln counties. The Natural Element also includes Goals and Policies to establish guidance for the protection and enhancement of water and air quality. In addition to the state environmental policy act (SEPA) and other applicable regulations such as the Washington State Clean Air Act, the Franklin County Critical Areas Ordinance is the implementing code that must be met by all future development. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

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

As a non-project action, the proposal will not affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

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

The updated Natural Element of the Comprehensive Plan includes a discussion of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, threats to biological resources, a list of priority habitats and species in Franklin County, and an expanded discussion of wetlands.

The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is incorporated into the Natural element and the goals and policies contained in the SMP are goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. The SMP designates a shoreline jurisdiction that encompasses shoreline along three rivers and eighteen lakes within the unincorporated County. The three rivers are the Columbia, the Palouse and the Snake Rivers, each of which is considered a Shoreline of Statewide Significance. The shoreline jurisdiction includes eight shoreline environments: Aquatic, Natural, Agriculture, Rural Conservancy, Recreation Conservancy, Recreation, High Intensity Industrial, and Shoreline Residential. The SMP establishes regulations and requirements for development in each of the shoreline environments in order to protect plants, animals, fish, and marine life. The SMP implements the state's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) of 1971 within the unincorporated areas of the County.

Further, all site specific projects are required to comply with all local, state, and federal laws regarding the protection of endangered species.

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

As a non-project action, the proposal will not deplete energy or natural resources. Projected population growth and associated development will increase demands for energy and natural resources regardless of the draft Comprehensive Plan updates. Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

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

The proposed update to the Comprehensive Plan supports the natural resource protection principles articulated in the Growth Management Act and plans for conservation of energy specifically through the use of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). The Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan provides goals and policies that direct growth and development into existing UGAs and limits increases to those boundaries in order to encourage growth in areas with existing infrastructure and prevent urban development in areas that contain natural resources. The Resource Lands Sub-Element provides criteria for the designation of agricultural resource lands and mineral resource lands in order to assure conservation of these areas. There are no designated forest resource areas in the County.

Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

No direct impacts to environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for government protection are expected as a result of the non-project action.

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

The update to the Comprehensive Plan provides a policy framework for the enhancement and preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and areas designated for governmental protection. Incorporated into the update of the Plan are separately adopted plans that designate and protect environmentally sensitive areas from the potential impacts of development. These plans include the Shoreline Master Program which designates a shoreline jurisdiction that encompasses shoreline along three rivers and eighteen lakes and the Voluntary Stewardship Program that balances the protection of critical areas on agricultural lands while promoting agricultural vitality. The VSP is a non-regulatory approach for complying with state requirements to protect critical areas ([RCW] 36.70A.030) on agricultural lands.

Additionally, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas are established and mapped to protect habitats for federal or state endangered, threatened, sensitive, candidate, and priority species of fish, wildlife or plants, following best available science. These areas are considered worth protecting not only for the health of fish and wildlife species but because the habitats themselves help improve water quality, increase soil health, and affect hydrology which results in a reduction of flooding. The County regulates development in or near these habitats.

Prime Farmlands are discussed in the Resource Lands Sub-Element of the Comprehensive Plan update and goals and policies are included there to provide guidance for the preservation of these areas. Any future development located within or adjacent to designated Environmentally Critical Areas will be subject to Franklin County's Critical Areas Ordinance.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The Comprehensive Plan update does not encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans but rather considers various plans and the ways in which those plans can and should work together.

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

The Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan update considers the general distribution and location of land use categories within the framework of the Land Use Map for the next twenty years. Maps showing the future shape of the community and how its essential components will be distributed are included in this section. A new section on Land Use Compatibility has been added to the Land Use Element in this Comprehensive Plan update in order to address the determination of appropriate land uses located next to or near farms, aviation facilities, military training flight locations, and dams.

Impacts to shorelines can be mitigated through the Franklin County Shoreline Master Plan adopted in 2017 which establishes policies and regulations that protect the shoreline consistent with the Shoreline Management Act.

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

As a non-project action, the update to the Comprehensive Plan will not directly increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

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

The Transportation Element provides an analysis of existing transportation and circulation facilities, the ability for those facilities to meet increased demand from increased population, and goals, policies, and strategies for meeting that demand over the 20 year period. The Transportation Element additionally provides direction for the update and implementing measures including the 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan, the Capital Facilities Plan and the Annual Budget. The element additionally affects project development review and approval, land use and zoning decisions, and continuing transportation programs.

The Capital Facilities element provides a discussion of the existing facilities and services in the County, the methods of determining whether those facilities meet current needs, and whether future needs will be met by existing facilities and how to address shortfalls that may occur.

This Utilities Element has been developed in accordance with the Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.070 (4)) to discuss utility services for the twenty-year term of this plan. The intent of this element is to support the coordination of infrastructure and land use planning among the County and agencies, districts, or private enterprises providing utilities. The Utilities Element also includes discussions of utility consumption and providers as well as the regulatory environment in place in Franklin County and the State of Washington. The regulations help further the goal to ensure that the energy, communication, and solid waste disposal facilities and services needed to support current and future development are available when they are needed.

Future proposed projects will be individually reviewed for site-specific impacts.

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

It is not the intent of the updated Comprehensive Plan to conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. The Plan includes many strategies, goals, and policies intended to protect the environment and has been reviewed for consistency with the Washington Growth Management Act. Further, all development projects will be required to comply

with the County's Critical Areas Ordinance and all relevant local, state, and federal laws regarding the protection of the environment.