

City of Tonasket
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
Determination of Non-Significance

Date: June 1, 2022

Lead agency: City of Tonasket

Agency Contact: Alice Attwood, clerktreasurer@tonasketwa.gov, City of Tonasket, P.O. Box 487, Tonasket, WA 98855, 509 486 2132

Agency File Number: FLOODAMENDS 22-01

The City of Tonasket is proposing to amend of Chapter 15.16 of the Tonasket Municipal Code to comply with changes in federal and state regulation and to clarify existing regulations.

The City of Tonasket has determined that this proposal will 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). We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist, project application and appurtenant information. This information is available at Tonasket City Hall.

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

Adoption of the amendments to the Floodplain Management code are considered a non-project action and will have no adverse-affect-on the environment.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and the comment/appeal period will end on June 28, 2022. Comments and/or appeals must be made in writing to Alice Attwood, Clerk/Treasurer, tonasket@nvinet.com, City of Tonasket, P.O. Box 487, Tonasket, WA 98855, 509 486 2132

Signature Alice Attwood
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

Date 6/1/22

Publish June 8, 2022

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

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:

Amendment of Chapter 15.16 of the Tonasket Municipal Code to comply with changes in federal and state regulation and to clarify existing regulations.

2. Name of applicant:

City of Tonasket

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

Alice Attwood
City Clerk
City of Tonasket
PO Box 487
Tonasket, WA 98855
(509) 486-2132

4. Date checklist prepared:

June 1, 2022.

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Tonasket

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

The City Planning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on June 21, 2022 on the proposed amendments to Chapter 15.16. The Commission will then pass a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed amendments. The Council will act on the Commission's recommendation within 30 days of its receipt.

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

The Floodplain Management Code is subject to periodic review and revision as new information becomes available, conditions in the community change or new requirements are passed by the state and/or federal governments. As development commences, further review and SEPA documentation will be required.

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

The Floodplain Management Code was the subject of SEPA review as originally adopted or subsequently amended.

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.

None known.

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

Planning law in Washington provides for a presumption of validity for local land use regulations, however, as the Floodplain Management Code must be compliant with federal and state regulations, appropriate federal and/or state agencies must approve the code in order for the community to maintain compliance with the Federal Flood Insurance Rate program.

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.)

See Attachment A – Strike-out copy Chapter 15.16.

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 incorporated City of Tonasket is located on the Okanogan River approximately 20 miles south of the Canadian border. The City is about 160 miles northwest of Spokane and 260 east of Seattle. The elevation is 940' at City Hall. See Attachment C for map of the City.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

The City is located at the confluence of Siwash and Bonaparte Creeks and the Okanogan River. The downtown area is generally flat with the land rising to the east bracketed by the two creek valleys.

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

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

The steepest slopes exceed 45% and are limited to several small areas along the eastern edge of the City.

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.

Many different types of soils are found in Tonasket and the immediately adjacent area. Generally these soils are not conducive to agricultural pursuits. For the most part soils are highly permeable and erosion hazard is low to moderate.

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

There are no surface indications or history of naturally unstable soils within the present corporate limits.

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.

Adoption of the proposed amendments is a non-project action and does not involve any filling or grading. However, actions taken pursuant to the amended Code could involve grading and site preparation. As these projects commence, further review will be required under the amended code and this information will be provided. Until that time, it is difficult to estimate the exact need for fill and grading.

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

The amendments themselves will not have a direct impact on erosion, although the development permitted under the code may involve clearing and construction. At the time such actions are proposed, further review will be required.

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

As a non-project action, the adoption of the amendments to the Floodplain Management Code does not change the amount of impervious surface. Development subsequent to adoption may introduce new impervious surfaces to the community, but the amount cannot be estimated at this time. Further review will be required.

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

Approval of the amendments to the Floodplain Management Code is a non-project action and does not require any such measures.

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.

No emissions to the air will result from adoption of the amendments. If emissions should result from development subsequent to adoption, these impacts will be identified under additional review prior to development.

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

No.

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

As a non-project action, the adoption of the amendments does not require measures to address emissions.

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.

The major bodies of water within Tonasket are the Okanogan River, which runs north to south forming the western boundary of the City, Bonaparte Creek the southern boundary and Swash Creek, the northern boundary. The Okanogan River continues south and west on its way to joining the Columbia River approximately 45 miles downstream. There is a small area of wetlands associated with the Okanogan River on the City's southern border.

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.

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 filling or dredging of wetlands or surface water will result from adoption of the amendments.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? 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. Portions of Tonasket lie within the 100-year floodplain. See Attachment B for floodplain map.

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.

No, non project action.

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.

No, non project action.

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 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

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

No, non project action.

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

No, non project action.

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

None.

4. Plants

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

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

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

None.

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

None known.

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

None.

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

All noxious weed species common to North Central Washington can be found in Tonasket.

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 Steelhead.

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

Salmon, Steelhead,

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

Yes, the Okanogan River and lower reach of Bonaparte Creek are used by Salmon and Steelhead.

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

The City has Shorelines and Critical Areas regulations adopted to preserve and enhance wildlife and the proposed action is adoption of updated critical areas comprehensive planning and implementation regulations.

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.

Not applicable.

- 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:

None.

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, non project action.

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

None known.

- 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 known.

- 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.

None.

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

None.

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

None.

- b. Noise

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

None.

- 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.

None.

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

None.

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 City has a variety to commercial, residential, light industrial and undeveloped land. Proposal will not affect current land uses.

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?

Portions of the City and its UGA have been and will continue to be used for agriculture, however it is not classified as agricultural land of long term significance and in fact is zoned for residential use. The adoption of amendments to the Floodplain Management Code will not change how this land is regulated.

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.

The City has a wide range of structures including residential, commercial and industrial.

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

No.

e. What is the current Floodplain Management classification of the site?

See map in Attachment B.

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

The City has the following comprehensive plan designations: Single-Family Residential, Single/Multi Residential, Multi-Family Residential, Retail Commercial, Service Commercial, Mixed-Use, Industrial, Airport Industrial and Public Use.

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

The City has the following shoreline designations: High Intensity, Urban Conservancy, Shoreline Recreation and Shoreline Residential.

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

Yes, portions of the community include one or more critical areas.

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

Non project action.

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

Non project action.

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.

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

None.

9. Housing

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

None, however, amendments to the regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units may result in the addition of an unknown number of new accessory dwellings.

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?

Not applicable.

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

None.

b. 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?

None.

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?

There are a variety of designated and informal recreational opportunities in Tonasket from walking, swimming, biking, boating etc....

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 site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

None known.

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.

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

All new development is subject to a review process that provides opportunities for agencies, Tribes and other interested parties to comment.

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.

See above.

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.

The City has a comprehensive street system with US 97 and SR 20 serving as the backbones.

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?

Yes, TRANGO provides daily service to Oroville and Omak/Okanogan with connections to Twisp and Winthrop and Brewster and Pateros. There are three transit stops in the City.

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 nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

None.

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.

No.

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

No.

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.

Non project action.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other telecommunications

- 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.

Not applicable.

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 Kurt E Danison

Position and Agency/Organization Tonasket City Planner

Date Submitted: 6/1/22

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?

Not applicable, non-project action.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Public and agency review and comment periods.

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

Not applicable, non-project action

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

The action entails adoption of updated, mandated critical areas protection.

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

Not applicable, non-project action

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

Enforcement of applicable energy codes.

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?

Not applicable, non-project action.

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

The action entails adoption of updated, mandated critical areas protection.

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?

Not applicable, non-project action

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

The action entails adoption of updated, mandated critical areas protection.

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

Not applicable, non-project action

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

Public and agency review and comment periods.

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

No conflicts.