DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of Proposal:
The Clark County Department of Environmental Services has issued a determination of non-significance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act Rules (Chapter 192-11 WAC) to adopt and update changes in the Solid Waste Management Plan for the years 2015 through 2020, as a non-project SEPA review required by law (RCW 36.81.121 and WAC 136.16.010).

Proponent: **Clark County Department of Environmental Services**

Location of proposal, including street address, if any:

Clark County, Washington

Lead Agency: **Department of Environmental Services, Clark 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.

The lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and in other applicable local, state, or federal laws or rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below.

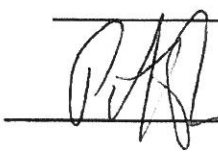
Comments must be submitted by: December,31, 2014

Responsible Official: **Don Benton**
Position/Title **Director, Clark County Department of Environmental Services**

Contact Person: **Peter DuBois**
Acting Solid Waste Manager
Pete.dubois@clark.wa.gov

Address: **1300 Franklin Street, PO Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666-9810**

Date: 12/10/14

Signature: 

Determination of NONSIGNIFICANCE

PROJECT:
2015-2020 Clark County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

Publish Date: December 16, 2014

Please find enclosed an environmental Determination of Non Significance (DNS) issued pursuant to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Rules (Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code). The enclosed review comments reflect evaluation of the environmental checklist by the lead agency as required by WAS 197-11-330(1)(a)(i).Written comments may be submitted on this determination within fifteen (15) days of its issuance, after which the DNS will be reconsidered in light of the comments received.

Please address all correspondence to:

Clark County Dept. of Environmental Services
Peter DuBois
Acting Division Manager Solid Waste and Environmental Education Division
Clark County, WA
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

DISTRIBUTION

Federal Agencies
US Army Corps of Engineers
US EPA
US Soil Conservation Services
Bonneville Power Administration

Federal Emergency Management Agency
US Fish & Wildlife

Regional Agencies:
Fort Vancouver Regional Library
Regional Transportation Council
Southwest Clean Air Agency
Southwest Washington Health District
Camas Public Library

Special Purpose Districts:
Vancouver Parks & Recreation
Clark County Fire District No. 5
Clark County Fire District No. 6
Clark County Fire District No. 9
Clark Public Utilities Electrical
Clark Public Utilities Water
Clark Regional Wastewater District
CenturyLink
C-Tran
Evergreen School District
Camas School District
Hockinson School District
Port of Vancouver
Port of Camas-Washougal
Conservation District of Clark County

Washington State Agencies:
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Transportation
Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
Department of Ecology

Local Agencies:
City of Vancouver
Clark County Department of Public Works
- Administration:
- Transportation
- Parks & Recreation
- Development Engineering

Clark County Dept. of Community Development
- Development Services
- Fire Marshall

Clark County Environmental Services
Clark County Sheriff's Office
City of Washougal
City of Camas
Clark County Board of Commissioners
Vancouver Audubon Society
Clark County Water Quality Resource Council
Chinook Indian Tribe
Friends of Curtin Creek (post card only)
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Clark County Natural Resources Council
Clark County Home Builders Assoc.
Columbia River Economic Development Council

Environmental Checklist

A. Background

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

   Clark County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

2. **Name of applicant:**

   Clark County Environmental Services, Solid Waste Program

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

   Peter DuBois
   Acting Division Manager
   Solid Waste and Environmental Education Division
   Clark County, WA
   PO Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98660
   360-397-2121 ext. 4961

4. **Date checklist prepared:**

   December 4, 2014

5. **Agency requesting checklist:**

   Clark County Department of Environmental Services

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

   Adoption of the Plan will be in the spring of 2015. The Clark County SWMP recommends continuation of the solid waste management system and programs; recommends new solid waste management programs to be developed and implemented over the next five years.

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

   State law requires the Clark County SWMP to be reviewed every five years and updated if necessary.

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

   Projects currently in design or under construction have environmental documentation on file

or in progress. Projects not yet underway will undergo complete environmental review during the design process.

9. **Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.**

There are no applications/proposals pending which would affect adoption of the Clark County SWMP.

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

The Clark County SWMP has been developed with the assistance of the County's Solid Waste Advisory Commission. The SWMP will be adopted by the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal, Vancouver, the Town of Yacolt, and the Board of Clark County Commissioners.

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. It represents the current status of the solid waste systems in Clark County, along with goals and recommendations for improving those systems. The Clark County SWMP discusses all aspects of solid waste management within the county and incorporated areas, including waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy recovery, collection, transfer, waste disposal and sustainability. Specific recommendations are made for all of the elements in the plan. These recommendations represent systems, programs and policy refinements that do not have an adverse environmental impact.

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 jurisdiction of the Clark County SWMP includes all incorporated and unincorporated areas within Clark County.

SECTION B **Environmental Elements**

1. **Earth**

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

Clark County is located in southwestern Washington, just north of and adjacent to the Columbia River and Portland, Oregon. The county's 420,288 acre area contains various topographic features from mountainous cascade areas in the east to rolling farmland and lowlands in the west.

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

Does not apply.

c. **What general types of soils are found on the site (clay, sand, gravel, peat or muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

e. **Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

2. **Air**

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

The Clark County SWMP is a non-project action. No significant amounts of emissions are anticipated as a result of any of the recommends made in the SMWP.

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

Does not apply.

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

Specific improvements will have to meet federal, state, and regional air quality standards before completion of design phase.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Does not apply.

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.

Does not apply.

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.

Does not apply.

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.

While 100-year floodplains do lie within the planning boundaries of the county, the Clark County SWMP is a non-project action.

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.

b. **Ground:**

1) **Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? 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.**

Does not apply.

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.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

4. **Plants**

a. **Check or circle 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
____wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
____water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
____other types of vegetation

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

5. **Animals**

a. **Circle any birds and 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:
Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Implementation of the Clark County SWMP may contribute to the protection of existing wildlife and their habitats by addressing proper management and disposal methods for solid wastes in order to reduce such problems as contamination of ground and surface water.

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.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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:**

Does not apply.

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 special emergency services that might be required.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

b. **Noise**

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

Does not apply.

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.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**

Does not apply.

b. **Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.**

Does not apply.

c. **Describe any structures on the site.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

h. **Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**

Does not apply

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:**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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:**

Does not apply.

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?**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

11. **Light and glare**

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

12. **Recreation**

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

Clark County has a variety of county, city, state, and federal recreational opportunities including sports facilities, neighborhood, community and regional parks, open space, and wildlife habitat areas. Some of these recreational opportunities are formally designated, while others are informally used without designation or authorization.

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:**

Does not apply.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. **Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

Does not apply.

b. **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

14. **Transportation**

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

c. **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

Does not apply.

d. **Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

15. **Public services**

a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

16. **Utilities**

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

Does not apply.

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.**

Does not apply.

SECTION 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:

Printed Name: Pete DuBois, Clark County Solid Waste Manager

Date Submitted: December 16 ,2014

SECTION D **Supplemental Sheet for Nonproiect Actions**

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?**

The Clark County SWMP will not have an adverse impact to water or air; will not increase the production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances or the production of noise. The continued implementation of the overall plan will result in decreased discharges to the environment as a result of management strategies developed to prevent problems caused by solid waste. The SWMP provides for the continued designation of solid waste from the entire County (incorporated and unincorporated areas). This system provides for the proper disposal of solid waste, programs for recycling, reuse, and waste reduction.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Does not apply.

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

Continued implementation of the Clark County SWMP will result in improved quality of habitat for plant and animal species in the county by reducing pollution to lakes and streams and contamination of groundwater through proper management, source reductions and recycling, and disposal method for solid waste. Continued implementation of the SWMP will decrease pollution problems in surface and groundwater, which will result in improved environmental quality for plants, animals, fish, and marine life. This system provides for the proper disposal of solid waste, programs for recycling, reuse, and waste reduction.

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

Does not apply.

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

Promoting Washington State's waste management priorities of recycling, waste reduction, energy recovery, and waste minimization will result in conservation of energy and natural resources through recycling and reuse of products, such as used glass, paper, aluminum, metals, and plastics. Such programs will lessen energy use and use of natural resources.

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

Waste reduction and recycling measure to achieve a 55% recycling rate and 70% diversion rate.

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?

Continued implementation of the Clark County SWMP will enhance these areas by providing education to the public who use these areas to properly manage and dispose of solid and hazardous waste. This system provides for the proper disposal of solid waste, programs for recycling, reuse, and waste reduction.

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

Does not apply.

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 Clark County SWMP does not result in land and shoreline use that would be incompatible with existing plans.

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

Does not apply.

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

The Clark County SWMP will not increase demands on transportation or public services or utilities.

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

Does not apply.

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

The Clark County SWMP conforms to all applicable local, state, and federal regulations. All future solid waste handling facilities will conform will all applicable local, state, and federal regulations, as well as, SEPA review.

SEPA Checklist Exhibits

Exhibit A: 2014 Clark County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan