

**WHITE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT #416
BOARD POLICY**

No. 6890

6000 MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

School Property

6890 – State Environmental Policy Act Compliance

Board Policy 6890 sets forth the District's policies and procedures for compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act, specifically Chapter 43.21C RCW.

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the State Environmental Policy Act, the District adopts by reference all sections or subsections of chapter 197-11 of the Washington Administrative Code.

ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS

In addition to those definitions contained within WAC 197-11-700 to 197-11-799, the following terms will have the following meanings, unless the context indicates otherwise.

1. District. District means the White River School District No. 416, Pierce County, State of Washington.
2. SEPA Rules. SEPA Rules means the rules currently set forth in Chapter 197-11 WAC and as hereafter amended.

The District formally designates and adopts the following policies to be considered by the District in connection with the District's exercise of substantive SEPA authority. These policies are supplemental to those policies and procedures in existing authorization of the District. Any District action on a proposal that is not exempt may be conditioned or denied under SEPA to mitigate the environmental impacts, subject to the limitations of WAC 197-11-660 and such other applicable laws. It is the policy of the District that, when undertaking an action involving the exercise of substantive SEPA authority, the District shall consider, as appropriate under the circumstances, the ramifications of such action as to one or more of the following factors:

1. The potential to provide the best educational opportunities possible;
2. The potential to maximize educational benefits from available resources;
3. The potential to fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as to the environment for succeeding generations;
4. The potential to foster a safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing environment;

5. The potential to attain a range of beneficial uses of the environment while avoiding degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
6. The potential to preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our heritage;
7. The potential to maintain, wherever practical, an environment which supports diversity and variety of choice;
8. The potential to achieve a prudent use of resources which promotes the quality of life and an equitable allocation of amenities;
9. The potential to enhance the quality of renewable resources by reasonable and practical means and promote the recycling of depletable resources; and
10. The potential to recognize that each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment and that each person has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment.
11. The consistency of the action with the District's Capital Facilities Plan.
12. The consistence of the action with the adopted Growth Management Act comprehensive plans of the following agencies: Pierce County, the City of Buckley, and the Town of Wilkeson.

APPEALS

The District hereby:

1. Eliminates, pursuant to WAC 197-11-680(2), appeals to its legislative body of any decision by a nonelected official conditioning or denying a proposal under authority of SEPA; and
2. Elects, pursuant to WAC 197-11-680(3), not to provide for administrative appeals of determinations relating to SEPA.

USE OF EXEMPTIONS

In determining whether a proposal is exempt from SEPA the district shall comply with the square footage and parking space threshold levels adopted under WAC 197-11-800(1) by the respective city or county in which the proposed action is to occur. To determine whether or not a proposal is exempt, the District shall ascertain the total scope of the proposal and the governmental licenses required. If a proposal includes a series of actions, physically or functionally related to each other, some of which are exempt and some which are not, the proposal is not exempt and the District must complete a threshold determination.

If a proposal includes both exempt and nonexempt actions, exempt actions may be authorized with respect to the proposal prior to compliance with the procedural requirements of these guidelines subject to the following limitations:

1. No nonexempt action will be authorized prior to compliance with procedural and substantive requirements;
2. No action shall be authorized which will irrevocably commit the District to approve or authorize a nonexempt action;
3. The District may withhold approval of an exempt action which would lead to modification of the physical environment, when such modifications would serve no purpose if later approval of a nonexempt action is not secured; and
4. The District may withhold approval of exempt actions which would lead to substantial financial expenditures by a private applicant which would serve no purpose if later approval of a nonexempt action is not secured.

CRITICAL AREAS

In its actions, the district will respect "critical areas" and their modified exemption criteria which have been adopted and displayed by local governments pursuant to The Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW.

Actions which will be located wholly or partially within a critical area are to be treated no differently than other actions under these guidelines. A threshold determination shall be made for all such actions, and an EIS shall not be automatically required for a proposal merely because it is proposed for location in a critical area.

LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The District is lead agency for the proposals it initiates and is responsible for compliance with SEPA regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Except as provided in WAC 197-11-315 the school District must complete an environmental checklist (WAC 197-11-960) for any proposal that meets the definition of action (WAC 197-11-709), and is not categorically exempted in WAC 197-11-800 and -880. This checklist shall be the basis for the threshold determination.

For all proposals for which the District is the lead agency, the responsible official of the District shall make the threshold determination pursuant to the criteria and procedures of WAC 197-11-300 through -360.

PREPARATION OF EIS

The draft and final EIS will be prepared by the responsible official or his/her designee or a consultant retained by the School District.

In the event that an EIS is to be prepared by a consultant, the responsible official will assure that the EIS is prepared in a responsible manner and with appropriate methodology. The responsible official will direct the areas of research and examination to be undertaken, as well as the organization of the resulting document.

No matter who participates in the preparation of an EIS, it must be approved by the responsible official prior to distribution.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The district will establish a mailing list for those interested citizens who wish to be informed regarding documents the district prepares that require public notice. If deemed appropriate by the responsible official, the school district will place appropriate notice in the paper of general circulation which serve the area.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL TO PERFORM CONSULTED AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES FO THE DISTRICT

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for the preparation of the written comments for the District in response to a consultation request prior to a threshold determination, participation in predraft consultation or reviewing a draft EIS.

The official designation by the district will be responsible for compliance by the District with WAC 197-11-400 through -460 wherever the District is a consulted agency, and he/she is authorized to develop operating procedures which will ensure that responses to consultation requests are prepared in a timely fashion and include data from all appropriate departments of the District.

DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

For those proposals for which the District is the lead agency, the responsible official shall be the superintendent or his/her designee. The responsible official shall make the threshold determination, supervise scoping and preparation of any required EIS and perform any other functions assigned to the "lead agency" or "responsible official" by SEPA and the SEPA Rules.

FEES

No fee will be collected by the District for performing its duties as a consulted agency or lead agency.

The District may charge any person for copies of any document prepared pursuant to the requirements of this ordinance and for mailing thereof, in a manner provided by RCW Chapter 42.17.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

The District may publish notice of action pursuant to RCW 43.21C.080 for any action to establish a time limit for judicial appeals.

The form of the notice will be as prescribed by the department of ecology and/or substantially in the form and manner set forth in RCW 43.21C.080. The notice shall be published by the District secretary pursuant to RCW 43.21C.080.

References: RCW 43.21C (State Environmental Policy)
WAC 197-11 (State Environmental Policy Act Rules)

Management Resources:
Policy News, October 2011 Additional Policy Updates
Policy News, December 1998 SEPA policy requires periodic review and understanding

Policy Adopted: 5/19/80; Revised 2/12/85

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