

# What is SEPA?



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The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) was established in 1971 in response to public concern that government decisions did not reflect environmental considerations. SEPA provides a framework for public agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a proposed City action. Initial review under SEPA determines whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary.



## When is SEPA required?

SEPA review is required for any project or proposed action which involves a public agency decision and is not considered exempt under the state law. Examples include issuing a construction permit to build a large residential subdivision, or adopting new city policies. The City of Duvall has determined that an EIS needs to be completed before the Duvall City Council can adopt an updated Comprehensive Plan.



## Who conducts SEPA?

One agency is identified as the “lead agency” for each proposed project. That agency is then responsible for conducting the SEPA environmental review for a proposal. The City of Duvall Planning Department is considered the “lead agency” for the Duvall Comprehensive Plan EIS.



## When can I provide comments?

You have two opportunities to provide comments during a SEPA EIS process: 1) during the Scoping comment period and; 2) during the Draft EIS comment period. The Scoping comment period for the Comprehensive Plan EIS is scheduled from February 20 to March 12. You may submit comments by attending and speaking at the March 3rd EIS Scoping meeting or by submitting an email or letter to Lara Thomas, Planning Director, at [Lara.thomas@duvallwa.gov](mailto:Lara.thomas@duvallwa.gov).

The Draft EIS comment period will begin once the Draft EIS is published. During this time the public, tribes and agencies can comment on the accuracy and content of the EIS before it is finalized. The comment period is anticipated to be in Spring 2015. During the comment period, a public hearing will be held, preliminarily scheduled in May 2015.

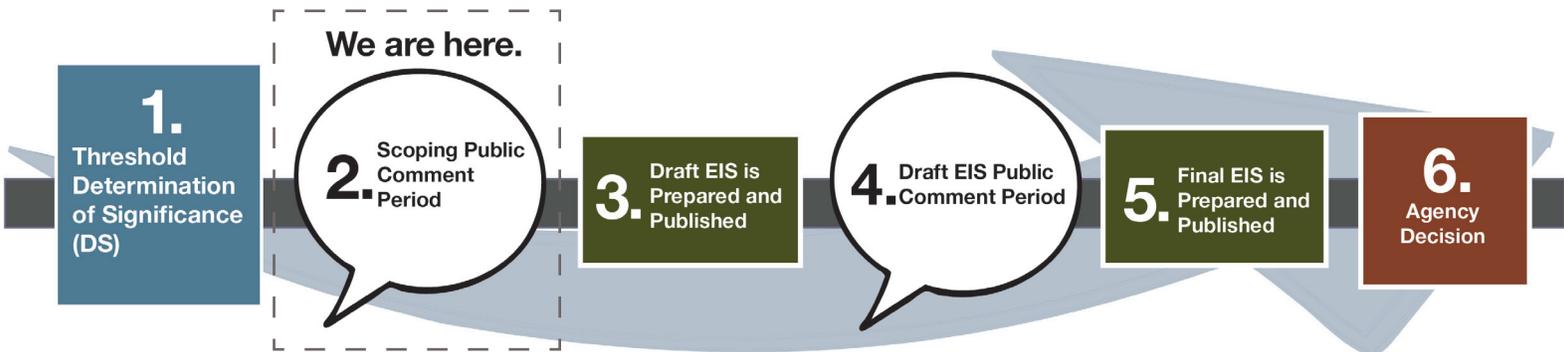
## What will happen to my comments?

The City will consider all comments provided during both Scoping and the Draft EIS comment periods. Comments during Scoping can help the City identify alternatives to the proposed action, define the scope of environmental analysis, and determine mitigation measures. Comments may result in corrections, additions or clarification of information in the Draft EIS.

### ***Make your comments effective!***

- Be specific. Saying that you are against a project will not have as much effect as saying why. Include as much factual information as possible. For instance, you can compare how things were, to how they are, to how you believe they will be in the future—and why.
- Identify possible solutions. Suggestions on reasonable mitigation may help shape a questionable project into a welcome addition to a community. After identifying your concern suggest possible solutions.
- Be clear, concise, and organized. For more information see: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/citizensguide/citizensguide.htm>

# What are the steps in the SEPA EIS process?



## 1. Threshold Determination

The City evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and determines whether the action is likely to have any “significant adverse environmental impact.” If determined significant, an EIS must be prepared.

## 2. Scoping Public Comment Period

The City identifies the issues and alternatives to the proposed action to be evaluated in the EIS and invites the public, tribes, and other agencies to provide comment and identify issues and concerns that should be evaluated. The scoping comment period for the Duvall Comprehensive Plan EIS is from February 20 to March 12. The public scoping meeting is scheduled on March 3 from 7-9 pm at the Duvall Visitor Center, 15619 Main Street.

## 3. Draft EIS is Prepared and Published

A draft EIS is prepared and includes descriptions of potential significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and alternatives; and identifies mitigation measures that would avoid or limit adverse impacts. The Comprehensive Plan Draft EIS is expected to evaluate four different alternatives as described in the Scoping Notice (see <http://www.duvallwa.gov/297/Comprehensive-Planning>).

## 4. Draft EIS Public Comment Period

Once the Draft EIS is published, the City invites the public, tribes, and other agencies to provide written comment on the analysis and conclusions. A public hearing will be held for people to provide oral and written comments. The Comprehensive Plan Draft EIS is expected to be published in Spring 2015.

## 5. Final EIS is Prepared and Published

The City reviews the comments received on the Draft EIS and provides a response to each comment in a Final EIS. The Final EIS may include additional analysis to supplement the information provided in the Draft EIS. The Comprehensive Plan Final EIS is expected to be published in Summer 2015.

## 6. Agency Decision

Based on the findings of the Draft and Final EIS, the City Council makes a final decision on the update to the Comprehensive Plan, preliminarily scheduled for Summer 2015.