



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251



NOTICE OF SEPA ACTION DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

City of Gold Bar Critical Areas Ordinance Update

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Gold Bar, Washington is proposing a non-project action to conduct a periodic review and update of the City's Critical Areas Ordinance, Gold Bar Municipal Code (GBMC) Chapter 18.08, in accordance with updated state guidance, best available science, and for consistency with state law and the improvement to the administration of Gold Bar Municipal Code (GBMC) Chapter 18.08. A Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) has been issued for this proposal.

The proposed action submitted by the City includes the SEPA checklist and the DRAFT Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) amendments. These documents are available on the city's website <https://cityofgoldbar.us/> and PDF copies can be requested.

The purpose of this notice is to invite testimony and to submit written evidence or information regarding the proposed action. Any interested party may submit written comments on this proposal. Written comments on the DNS must be submitted to the City of Gold Bar, 107 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA. 98251 in person, by postal mail to the address above, or by email before **4:00 pm, 29th day, August, 2025.**

Applicant: City of Gold Bar

Site Address: City of Gold Bar city limits

The SEPA responsible official has determined that this action does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and that the issuance of a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) is appropriate. **This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2): the lead agency will not act on the proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be received by: 4 p.m., August 29, 2025.**

Date of Issuance and Publication: August 11, 2025

Lead Agency: City of Gold Bar

Responsible Official: Rich Norris, Public Works Director

Signature:  **Date:** 8/11/25

Rich Norris, Public Works Director

City of Gold Bar, Washington
SEPA Environmental Checklist

APPEAL PROCESS: Any party of record may appeal a Determination of Non-significance (DNS). The Appeal must be made to the City of Gold Bar within **14 days** of the threshold determination becoming final, pursuant to WAC 197-11-680(3)(a)(vii). Appeals must be in writing and contain specific factual objections and may be submitted along with the appropriate Appeal fee to the above address. This may be the only opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of this non-project action.

A Notice of SEPA Availability will also be printed in the *date* edition of the *newspaper*.

PURPOSE OF CHECKLIST

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. 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. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impact from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can. You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. However, you may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant to answer some questions. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write “do not know” or “does not apply”. Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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 NON-PROJECT PROPOSALS

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered “does not apply.” IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For non-project actions, the references in the checklist to the words “project,” “applicant,” and “property or site” should be read as “proposal,” “proposer,” 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:

Gold Bar Critical Area Ordinance Update

2. Name of applicant:

City of Gold Bar

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

Rich Norris, Public Works Director
City of Gold Bar
107 5th Street
Gold Bar, WA. 98251
Phone (360) 793-1101

4. Date checklist prepared:

July 18, 2025

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Gold Bar

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

Adoption expected by City Council no later than December 31, 2025.

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

Some updates to Gold Bar Municipal Code (GBMC) Title 18 are anticipated to ensure consistency with the Growth Management Act and the City's adopted 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update.

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

A Critical Area Periodic Update checklist was prepared on June 1, 2025.

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.

Apart from this nonproject action's threshold determination, adoption of such proposed municipal code amendments will ensure consistency in updated critical areas regulations.

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

The Puget Sound Regional Council is tasked with providing certification approval for the City's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update process which includes an update to the City's

Critical Areas Ordinance. No other government approvals or permits will be needed.

- 11. Give a 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 applies throughout the Gold Bar governmental boundary. The adoption of this proposal would lead to the amendment of portions of the GBMC Title 18 to implement updated critical area protections and ensure consistency with GMA Periodic Update under Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 36.70A.

Consistent with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-315(1)(e), the lead agency has determined that questions in Part B of the SEPA Checklist do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of this non-project action, and that the responses provided in Part D of this Checklist are sufficient to meaningfully analyze the Critical Areas Ordinance update described herein. Therefore, Part B has not been included in this Checklist.

- 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 areas, 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 Critical Areas Ordinance update is a non-project action proposal that will provide updated critical area protection for the City of Gold Bar.

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.

Rich Norris: 

Position and agency/organization: Public Works Director, City of Gold Bar

Date submitted: August 11, 2025

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

Do not use this section 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?

This nonproject action proposal would not increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise as no adverse impacts are anticipated as a result from adoption of the Critical Areas Ordinance Update.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

All future project proposals will be subject to applicable regulations relating to land use and environmental protection. The City's critical area regulations are adopted to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts.

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

The Critical Areas Ordinance Update establishes regulatory standards including the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and marine life.

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

All future project proposals will be subject to applicable regulations relating to land use and environmental protection. The City's critical area regulations are adopted to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts.

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

No adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the adoption of the Critical Areas Ordinance Update.

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

All future project proposals will be subject to applicable regulations relating to land use and environmental protection including the conservation of energy and natural resources.

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?

All future project proposals will be subject to applicable regulations relating to land use and environmental protections. The City's critical area regulations are adopted to avoid or reduce

adverse environmental impacts.

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

The protection of such resources is ensured through enforcement of the City's Municipal Code and adopted Critical Areas Ordinance update.

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?

No adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the adoption of the Critical Areas Ordinance Update.

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

All future project proposals will be subject to applicable regulations relating to land use, shoreline, and environmental protections. The City's critical area regulations are to be adopted to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts.

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

This proposal is for an update to the City's critical areas ordinance establishing environmental protection, and as such, is not applicable to demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

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

This proposal is for an update to the City's critical areas ordinance establishing environmental protection, and as such, is not applicable to demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

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

The proposed amendments do not conflict with local, state, or federal laws. They are consistent with GMA goals, VISION 2050 goals, and adopt regulatory updates to the City's critical areas ordinance establishing environmental protection.