



Determination Environmental of Non-significance

City of Fircrest – Proposed 2020 Comprehensive Water System Plan (CWSP) Case Number – #LU21-02

TO: Interested Parties
SUBJECT: Preliminary Determination of Non-Significance

In accordance with WAC 197-11-340, a copy of the preliminary determination of Environmental Non-significance for the project described below is transmitted for your review and comment:

Applicant: City of Fircrest, Department of Public Works
Proposal: 2021 Comprehensive Water System Plan (CWSP)
Location: Applies to the Incorporated Area of the City of Fircrest
Lead Agency: City of Fircrest
City Contact: Tyler Bemis, Public Works Director
City of Fircrest
115 Ramsdell Street
Fircrest, WA 98466
Phone: 253-238-4113
tbemis@cityoffircrest.net

The lead agency for this proposal has made a preliminary determination that this project 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)(9c). 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.

Comments on this Determination of Environmental Non-significance (DNS) must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. by the closing date of the comment deadline, which is stated below. The Responsible Official may reconsider the determination based upon timely comments and may retain, modify, or, if significant adverse impacts are likely, withdraw the DNS determination.

Unless modified by the City, the preliminary DNS will become a final determination on July 28, 2021. An appeal of this determination must be filed within 21 days of the issue date of this notice. An appeal must be accompanied by the required filing fee of \$100.00. Appellants shall be billed for the actual cost of the application unless they substantially prevail on appeal or reconsideration. The appeal must be filed with the Planning/Building Department, 115 Ramsdell Street, Fircrest, Washington 98466.

Responsible Official: Angelie Stahlnecker
Position/Title: Planning & Building Administrator

Signature: Angelie Stahlnecker
Issue Date: July 28, 2021
Comment Deadline: August 10, 2021

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

City of Fircrest 2020 Comprehensive Water System Plan (CWSP), 2020-2025

2. Name of applicant:

**City of Fircrest
Public Works Department
115 Ramsdell Street
Fircrest WA 98466**

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

**Tyler Bemis, Public Works Director
City of Fircrest
Public Works Department
115 Ramsdell Street
Fircrest, WA 98466
253-564-8900
tbemis@cityoffircrest.net**

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 18, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Fircrest, Washington

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

Council hearing and adoption estimated for October 2021.

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

This is a non-project proposal. 6-Year updates are required under state law. Revisions and updates are likely on a 6-Year basis dependent upon project needs and funding priorities.

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

None.

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

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

None – this is a non-project proposal.

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.)

This is the 6-Year update of the City's CWSP. The water system projects identified include re-coating of reservoirs and watermain replacement located throughout the city. All work would be located within existing rights-of-way.

12. Location of 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.

Applies to the City of Fircrest right-of-way within the corporate city limits.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Within the City rights-of-way, slopes are generally, 0% to 12% slopes. Only one street (Drake Street) exceeds a slope of 15%.

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 prime farmland.
The majority of soils in Fircrest are Alderwood gravelly sandy loam. The remainder is classified primarily as muck and loam. Varies by project site.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
None have been identified.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposal. Indicate source of fill.
None of the listed projects are expected to require significant filling or grading.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
All construction activity will take place within existing paved areas (streets) or associated public right-of-way. Minimal erosion may occur, and will be addressed through installation of appropriate erosion control measures.

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

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
None proposed under this non-project proposal. All construction activity in Fircrest is required to comply with the Department of

**Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.
Erosion control techniques employing best management practices
will be designed and implemented to keep erosion to a minimum.**

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.

Particulate emissions (dust) will result from construction activity. Precise quantities are unknown, although the level of particulates will be limited by controls imposed by the City.

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

No, none have been identified.

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

Per FMC 22.58.008(j), construction dust and other particulates will be controlled through frequent watering and/or other dust control measures.

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.

Tacoma Holding Basin that abuts the Fircrest corporate limits. Leach Creek flows into Chambers Creek, which in turn flows into the Puget Sound. Emerson Pond is the other surface body water located within Fircrest. Wetlands are associated with both bodies of water.

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.

No.

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.

None.

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.

No.

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.

Not applicable.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

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.

Stormwater runoff from roads and other impervious surfaces infiltrates in retention and detention ponds and infiltration galleries throughout the city. The storm water system also has numerous outfalls to discharge water into the Tacoma Holding Basin and Leach Creek, which empties into Chambers Creek and the Puget Sound.

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

None is anticipated.

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

All construction activity in Fircrest is required to comply with the Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington. Best management practices will be implemented during project construction.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on **or adjacent to** 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, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
- _____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- _____ other types of vegetation

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

All of the watermain will occur within existing paved street sections. There are no plans to remove any existing vegetation. Within existing right-of-way, sidewalk planters and medians could be impacted.

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

A Cooper's Hawk nest was reported at one time near the Tacoma Holding Basin, however, there are none observed at this time. The area of this previous nest is not located near any of the proposed projects, and it is not located adjacent to a City Right-of-Way.

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

None.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other (list):

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other (list):

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other (list):

Not applicable -this is a non-project proposal.

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

None known at this time.

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

The City of Fircrest is within the Pacific Flyway.

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

None proposed.

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.

None.

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

Not applicable - this is a non-project proposal.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

Not applicable - this is a non-project proposal.

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None proposed under this non-project proposal. As implementation of a specific project occurs, the city will take appropriate measures to reduce or control energy impacts from project construction.

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.

Not applicable -this is a non-project proposal.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable - this is a non-project proposal.

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

None proposed under this non-project proposal. As implementation of a specific project occurs, the city will utilize required safety procedures to minimize a risk of health hazards from exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste

b. Noise

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

Not applicable - this is a non-project proposal. In general, project activities will be located in a variety of urban environments that experience noise from traffic and other activities.

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.

Noise will be generated during watermain replacement of each project on a short-term basis, typically during daytime hours, only.

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

None proposed under this non-project proposal. As implementation of a specific project occurs, the city will minimize noise impacts through the use of properly muffled equipment and machinery and limiting hours of construction to reasonable a reasonable time of the day, as appropriate.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

The current sites consist of developed public right-of-way.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

See "a" above.

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

No.

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

The City contains zoning classifications including R-4, R-4-C, R-6, R-8, R-10-TCD, R-20, NO, NC, CO, CC, PROS (Parks, Recreation and

Open Space), and GC (Golf Club). The street sections are located within and adjacent to most of these classifications.

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

Right-of-way zoning is comparable to the Comprehensive Plan designations.

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

Not applicable – there are no shorelines of the state in the City of Fircrest.

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

Fircrest is an aquifer recharge area and contains Leach Creek, Ross Creek, Emerson Pond, and numerous wetlands.

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

Not applicable -this is a non-project proposal. Projected population for the City is 6935 by year 2035.

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

None.

k. Proposed measure's to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None proposed under this non-project proposal.

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

None proposed under this non-project proposal, as it is not required.

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:

None proposed under this non-project proposal.

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.

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

None proposed or required.

11. Light and Glare

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

None, other than temporary lighting during construction activities, if required.

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

No.

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 proposed under this non-project proposal.

12. Recreation

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

Varies by project location.

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 proposed under this non-project proposal.

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.

None known.

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

None known.

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

No impacts are anticipated.

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.

Variable, by project location.

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

Pierce Transit currently serves Fircrest on Regents Boulevard, South 19th Street, Orchard Street, and Emerson Street.

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

None.

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

No new streets will be constructed. The project intent is to replace watermain within numerous existing street sections.

e. Will the project 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? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

No change from the present.

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

None proposed under this non-project proposal.

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.

No.

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

Not applicable.

16. Utilities

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

Not applicable -this is a non-project proposal.

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 that might be needed.

No changes are proposed.

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: Angelie Stahlnecker
Angelie Stahlnecker

Title: Planning & Building Administrator

Date Submitted: July 27, 2021

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (do not 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?

The Six-Year Update to the CWSP consists of identifying replacement and maintenance of existing watermain and water system facilities within existing street sections or rights-of-ways. There may be short-term increases in emissions (particulates) and noise during construction activities. There will not be any long-term impacts in terms of those items listed above.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Specific project components must comply with the City's Land Development Code, including performance standards that require compliance with the DOE Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington and implementation of dust control measures.

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

All proposed construction is to occur within existing street pavement sections. No impacts are anticipated.

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

The City will review the impacts of each specific development in the city on a project-by-project basis. Project mitigation measures will ensure that waterways and wetlands are protected through compliance with the DOE Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, and critical area regulations, if applicable.

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

None are anticipated.

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

None proposed.

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?

Projects included in the CWSP are not anticipated to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, since they consist of maintenance to, or replacement of, watermain and water system facilities.

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

Individual project components will be required to comply with the City's critical area regulations and other environmental regulations and policies, where applicable.

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?

Projects included in the CWSP are not anticipated to affect land and shoreline use, since they consist of maintenance of the existing water system. Fircrest does not have any shorelines as defined by the State.

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

The City will ensure that future development occurs in a manner consistent with the Fircrest Comprehensive Plan land use policies and development regulations.

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

Implementation of the CWSP will not result in increased demands, since the project components are maintenance-oriented and not capacity-related.

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

None proposed under this non-project proposal.

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

The non-project proposal would not conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Interested Parties:

City of University Place Department of Development Services
City of Tacoma Public Works
Wash Dept of Ecology, SEPA Register (via PDF)