



City of Puyallup

Planning Division

333 S. Meridian, Puyallup, WA 98371

(253) 864-4165

www.cityofpuyallup.org

PRELIMINARY*

**DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**This determination will become final if no formal appeals are filed and/or reconsideration requests are duly received*

for

**Fortress Puyallup
Preliminary Site Plan, SEPA Checklist**

Project # PLPSP20220155

[Online Permit File](#)

Date of Issuance:	October 02, 2023
Description of Proposal:	Construct an approximately 135,900 square foot warehouse with truck loading bays and associated parking. Scope of work includes the demolition of the existing/remaining structures onsite. Project is required to go through industrial administrative design review and will include landscaping, storm water controls, utilities, and other site improvements as required.
Location of Proposal:	240 15TH ST SE, PUYALLUP, WA 98372
Proponent:	Michael Chen
Lead Agency Responsible Official:	Katie Baker, AICP, Planning Manager City of Puyallup Planning Division 333 S. Meridian Puyallup, WA 98371 (253) 864-4165 www.cityofpuyallup.org
City of Puyallup Permits:	Preliminary site plan, SEPA checklist, civil application, building application, design review
Zoning:	ML – limited manufacturing
Comprehensive Plan:	LM/W – Light manufacturing/warehousing
Shoreline Environment:	N/A

A. PROJECT SPECIFIC MATERIALS (INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE – WAC 197-11-635):

The subject Threshold Determination herein and associated environmental findings are based upon review of the following documents submitted by the applicant and official responses from the city in regard to the underlying permit(s). These documents are incorporated by reference, in accordance with WAC 197-11-635, and are available for public review. To request access to electronic copies of project materials, please contact Planning@PuyallupWA.gov or (253) 864-4165, or visit <https://permits.puyallupwa.gov/Portal> and select “application search” under Planning Division section.

- Development Review Team (DRT) letter, to be issued
- Application Form, received October 26, 2022
- Site Plan, received September 07, 2023
- Vicinity Map, received October 26, 2022
- Critical Area ID Form, received October 28, 2022
- Preliminary Storm Report, received September 07, 2023
- SEPA Project Checklist, received June 01, 2023
- Traffic Scoping Worksheet, received January 30, 2023
- Architectural Elevations, received June 02, 2023
- Landscape Plans, received June 02, 2023
- Narrative From Project Architect, received August 01, 2023

- I. Notice of Application (NOA) date, consistent with WAC 197-11-355 (Optional DNS Process)
 - i. Optional DNS notice sent on November 07, 2022. Comment period expired November 21, 2022
 - ii. List of recipients, comments received, and copy of NOA materials available in [Permit Portal Link](#).

B. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL FINDINGS OF CONSISTENCY

The SEPA Responsible Official for the City of Puyallup hereby makes the following findings of consistency based upon a review of the environmental checklist and attachments, other information and studies on file for the project, and the policies, plans, and regulations designated by the City of Puyallup as a basis for the exercise of substantive authority (see PMC 21.04), and under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) pursuant to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C. The following findings of consistency apply to the project and may be referenced in future (final) permit review notes and/or conditions:

I. EARTH

- i. Erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading, or construction. These control measures must be effective to prevent storm water runoff from carrying soil and other pollutants into surface water or storm drains that lead to waters of the state. Sand, silt, clay particles, and soil will damage aquatic habitat and are considered to be pollutants that must be controlled with temporary erosion control measures, consistent with Puyallup Municipal Code (PMC) 21.14, Clearing, Filling and Grading, in addition to any and all permits required by other agencies. Any discharge of sediment-laden runoff or other pollutants to waters of the state is in violation of Chapter 90.48 RCW, Water Pollution Control, and WAC 173-201A, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, and is subject to enforcement action.

- ii. Based on the project geotechnical report, where available, and a review of available topography, LIDAR, mapped soils (NRCS) and geohazard area data (GIS), impacts to geologic hazard areas have not been identified.
- iii. Temporary erosion, sedimentation and construction dust control BMPs will be applied in accordance with City of Puyallup city standard section 500 – Grading, Erosion and Sedimentation Control and all engineering Best Management Practices (BMPs), in accordance with City Engineer approval.

2. AIR

- i. Watering of exposed soils during construction to suppress dust will limit impacts to ambient air quality resulting from the project improvements.
- ii. Building exhaust systems will be equipped with appropriate emission controls, where required by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and/or required by the Building Code Official.
- iii. Construction activities and vehicles being driven to and from the city can be anticipated to cause impacts on air quality and produce greenhouse gas emissions; no single point source of emissions that requires specific analysis on air quality and known to be present as a result of the project.
- iv. No known sources of foul or offensive odors are anticipated as a result of the project.

3. WATER

- i. Storm water runoff will be managed and treated in accordance with the currently city-adopted version of the Department of Ecology Stormwater Design Manual (See PMC 21.10.040), all applicable city storm water standards, all applicable NPDES permit requirements, and BMPs/standard engineering practices in accordance with City Engineer approval.
 - ii. Facilities conducting certain industrial activities that discharge stormwater to a surface waterbody or storm sewer system that drains to a surface waterbody are required to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage for those industrial stormwater discharges under the Department of Ecology's Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP). More information about the Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP) is available at the link below:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Stormwater-general-permits/Industrial-stormwater-permit>
- iii. The applicant shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the City Engineer and/or designee, that infiltration of on-site storm water is not feasible before being permitted to use alternative design(s). Where permitted, alternative designs (e.g. collection into a storm water pond and/or vault, retention/detention systems and treatment), shall adhere to all applicable city storm water requirements in city standards, shall conform to all standard engineering practices, and the applicable storm water manual design requirements as administered and approved by the City Engineer and/or designee.
- iv. The project location was not found to contain any hydrophytic vegetation, no field indications of hydric soil conditions, and no location on the project site-maintained hydrology indicative of wetlands. No areas of the project site are shown on the city's critical area maps as identified or suspected wetlands.
- v. Where projects are shown on the city's critical area maps as being within a critical aquifer recharge area or wellhead protection zone, additional review of impacts to ground water may be triggered, in accordance with standards in the city's critical areas ordinance.

- vi. Activities that do not cause degradation of groundwater or significantly impact the recharge of ground water aquifer may be permitted in a critical aquifer recharge area; provided, that the project complies with the city storm water management regulations and other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
- vii. All developments in the 100-year floodplain are required to meet the standards of PMC 21.07, flood control ordinance, and any other required state and/or federal standards. Applicants are encouraged to consult with FEMA region X regarding their project if located in the regulated (100-year) floodplain.
- viii. Groundwater diversions, dewatering activities and/or construction-related ground water withdrawals may occur as a part of this project due to presence of high/perched ground water table/levels at the time of construction. However, any ground water diversions, withdrawals, dewatering, or other forms of ground water management that occur during site construction will be mitigated using engineering BMPs, as stipulated by the city standards manual, NPDES permits, current Department of Ecology storm water manual (in effect at the time of permitting), and standard engineering practices.
- ix. Erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading, or construction. These control measures must be effective to prevent stormwater runoff from carrying soil and other pollutants into surface water or stormdrains that lead to waters of the state. Sand, silt, clay particles, and soil will damage aquatic habitat and are considered to be pollutants.

Any discharge of sediment-laden runoff or other pollutants to waters of the state is in violation of Chapter 90.48 RCW, Water Pollution Control, and WAC 173-201A, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, and is subject to enforcement action.

Construction Stormwater General Permit:

The following construction activities require coverage under the Construction Stormwater General Permit:

- Clearing, grading and/or excavation that results in the disturbance of one or more acres **and** discharges stormwater to surface waters of the State; and
- Clearing, grading and/or excavation on sites smaller than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale, if the common plan of development or sale will ultimately disturb one acre or more **and** discharge stormwater to surface waters of the State.
 - This includes forest practices (including, but not limited to, class IV conversions) that are part of a construction activity that will result in the disturbance of one or more acres, **and** discharge to surface waters of the State; and
- Any size construction activity discharging stormwater to waters of the State that Ecology:
 - Determines to be a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State of Washington.
 - Reasonably expects to cause a violation of any water quality standard.

If there are known soil/ground water contaminants present on-site, additional information (including, but not limited to: temporary erosion and sediment control plans; stormwater pollution prevention plan; list of known contaminants with concentrations and depths found; a site map depicting the sample

location(s); and additional studies/reports regarding contaminant(s)) will be required to be submitted. For additional information on contaminated construction sites, please contact Evan Wood at evan.wood@ecy.wa.gov, or by phone at (360) 706-4599.

Additionally, sites that discharge to segments of waterbodies listed as impaired by the State of Washington under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for turbidity, fine sediment, high pH, or phosphorous, or to waterbodies covered by a TMDL may need to meet additional sampling and record keeping requirements. See condition S8 of the Construction Stormwater General Permit for a description of these requirements. To see if your site discharges to a TMDL or 303(d)-listed waterbody, use Ecology's Water Quality Atlas at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/waterqualityatlas/StartPage.aspx>.

The applicant may apply online or obtain an application from Ecology's website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/-Application>. Construction site operators must apply for a permit at least 60 days prior to discharging stormwater from construction activities and must submit it on or before the date of the first public notice.

4. PLANTS

- i. The project will meet PMC 20.58 Landscaping Requirements, PMC 11.28 Street Trees, and will be consistent with the city's Vegetation Management Standards manual (PCD-5-11).
- ii. Any significant or heritage designated trees are required to be retained on site, where applicable. Trees and vegetation associated with critical areas, such as wetlands, steep slopes, streams/rivers, or other aquatic resources, and trees important to the overall function of adjacent or on site bird, fish and other terrestrial animals may be required to be retained, where applicable.
- iii. All trees shall be maintained in a manner consistent with accepted pruning and care standards as outlined in applicable ANSI A300 standards.

5. ANIMALS

- i. No federally listed endangered species, state threatened species or habitat, or state sensitive species are known to inhabit within the project boundaries.

6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- i. The project will be compliant with the Washington State Energy code and all applicable regulations in the latest edition of the applicable version of the Building Code, as adopted by the city applicable to the project construction type.
- ii. The project is not anticipated to impact solar access for the subject property or adjacent properties.
- iii. The project is anticipated to use various forms of energy, such as local electric power, natural gas, solar, and is not anticipated or known to generate a need for power or energy that would necessitate mitigation or specific service provisions not normally anticipated by service providers.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- i. There is known soil contamination within the proposed construction site constraints. The project must follow the Washington State Department of Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program, Stormwater General Permit, and Administrative Order.
- ii. If greater than 250 cubic yards of inert, demolition, and/or wood waste is used as fill material, a Solid Waste Handling permit may be required (WAC 173-350-990). It is the responsibility of the applicant

to check with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department for any permitting requirements that may be required.

- iii. The project is not anticipated to contain increased or unusual risks related to fire hazards, explosive materials, toxic chemical storage or manufacture, hazard waste spill risk, nor is the project anticipated or known to increase the risk of health hazards to the environment.
- iv. In addition to any required asbestos abatement procedures, the applicant should ensure that any other potentially dangerous or hazardous materials present, such as PCB-containing lamp ballasts, fluorescent lamps, and wall thermostats containing mercury are removed prior to demolition. PCBs are increasingly being found in caulking and paint. It is important that these materials and wastes are removed and appropriately managed prior to demolition. It is equally important that demolition debris is also safely managed, especially if it contains painted wood or concrete, treated wood, or other possibly dangerous materials. Please review the “Dangerous Waste Rules for Demolition, Construction, and Renovation Wastes,” on Ecology’s website at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/dangermat/demo_debris_constr_materials.html.
- v. In addition to any required asbestos abatement procedures, the applicant should ensure that any other potentially dangerous or hazardous materials present are removed prior to demolition. It is important that these materials and wastes are removed and appropriately managed prior to demolition. It is equally as important that demolition debris is safely managed, especially if it contains painted wood or concrete, treated wood, or other possibly dangerous materials. All removed debris resulting from this project must be disposed of at an approved site. All grading and filling of land must utilize only clean fill. All other materials may be considered solid waste and permit approval may be required from the local jurisdictional health department prior to filling. Contact the local jurisdictional health department for proper management of these materials.
- vi. This property is within a quarter mile of several contaminated sites. To search and access information concerning these sites, see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/fs/> and <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/SiteSearchPage.aspx>. If contamination is suspected, discovered, or occurs during the proposed construction of warehouse, testing of the potentially contaminated media must be conducted. If contamination of soil or groundwater is readily apparent, or is revealed by sampling, the Department of Ecology must be notified. Contact the Environmental Report Tracking System Coordinator at the Southwest Regional Office at (360) 407-6300. For assistance and information about subsequent cleanup and to identify the type of testing that will be required, contact Eva Barber with the Toxics Cleanup Program at the Southwest Regional Office at (360) 999-9593.

8. NOISE

- i. No significant adverse environmental impacts related to noise are anticipated or known to result due to the project.
- ii. Project construction noise shall be compliant with PMC 6.16 – Noise, including time limitations on construction activities starting and stopping work activities for both weekdays and weekends. Special conditions may apply to the project and additional noise mitigation may be applied by the City Engineer or Code Compliance Department during construction.

9. LAND USE, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND SHORELINE USE

- i. The project is located in the ML zone and the LM/VV comprehensive plan designated area and is generally consistent with the policies adopted in the Comprehensive Plan, Shoreline Master Program, and all other plans, where applicable to the development proposal, and shall be consistent with the zoning code regulations applicable to the project.
- ii. The site development construction plans (civil, building, etc.) shall follow all applicable codes in effect at the time of final construction permit submittal and shall conform to all applicable conditions outlined in the “Final Development Review Team (DRT) letter” available in the project case file.
- iii. The site is not presently being utilized for working forest or farmland and, as such, is not converting forest farm, agricultural or other resource lands urban land uses not otherwise contemplated in the city’s Comprehensive Plan.
- iv. All demolition work will be compliant with the city’s requirements for demolition approval and will be required to notify the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency prior to demolition work commencing. Asbestos surveys and any required abatement will be required during demolition permitting/actions.
- v. The project contains the critical areas noted below. The project has been reviewed for consistency with the city’s critical areas ordinance (PMC 21.06).

	CRITICAL AREA
X	Critical aquifer recharge area
	10-year wellhead protection area
	5-year wellhead protection area
	1-year wellhead protection area
X	Geologic hazard area – Volcanic hazard area
	Geologic hazard area – Landslide hazard area
	Geologic hazard area – Erosion hazard area
X	Geologic hazard area – Seismic hazard areas
	Wetland and wetland buffer
	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area - Stream and/or stream buffer
	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area – General habitat area
	Flood prone area – 100-year floodplain
	Shoreline of the State

10. HOUSING

- i. The project will not result in the construction of a residential project.
- ii. The project will not adversely impact existing housing units or affect the development of housing units in the general vicinity of the project area.

11. AESTHETICS

- i. The project will be consistent with the height limitation outlined in the applicable zone district, as stipulated by the Puyallup Municipal Code (title 20, zoning). No view corridors were identified to be impacted as a result of the project.
- ii. The project shall comply with all applicable design review requirements, site plan design requirements, and all design review overlay district standards/guidelines, as applicable to the project, at the time of final permit submittal, or submittal to the Design Review Board for approval.

12. LIGHT AND GLARE

- i. Exterior lighting fixtures shall be shielded from above in such a manner that the bottom edge of the shield shall be below the light source. Said lighting shall be shielded so that the direct illumination shall be confined to the property boundaries of the light source. Ground-mounted floodlighting or light projection above the horizontal plane is prohibited between midnight and sunrise.
- ii. Street lighting, in accordance with city standards, will be provided as a part of the project.

13. RECREATION

- i. The project is not required to pay the adopted park impact fee.
- ii. The project is not required to provide required open spaces.
- iii. The project will not disrupt, displace, or otherwise adversely impact any existing recreational opportunities in the area.

14. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- i. In the event that suspected historic artifacts, cultural artifacts, or objects of suspected archaeological value are discovered during site excavation, grading or other forms of site development/construction, all work on site shall stop immediately. This applies to all development activities that involve excavation regardless of exemption from permit requirements outlined in PMC 21.14.190.
- ii. The property owner/developer shall notify the City, the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of any such findings. In these cases, the property owner/developer shall be required to provide for a site inspection and evaluation by a professional archaeologist or historic preservation professional, as applicable, in coordination with the state and/or affected tribes.
- iii. The project applicant and/or contractor may be required to complete an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP), to the approval of the city, WA State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and affected Tribal governments. The IDP shall be completed in a form supplied by the Department and shall be completed prior to issuance of the civil permit for the site.

15. TRANSPORTATION

- i. At the time of preliminary site plan review, the end user of this project was unknown. Given the significant variability of trip generation for this type of facility, the City required the applicant to evaluate (3) separate possible end users with different levels of intensity (Low, Med, High trip generation). At this time, the applicant maintains this facility will be used as a General Warehouse (ITE 150 LUC) and is assumed to generated vehicle trips at the lowest intensity. Based on comments received from other jurisdictions (WSDOT), additional analysis may be required if the end user differs from the current assumption (Low intensity trip generation). Furthermore, additional analysis may be necessary by the City of Puyallup if a higher intensity land use is proposed (Right/Left turn pocket warrant based on higher volume at single commercial access location).
- ii. Design of commercial driveway must follow conditions described in approved AMR (alternative methods request) document: [PRAMR20230739](#).
- iii. Staff has reviewed and approved the traffic impact analysis or traffic scoping worksheet and adequacy of sight distance in relation to the project. The project case file contains applicable reports; all reports submitted shall be reviewed by the Traffic Engineer and City Engineer, for consistency with the municipal code and city standards. In accordance with city policy, Traffic review staff shall analyze

vehicular impacts to surrounding intersections which will receive more than 25 PM peak hour vehicle trips for changes to the level of service standards and/or operational impacts; special mitigation, proportionate with the project impacts, may apply to the proposal.

- iv. Per PMC 21.20.130, the applicant is required to pay a traffic impact fee (in the amount required by ordinance at the time of adoption) at the time of building permit issuance for the subject project.
- v. The project shall be compliant with all standards contained in PMC title 11, Streets and Sidewalks, including roadway improvements, street trees and street lighting.
- vi. The project shall be compliant with the Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element and implementing Active Transportation Plan. Right of way width to accommodate the future addition of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- vii. The project shall comply with PMC 20.55 – off-street Parking Regulations.

16. PUBLIC SERVICES

- i. A resulting need for additional public services, such as police protection, fire protection, library, various other municipal services, etc. are not anticipated from the project. In addition to this, this determination does not anticipate that the project will impact city services and utilities in a manner that would reduce the Level of Service (LOS) for the applicable utilities as adopted in the city's Capital Facilities Element.
- ii. The project is not required to pay a school impact fee.
- iii. The project is not required to pay a parks impact fee.

17. UTILITIES

- i. Domestic water will be provided by the water purveyor serving the site. The applicant shall provide a water availability letter/documentation to ensure adequate water can be supplied to the project.
- ii. Sanitary sewer service shall be provided to the development in accordance with city standards. OR The project is served by an onsite septic system, or is too far from available sanitary sewer utilities to connect. The project shall receive approval from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) for use of on site septic systems. The city may need to review septic system proposals for impacts to on site or adjacent critical areas.
- iii. Electricity, natural gas, refuse/recycling collection, internet and landline telephone service is provided by private utilities; property owner and/or applicant to determine availability of those private utilities to be provided on site.

Issuance of this threshold determination does not constitute approval of the permit. This proposal will be reviewed for compliance with all applicable City codes that regulate the applicable development activities, including, but not limited to, the International Fire/Building/Residential Codes, City of Puyallup Engineering Standards, Zoning Code, Surface Water Design Manual, Impact Fees, and the Critical Areas Ordinance.

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Upon review of applicable documentation, the responsible official of the lead agency hereby finds that this proposed permit action would not result in a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. 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. Our agency will not require any additional mitigation measures under SEPA.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required, under RCW 43.21C.030 (2) (c). This finding is made pursuant to RCW 43.21C, PMC 21.04.120 and WAC 197-11 after reviewing a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. The responsible official finds this information reasonably sufficient to evaluate the environmental impact of this proposal. This information is available to the public upon request.

COMMENTS

Consistent with WAC 197-11-355, the Lead Agency issued a Notice of Application on **November 7, 2022** with a single integrated comment period to obtain comments on the notice of application and the likely threshold determination for the proposal. Therefore, consistent with the optional DNS process outlined in WAC 197-11-355, there is no further comment period for the subject Determination.

APPEALS

Consistent with WAC 197-11-545 regarding commenting parties and agencies, an appeal the subject DNS may be filed with the SEPA Responsible Official by applicable parties and agencies within 10 days of the issuance of this **DNS**, or by **3:00 pm on Thursday, October 12, 2023**

Appeals will be accepted by via the permit portal only (<https://permits.puyallupwa.gov/Portal>). Please call or email Planning prior to submission of an appeal, if possible.

- To file an appeal electronically, please visit <https://permits.puyallupwa.gov/Portal> and select “Apply for a Planning Permit”, selecting “Appeal to Hearing Examiner” from the project/permit type drop down when prompted. (14 days from issuance date).

Prior to submittal and payment of the \$650.00 appeal fee, consult PMC 21.04.205 regarding SEPA Appeals or contact the SEPA Responsible Official at Planning@PuyallupWA.gov or (253) 864-4165 to ask about the appeal procedures, if possible. Be prepared to make specific factual reasons, rationale, and/or the basis for the appeal. This determination will become final if no formal appeals are filed and/or reconsideration requests are made by the expiration date listed above.

Publication Date: October 02, 2023

Notice Published in: Tacoma News Tribune



Nabila Comstock
Assistant Planner

October 02, 2023

Date



Katie Baker, AICP
City of Puyallup SEPA Responsible Official

October 02, 2023

Date

Attachments:

- A. Site Plan
- B. Environmental Checklist