SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

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.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

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 nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," 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: **2021 Levee Maintenance Project**

2. Name of applicant: **Consolidated Diking Improvement District No. 3 (CDID #3) of Cowlitz County, Washington**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
   Mr. Patrick Harbison, PE - Diking Engineer
   CDID #3
   1600 – 13th Avenue South
   Kelso, WA 98626
   360-577-3030

4. Date checklist prepared: **January 27, 2021**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **City of Kelso**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **The work is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2021.**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **No. This work is to address levee items identified to be corrected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) during a levee inspection in November and December 2018.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **Applicant is submitting a request for determination regarding a Section 408 permit to the USACE, Portland District and an application for a Hydraulic Project Approval permit from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.**

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 known.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **None.**

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.) **The projects includes levee maintenance at three locations to address comments received from the USACE during a levee inspection in November and December 2018. The three locations are described below:**

    A. **At the Elks Stormwater Pump Station the USACE levee inspection team noted that the outlet end of the 16-inch discharge pipe was designed to have a flap gate, however, the flap gate is missing. This project will modify the discharge pipeline on the river side of the levee. A section of the existing pipeline will be removed so the new discharge location is at a higher elevation on the river side of the levee and will include installation of a new rubber duckbill style check valve at the outlet end of the pipeline. Currently the outlet of the discharge pipe is subject to being buried by silt during high Cowlitz River flows. Armoring of the levee will occur at the new outlet location of the discharge pipe to protect the levee from erosion.**

B. **At approximate Coweeman River Levee station 90+50 the USACE levee inspection team noted that an existing pipe passes through the levee prism. The existing pipe is an abandoned 18 inch diameter treated effluent discharge pipeline from the City of Kelso's old wastewater treatment plant that was demolished in the 1990's. This pipe will be removed from the levee down to elevation 11.0 which is just above the vegetation line on the levee that shows the typical river water surface elevation. A small portion of the pipeline below elevation 11.0 will not be removed to avoid in water work that would be required to remove the remaining pipe. The levee area impacted by removal of the pipe will be restored in accordance with applicable USACE requirements.**

C. **At approximate Coweeman River Levee station 141+77 the USACE levee inspection team noted that the existing 48-inch diameter culvert, tide box and slide gates near the Baker Way Pump Station had not been video inspected in the last 5 years and that the existing valves in the tide box do not operate. The culvert pipeline and concrete tide box have been video inspected by a diver. The 48-inch pipe will be abandoned in place in accordance with applicable USACE requirements and the existing tide box will be demolished to 4 feet below the top of the levee and filled in accordance with applicable USACE requirements. In addition, approximately 90 linear feet of existing exposed 30-inch ductile iron discharge piping from the pump station will be sandblasted and recoated in accordance with applicable regulations.**

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 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.

A. **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Pump Station, 2222 S. River Rd, Kelso WA 98626**
B. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50, Property south of 1002 S. 13th Ave, Kelso, WA 98626**
C. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 141+77, Access driveway adjacent to 1809 Baker Way, Kelso, WA 98626**

B. Environmental Elements

1. *Earth*

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

1. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **The steepest slope of the levee is approximately 45%.**

2. 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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. **Soils consist of sandy silts and silty sands.**

3. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No, the levees are stable.**

4. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

   1) **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Pump Station – The disturbed area will be approximately 50 feet in length by 5 feet wide. Excavation and fill will be approximately 40 cubic yards and will consist of backfill material meeting USACE requirements and rip rap to stabilize and protect the levee side slope at and below the discharge pipe outlet.**

   2) **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50 – The disturbed area will be approximately 90 feet in length by 5 feet wide. Excavation and fill is estimated at 50 cubic yards and will consist of compacted backfill material meeting USACE requirements.**

   3) **Coweeman River Levee Station 141+77 – No excavation will be required to abandon the pipe in place. The inside of the pipe will be cleaned and silt and mud material removed prior to filling with Grout or controlled density fill (CDF). Grout or CDF be used to fill the existing pipeline. Approximtely 90-100 cubic yards of grout or CDF is estimated to be required.**

5. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **The purpose of the project is to further stabilize the levee. Permanent erosion control in the form of rip rap will be used at the outlet of the Elks Stormwater Pump Station's discharge pipeline. Temporary erosion and sediment control (TESC) measures will be specified and implemented during construction.**

6. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **There will be no change in the impervious surface at the sites.**

7. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **TESC measures will be specified and required at all 3 locations during construction. Permanent erosion control consisting of rip rap will be installed at the outlet of the discharge pipe for the Elks Stormwater Pump Station.**

2. *Air*

A. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **Minor equipment exhaust during construction. None when project completed.**

B. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **No.**

C. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **None.**

3. ***Water***

A. Surface Water:

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. **Yes, the Elks discharge is adjacent tothe Cowlitz River which is a tributary of the Columbia River. The other two projects are located adjacent to the Coweeman River which is a tributary to the Cowlitz River.**

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. **Yes all three projects are adjacent to the Cowlitz or Coweeman rivers. Refer to the response to question A11 above for a description of the projects.**

At approximate Coweeman River Levee Station 90+50 the existing pipe will be removed from the levee down to elevation 11.0 which is just above the vegetation line on the levee. A small portion of the pipeline below elevation 11.0 will not be removed to avoid in water work that would be required to remove the remaining pipe.

At Coweeman River Levee Station 141+77 it is anticipated that a temporary coffer dam will be installed around both ends of the existing pipe to allow each end of the pipe below the water surface to be dewatered so that the full length of the pipe can be cleaned and then filled with grout or CDF. In addition, approximately 90 linear feet of existing exposed 30-inch ductile iron discharge piping from the pump station will be sandblasted and recoated in accordance with applicable regulations.

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. **No material will be placed directly in the surface water. Work will occur on the water side of the levee but will be completed when the river water level is low.**

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **Temporary cofferdams are anticipated to be installed around the river side of the existing 18 inch pipe at approximate Coweeman River Levee Station 90+50 and around both ends of the existing 48-inch piping at Coweeman River Levee Station 141+77. Once the cofferdams are installed water within the cofferdams will be removed by pumping to provide dry working conditions that will allow pipe removal at station 90+50 and at station 141+77 removal of accumulated silt and mud within the existing 48 inch pipe and then filling of the pipe with grout or CDF to occur efficiently and without adverse impact to river water quality. It is anticipated that the quantity of water to be removed at each cofferdam location will be less than 5,000 gallons which will be removed with pumps. Pumped water will**

be discharged to the river or the ditch/slough adjacent to each specific cofferdam installation.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **The work to be performed is associated with the Cowlitz River and Coweeman River levees which provide flood protection.**

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. **The work at the Elks Stormwater Pump Station will modify the existing discharge piping but will not change the discharge to the Cowlitz River.**

B. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? 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. **No.**

C. Water runoff (including stormwater):

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. **There will be no changes to stormwater runoff.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **No.**

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. **No.**

D. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: **None.**

4. *Plants*

A. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

_X_ deciduous tree: **alder**, maple, aspen, other **cottonwood**
___ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
___ shrubs
_X_ grass
___ pasture

___ crop or grain
___ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
___ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
_X_ other types of vegetation **Blackberry**

B. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **Some grass, brush and 3-4 alder trees will need to be removed in the area of the Elks Stormwater Pump Station discharge pipeline on the Cowlitz River levee. Grass and brush will need to be removed in the area of the pipeline to be removed at approximate Coweeman Levee station 90+50.**

C. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None known.**

D. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **None anticipated.**

E. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. **None known.**

5. ***Animals***

A. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:
birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds**, other:
mammals: **deer**, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, **salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other _____

B. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **There are endangered anadromous fish species in both the Cowlitz River and Coweeman River.**

C. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **The area is part of the Pacific Flyway.**

D. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **None.**

E. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. **None known.**

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. **No.**

C. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: **None.**

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. **No.**

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. **None known.**

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. **None.**

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. **None.**

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **None.**

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **None.**

B. *Noise*

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **None.**

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. **No long term noise from the project. Short term construction noise can be expected during normal daytime construction hours.**

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None.**

8. *Land and Shoreline Use*

A. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

1. **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Pump Station – The existing site is part of the Cowlitz River Levee. The adjacent property is the Elks Three Rivers Golf Course.**
2. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50 – The existing site is part of the Coweeman River Levee. The adjacent property is zoned general commercial and includes a day care and a vacant lot to the west and the Coweeman River to the east.**
3. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 141+77 – The site is part of the Coweeman River Levee. Adjacent property is an existing stormwater pump station.**

B. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? **No.**

1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: **No.**

C. Describe any structures on the site.

1. **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Pump Station – Adjacent to the site is a metal maintenance building associated with the Elks Three Rivers Golf Course.**
2. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50 – There are no structures on the site.**
3. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 141+77 – There is a concrete valve vault structure in the levee associated with the pipeline to be abandoned. There is an existing stormwater pump station adjacent to the site.**

D. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **The top 4- to 6 feet of the existing concrete valve vault in the Coweeman River Levee at approximate station 141+77 will be demolished. The remaining section will be filled and abandoned in place.**

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

1. **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Pump Station – Open space.**
2. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50 – General commercial.**
3. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 141+77 – Open space.**

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

1. **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Pump Station – Open space.**
2. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50 – General commercial.**
3. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 141+77 – Open space.**

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

1. **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Pump Station – Urban Conservancy**
2. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50 – High Intensity**
3. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 141+77 – High Intensity**

H. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. **Yes, all three sites are within 200 feet of the Coweeman and Cowlitz Rivers.**

I. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **None.**

J. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None.**

K. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **None.**

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **All three sites are part of the Coweeman and Cowlitz River Levees. The projects are to correct items noted during a periodic inspection by the USACE to maintain the adequacy of the levees.**

M. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: **Not applicable.**

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.**

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? **No structures proposed.**

B. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **None.**

C. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **Not applicable.**

11. *Light and Glare*

A. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **None.**

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.**

12. *Recreation*

A. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Golfing at the Elks Three Rivers Golf Course and fishing in the Coweeman and Cowlitz Rivers.**

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.**

13. *Historic and Cultural Preservation*

A. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe. **None known.**

B. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. **None known. The sites are all within an existing manmade levee.**

C. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. **The sites are all within an existing manmade levee.**

D. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required. **All work will be completed within the previously disturbed levees.**

14. *Transportation*

A. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

1. **Cowlitz River Levee – Elks Stormwater Pump Station – The site is located at end of South River Road in Kelso, WA. There will be no change to access the site.**
2. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 90+50 – The site is on the Coweeman River Levee which is accessed off of Grade Street in Kelso, Washington. There will be no change to access the site.**
3. **Coweeman River Levee – Approx. Levee Station 141+77 – The site is accessed from Baker Way in Kelso, Washington. There will be no change to access the site.**

B. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **Not applicable.**

C. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? **None/not applicable.**

D. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **No.**

E. Will the project or proposal 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 or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? **None/not applicable.**

G. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. **No.**

H. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None.**

15. ***Public Services***

A. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, 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 utilities currently available at the site: **electricity**, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

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 which might be needed. **None.**

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: _____

Name of signee: Patrick Harbison, PE _____

Position & Agency/Organization: Diking Engineer, Consolidated Diking Improvement District #3

Date Submitted: _____