

Julie Blakeslee, AICP

QUALIFICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE – Over 25 years’ experience managing the scope of, preparing, and reviewing environmental impact statements, checklists and categorical exemptions to comply with SEPA and NEPA and in accordance with lead agency procedures. Develops project alternatives for environmental analysis and minimizing impact. Reviews and comments on third-party environmental documents. Provides expert witness testimony and work with attorneys for hearings and appeals. Example project types include major institution master plans, critical areas ordinances and interpretation, shoreline development, public facilities (power plants, solid waste transfer stations, fire stations), drainage improvements, and transit and transportation projects.

PERMITTING STRATEGIES – Brings an understanding of the local issues and is well-versed in coordination efforts with local, state, and federal agency representatives. Responsible for permitting strategies (development, management and tracking) to obtain land use, shoreline, historic/Section 106, ESA, environmental and building permits for a wide range of projects including commercial and institutional facilities. Resolves environmental issues and negotiates permit conditions.

MAJOR INSTITUTION MASTER PLANS – Develops and manages Major Institution Master Plans (MIMP) for Seattle Children’s Hospital, Swedish Cherry Hill and Virginia Mason. Supports preparation of the University of Washington Campus Master Plan. Prepares related SEPA compliance documents, works with Seattle DPD to implement the code, and organizes and presents proposals at Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT – Extensive experience managing, monitoring and working with multidisciplinary teams of consulting planners, architects, landscape architects, historians and engineers to plan, permit, design and construct projects. Negotiates contracts and project commitments and outcomes.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – Designs, manages and facilitates public participation activities for urban and environmental planning projects, including community events, neighborhood meetings, staffing interagency committees, providing website content, writing newsletters, conducting surveys, and presentations to staff, councils, boards and communities. This includes articulating technical information in a clear, reader-friendly manner, using graphics, and coaching presenters and technical team members.

POLICIES, REGULATIONS & TRAINING – Maintains and analyzes plans and policies against current state and federal regulations, reviews projects against the plans and policies, trains other professionals on use of plans, policies and regulations, and stays current with regulations (see REGISTRATION below). Conducts training sessions with employees, consultants and clients on: land use, SEPA and NEPA regulations; permitting strategies and requirements; public outreach tools and approach; and identifies others to provide specialty training as needed.

(See PROJECT SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE below for qualification details.)

EXPERIENCE

University Environmental and Land Use Planner, University of Washington, 2016-Present. Responsible for all University SEPA documentation and process; chairs the University's SEPA Advisory Committee; authors or contributes to campus master plans, planning studies and development regulations; provides guidance on land use, historic preservation, transportation planning, and environmental considerations for all projects on University campuses and outposts; coordinates with regulatory agencies for project collaboration and permitting; and coordinates legal counsel for land use and regulatory issues (see University of Washington project).

Planning Project Manager, URS Corporation, 2002-2016. Responsible for managing environmental, land use and transportation projects; led the SEPA and NEPA practice; provided environmental advice to project manager co-workers for compliance and managing risk; managed project teams and staff, budgets, and schedules; negotiated contracts and project commitments; created and maintained agency, client and staff relationships and initiated problem solving for successful outcomes (see Navy, Coast Guard, Spokane Valley, Kittitas County, Chehalis Tribe, Seattle Children's, I-90, and FEMA Training projects).

Planning Team Manager, Otak, Inc., 1997-2001. Developed strategies to reduce permit process time (relative to ESHB 1724); prepared guidelines, rules and regulations for design review board creation; coordinated rezone applications and testimony; and prepared political and regulatory impact assessments for property transactions. Project Manager for South LINK and city liaison to City of Tacoma for street use and historic permitting for Tacoma LINK (see City of Medina project).

Senior Planner, BRW, Inc., 1993-1997. Served as project or task manager on the development of comprehensive plans under GMA; SEPA and NEPA documents; land use and transit station area guidelines and planning; central business district policy development and land use analyses; and urban center development studies (see Snohomish County project).

Planning Consultant, 1992-1993. Prepared environmental impact documentation for public and private sector clients and staff reports for city council members. Coordinated the processing of development permits from initial project assessment through final public hearing. Provided agencies with current environmental law updates.

Project Planner, STA Planning, Inc., 1989-1992. Prepared comprehensive plans, CEQA and NEPA documents, and feasibility studies. Responsible for document preparation, technical writing, coordination with regulatory agencies, and building geographic information systems (GIS).

Planner, Metro (now King County Metro), 1987-1989. Compiled demographic and land use characteristics data for geographic information system development for CSO reduction. Responsible to the Water Quality Division, Facilities Planning and Facilities Inspection Departments.

REGISTRATION

American Institute of Certified Planners, 1993 to Present

EDUCATION

BA, Geography, University of Washington

Recent course work has focused on: environmental negotiation (2017); legal courses on most recent land use, SEPA and NEPA-related court case decisions (annually through 2017); ethics of public participation and social equity (2015); climate change findings, WA State policy related to climate change, and sea level rise adaptation in WA State (2015); and pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access and safety (2014).

PROJECT SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Seattle Campus Master Plan, EIS and TMP. 2016-Present

Bothell Campus Master Plan, EIS and Development Agreement. 2016-2017

SEPA Advisory Committee, Chair.

Permitting and regulatory assistance for Population Health Facility, North Campus Housing, Pack Forest development, Friday Harbor Labs, Intercollegiate Athletics.

NAVY TRANSIT PROTECTION SYSTEM PIER EA, PORT ANGELES, WA.

Project Manager for this project to provide permanent moorage and support facilities to the United States Coast Guard operated Transit Protection System vessels. The project includes construction and operation of a 8,200 square foot facility on shore, utilities, an armory for secure storage of ammunition and 10,000 gallon fuel tank. Four alternatives were evaluated. In addition, a Coastal Consistency Determination (Ecology), Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (Clean Water Action Section 404/401), Biological Assessment (ESA), Incidental Harassment Application (NMFS), and Mitigation Action Plan were prepared and reviewed. AECOM led the public involvement for scoping, DoPAA, and EA including mailings, publication of the Notice of Availability and two public open houses. Key issues included socioeconomics, biological resources, utilities, shore traffic and circulation, environmental justice, and recreation resources.

JAMES ISLAND BAR LIGHT EXPANSION PROJECT, U.S. COAST GUARD, QUILLAYUTE RIVER STATION, LA PUSH, WA.

Project manager for the EA for this project to improve the lighting at the entrance to the Quillayute Marina. Key issues include cultural resources, ESA-listed species, construction impacts to recreation facilities, and light and glare. The EA was completed in coordination with an ESA review and Biological Assessment for the project, which included leatherback sea turtle critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat for numerous Pacific species.

CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY, SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE, SPOKANE, WA.

Quality assurance review for preparing regulations for the city's shoreline master program update in accordance with WA State Department of Ecology guidance. Tasks included researching adopted master programs, reviewing current Ecology guidance and regulations, drafting shoreline use and modifications regulations, and critical areas regulations to be used for the shoreline master program.

KITTITAS COUNTY, LAND USE STUDY, KITTITAS COUNTY, WA.

Task Manager for conducting a land use analysis for the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration and Enhancement project in Kittitas County. Tasks include reviewing current land ownership, zoning, existing uses, recreation, and critical areas; and analyzing the effects that proposed designation and conservation activities would have on land use (such as residential and agricultural development, timber harvest, logging, ranching, recreation, etc.).

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS RESERVATION, SOUTH BANK ROAD CULVERTS AND HOWANUT ROAD REALIGNMENT NEPA EAS, CHEHALIS, WA.

Project Manager to oversee these two NEPA EAs. The existing culverts under South Bank Road just north of the Cemetery Road intersection had insufficient hydraulic capacity resulting in Harris Creek overtopping during high flow events. Culverts were replaced with larger box culverts. The Howanut Road realignment is 1.1 miles from the Willamette Creek Bridge to the Black River Bridge. The primary purpose is to reduce the curve radius on two sharp corners on Howanut Road.

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Major Institution Master Plan II and EIS, Seattle. 2005-2008. Project Planner assisting Children's in developing their second Major Institution Master Plan, providing a permitting strategy and community outreach. Drafted the EIS and managed subconsultants. An extensive public outreach program included meeting with small groups of neighbors, the Mayor's office, and the media. Primary areas of concern included traffic, height, bulk and scale, and land use.

MIMP EIS Addenda. 2003-2015. Project Planner: Helistop Relocation EIS Addendum - relocation of the helistop from the parking lot to the roof of the ED/OR. The primary issues concerned noise and safety. Emergency Department/Operation Room EIS Addendum - a 50,000 square foot expansion and 33,500 square feet of renovation of existing facilities. The Addendum was prepared and published in 6 weeks. Ambulatory Care Building EIS Addendum - a 172,000 square foot expansion of the hospital for an ambulatory care building. The primary issues concerned light, glare and shadows, transportation/parking, noise and public scrutiny.

I-90 SNOQUALMIE PASS EAST

SEPA/NEPA EIS and Permitting. 2005-2008. As the Project Manager, prepared the EIS and staffed the I-90 Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) which was an advisory body to incorporate relevant science and the concerns of agency stakeholders and to recommend a Preferred Alternative. The IDT co-leads were FHWA and WSDOT. IDT also included USFS, USFWS, WDFW, Ecology, WA Parks and Recreation Commission, USEPA, USACE, USBOR, NMFS and Kittitas County. Responsible for tracking all project mitigation and commitments to agencies, tribes and landowners.

FEMA TRAINING

On-call Permitting and Environmental Services, FEMA Region X, Washington (2005 to present). Project manager for several simultaneous Pre-Disaster Mitigation Contracts involving Environmental Assessments, Biological Assessments, historical Determinations of Eligibility and Findings of Effect, cultural findings of effect, floodplain evaluation, and Environmental Justice evaluation for projects that would reduce or prevent negative effects in future disasters in

Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Includes providing training to FEMA staff and sub-applicants on a regular basis.

CITY OF MEDINA

Consulting Planner. 2000-2002. Worked as extension of staff reviewing permit applications, writing staff reports and presenting to the planning commission, updating land use and shoreline code, and developing a permitting handbook and director's rules for citizen and developer use.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Critical Areas Ordinance, Snohomish County. 2007-2008. Project manager for updating the critical areas ordinance. Consultation with scientists to include Best Available Science, tracked review comments, tested the viability of the code, and briefed and presented findings and new code to elected and appointed officials.

Sno-Tran Urban Center Incremental Development Study, Snohomish County. 1997. Task manager for this innovative study by the former Snohomish County Transportation Authority. Produced a guidebook to help local governments and transit agencies plan and take incremental steps toward developing higher density urban centers, supported by higher levels of transit service. The guidebook provided a toolbox of potential design and fiscal strategies that covered visioning, planning, organizing, and implementation.