



Planning and Community Development Department

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS) BARKLEY VILLAGE PLANNED ACTION

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

The City of Bellingham has issued a Non-Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Barkley Village Planned Action, pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The FEIS compliments the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) issued on December 8, 2023. The FEIS and DEIS provide environmental review of probable impacts and mitigation measures for the designation and development of Barkley Village, a 259-acre area owned primarily by Talbot Real Estate LLC.

The Environmental Impact Statement was requested by Talbot Real Estate LLC as part of a Planned Action under RCW 43.21C.440. A Planned Action is a process for reviewing a proposal to develop a specific geographic area. It provides a more detailed environmental analysis upfront, during the area-wide planning stage, rather than during review of individual projects. The City also intends to enter into a development agreement to further clarify expectations for the growth of the urban village.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) addressed the following elements of the environment, which were identified during the public scoping process held July 15 - August 15, 2022:

- Earth, Geology and Soils
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Plants and Animals
- Environmental Health
- Land and Shoreline Use
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Cumulative Effects

The Draft EIS was issued December 8, 2023 with a 30-day comment period through January 8, 2024. Eight public comments were received. Upon an analysis of the public comments received and the probable adverse environmental impacts associated with a No Action alternative and two development alternatives, Action Alternative 1 (moderate density development) has been identified as the preferred alternative under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

The City of Bellingham intends to adopt an urban village plan and associated development regulations for Barkley Village reflecting the regulatory structure of the City's other urban villages and the vision for the district. Key issues facing decision makers include: finalization and approval of an Urban Village Plan and Comprehensive Plan amendment through a public process, finalization of a Planned Action Ordinance consistent with this FEIS to streamline development while mitigating environmental impacts, finalization and adoption of a Development Agreement to guide long-term development of the urban village, finalizing the designed zoning and development regulations, and finalizing and implementing a mitigation strategy for wetland impacts. This adoption process will include a neighborhood meeting, Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation, and City Council public hearing and final adoption as outlined in Bellingham Municipal Code 21.10.150.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is being issued on February 29, 2024 and consists of the following documents:

- The Final EIS, issued February 29, 2024
- Summary of public comments received and responses
- FEIS public comments
- DEIS appendices issued December 8, 2023

There is no comment period on the FEIS. The FEIS may be appealed to the Grown Management Hearings Board under SEPA (RCW 43.21C.075). The appeal must be filed within sixty (60) days following publication of the FEIS.

The DEIS and appendices, FEIS, as well as more information about the Barkley Urban Village planning process, can be reviewed and downloaded at the project website: www.cob.org/barkleyuv

Hard copies may also be requested of the Planning and Community Development Department located at 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham WA 98225.

Please contact Darby Galligan, Senior Planner, for questions at dgalligan@cob.org or (360) 778-8389.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Nabbefeld".

Kurt Nabbefeld, Development Services Manager
SEPA Responsible Official