Elements of the Environment

The following is a comprehensive list of elements of the environment that are authorized by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for potential analysis in an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The first major step in the EIS process is Scoping. The intent of Scoping is to create a concise EIS that only addresses the key environmental issues. The purpose of scoping, as outlined in the SEPA regulations, is to narrow the focus of the EIS to just address "probable significant adverse impacts and reasonable alternatives."[1]

Preliminary review of the **North/East Cities Regional Municipal Jail** proposal and alternatives indicates that those environmental elements highlighted below could be considered for analysis in the Draft EIS. After reviewing comments received during Scoping, the Lead Agency will determine the final scope of the EIS.

Environmental Element	Specific Topic
Earth	■ Geology ■ Soils ■ Topography ■ Unique physical features ■ Erosion/enlargement of land area (accretion)
Air	■ Air quality ■ Odor ■ Climate
Water	■ Surface water movement/quantity/quality ■ Runoff/absorption ■ Floods ■ Groundwater movement—quantity/quality ■ Public water supplies
Plants and Animals	■ Habitat for/numbers of/diversity of species (i.e., plants, fish, other wildlife) ■ Unique species ■ Fish or wildlife migration routes
Energy and Natural Resources	■ Amount required/rate of use/efficiency [Greenhouse Gas Emissions] ■ Source/availability ■ Non-renewable resources ■ Conservation and renewable resources Scenic resources

---

[1]   WAC 197-11-408

Environmental Element	Specific Topic
Environmental Health	■ **Noise** ■ Risk of explosion ■ **Releases or potential releases to the environment affecting public health (i.e., toxic or hazardous materials)**
Land and Shoreline Use	■ **Land use patterns** ■ **Relationship to existing land use plans, policies, and regulations**
Population and Housing	■ Population ■ Housing
Light and Glare	■ **Light** ■ **Glare**
Aesthetics	■ **Aesthetics [Views]**
Recreation	■ Recreation
Historic & Cultural Preservation	■ **Historic resources** ■ **Cultural resources**
Agricultural Crops	■ Agricultural crops
Transportation	■ **Transportation systems** ■ **Vehicular trips** ■ **Waterborne, rail, and air traffic** ■ **Parking** ■ **Movement/circulation of people or goods** ■ **Traffic hazards**
Public Services and Utilities	■ **Fire** ■ **Police** ■ **Schools** ■ **Parks or other recreational facilities** ■ Maintenance ■ Communications ■ Water ■ Stormwater ■ Sewer ■ Solid waste ■ **Other governmental services** or utilities