

# NORTH AND EAST CITIES REGIONAL MUNICIPAL JAIL EIS

## DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS) AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

Description of Proposal: The Cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Seattle, and Shoreline (“Proponents”) are evaluating potential sites for construction and operation of a new regional jail. The proposed alternative sites are located in north and east King County, and include a site in downtown Seattle adjacent to the existing King County jail. The jail is proposed in order to meet the Proponents’ collective long-term need to house misdemeanants (persons convicted of felonies are incarcerated in the County’s facilities). Most cities within King County have had contracts with the County that allow them to house their misdemeanants in the County’s jails. The new regional jail facility needs to be fully operational by January 1, 2013, because the cities’ existing contract with King County expires December 31, 2012.

The Proponents estimate they will need approximately 640 beds for misdemeanor offenders over the next 20 years. It is anticipated that a jail that could accommodate this number of beds, together with associated support services, would require approximately 255,000 sq. ft. of building area. It is anticipated that the jail would require a staff of approximately 200 personnel and parking to accommodate approximately 200 vehicles.

Site Alternatives: It is proposed that six site alternatives will be evaluated in an environmental impact statement (EIS) as potential locations for the jail – in addition to a **No Action Alternative**. At this point in the environmental review process, no preferred alternative has been identified. The six site alternatives include the following:

- **SEATTLE NORTH – 1600 W. Armory Way:** The site is approximately 90 feet west of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. and is adjacent to both W. Wheeler St. (north property line) and W. Armory Way (southwest property line).
- **SEATTLE SOUTH – Highland Park Way S.W. and W. Marginal Way:** This site is bordered by W. Marginal Way, Highland Park Way S.W. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.W.
- **BELLEVUE – 555 116<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E.:** This site is bordered by I-405 on the west and 116<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E. on the east, and is located south of NE 8<sup>th</sup> St. and north of 4<sup>th</sup> St.
- **SHORELINE – 2545 N.E. 200<sup>th</sup> St.:** This site is bordered by 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E., N.E. 200<sup>th</sup> St., and NE 195<sup>th</sup> Lane.
- **UNINCORPORATED KING COUNTY – 13225 N.E. 126<sup>th</sup> Pl.:** This site is located east of the Kirkland city limits and north of the Redmond city limits. This site is roughly bounded by N.E. 126<sup>th</sup> Pl. to the north and 135<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E. to the east, and is located north of N.E. 124<sup>th</sup> St. and east of 132<sup>nd</sup> Pl. N.E.
- **KING COUNTY JAIL ANNEX – Southeast corner of Fifth Ave. and Jefferson St.:** This site is located in downtown Seattle. The site is bordered by Jefferson St. on the north and Fifth Ave. on the west. A King County Parking Garage occupies the east-half of the block (along Sixth Ave.) The existing King County Jail is located directly north of this site (north of Jefferson St.). Under this alternative, in addition to the Cities’ 640 beds, a facility at this site

would also contain up to 450 County jail beds and certain other County criminal justice facilities.

- **NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE** -- This alternative assumes that the proposed actions are not approved or implemented and a regional jail facility is not built at any of the alternative sites. The cities would be required to find alternate means for housing misdemeanants after December 31, 2012.

It is possible that additional sites could be identified and evaluated in the EIS, or that some of the currently listed sites may be omitted, as a result of the public scoping process, ongoing analysis by the cities, and/or further agency input.

Proponent/Applicant: The Cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Seattle, and Shoreline.

Lead Agency: For purposes of this EIS, the City of Seattle will be the nominal Lead Agency and is responsible for performing the duties of a lead agency as required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). **The other Proponents are co-lead agencies under a Nominal Lead Agency Agreement signed by the Proponents.**

EIS to be Prepared: **Although the location of the proposed jail may not have significant adverse impacts at each site, the Proponents have decided to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that describes potential impacts at each site.**

The EIS will address the probable significant adverse environmental impacts of all actions necessary to accomplish the proposal, including, but not limited to:

- site selection, construction and operation of a regional jail facility at each site alternative;
- land use regulatory and/or zoning changes that would be necessary in order to accommodate a regional jail facility at each site; and
- future permits that would be required for construction and development of the jail facility at a selected site.

With respect to the King County Jail Annex site, the EIS will also consider any probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the development and operation of the County criminal justice facilities on the site and connection of the facility to the existing King County jail.

**The following elements of the environment have been identified for discussion in the EIS:** Earth, Water Resources, Plants and Animals, Environmental Health, Energy, Noise, Land Use, Aesthetics, Light and Glare, Historical and Cultural Resources, Transportation and Parking, and Public Services (including Public Safety and Governmental Services).

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on the elements of the environment to be addressed in the EIS, range of alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. **All EIS Scoping comments are due by 5 PM January 30, 2009.** Methods for presenting your comments include the following:

- **Submittal of comments at any one of the public scoping meetings noted below.**

Six public EIS scoping meetings are scheduled to provide opportunities to comment orally on the scope of the EIS. In addition, written comments will be accepted. Meetings will be held from 6 PM to close of comments on the following days and at the following locations:

- January 6, 2009 – in the Auditorium, W404, at Lake Washington Technical College, located at 11605 132nd Ave. N.E., Kirkland;
- January 7, 2009 -- in the Theater at Shoreline Community College, located at 16101 Greenwood Ave. N., Shoreline;
- January 8, 2009 -- in the Bertha Knight Landes Room at Seattle City Hall, located at 600 Fourth Ave. (between Cherry and James Streets), Seattle;
- January 13, 2009 -- in the Brockey Conference Center at South Seattle Community College, located at 6000 16th Ave. S.W., Seattle;
- January 14, 2009 -- in the Olympic Room at the Seattle Center, located at 225 Mercer Street, Seattle;
- January 15, 2009 -- on Level 4, Rooms 404 and 405 of The Meydenbauer Center, located at 11100 N.E. Sixth St., Bellevue.

- **Submittal of written comments via email at: [MunicipalJailSEPA@Seattle.gov](mailto:MunicipalJailSEPA@Seattle.gov)**
- **Submittal of written comments to the Responsible Official (noted below)**

Additional details concerning the proposal are available at the following website:  
[www.necmunicipaljail.org](http://www.necmunicipaljail.org)

For accommodations and translation services, please contact The Keller Group at 425-788-8990

Responsible Official: Diane Sugimura

**Position/Title:** Director of Department of Planning and Development

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**Phone:** 206-233-2027

Date: December 18, 2008

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ on file  
SEPA Responsible Official

Contact Person: For further clarification, please contact:

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