

2020 SEPA Addendum to the VISION 2050 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared pursuant to the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW)
and WAC 197-11-625.

September 28, 2020

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Dear Member of the Puget Sound Regional Council and Interested Parties:

The Puget Sound Regional Council has prepared this State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) addendum for VISION 2050. This addendum updates the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) issued on March 18, 2020, and provides information about VISION 2050.

VISION 2050, the FSEIS, and related documents are available online at www.psrc.org/vision. The PSRC Information Center can provide assistance at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.

Sincerely,

Erika Harris, AICP
SEPA Responsible Official

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Description of Proposal

This document is an addendum to the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for VISION 2050. The purpose of this addendum is to assess and document the environmental impacts of a revision to the methodology for estimating future household size. This revision does not change population and employment estimates listed in the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy or VISION 2050 FSEIS. It does not change the relative performance of the alternatives for the measures in the FSEIS. Its environmental scope is not significantly different than environmental review considered in the VISION 2050 FSEIS and VISION 2040 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). This addendum complies with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) rules under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C and Chapter 197-11 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

Potential Date of Adoption of VISION 2050 by the General Assembly: October 29, 2020

Lead Agency and Source of Proposal

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Licenses Required: No licenses are required.

LOCATION of SEPA Documents

VISION 2040 and 2050 Environmental Review Documents:

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/regional-planning/vision-2050/environmental-review>

Addendum:

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/regional-planning/vision-2050/environmental-review>

The PSRC information center can provide assistance at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.

Need for the Addendum

VISION 2040, the long-range plan for the central Puget Sound region, was adopted in May 2008 following the preparation and review of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

An update to the regional long-range plan, VISION 2050, is scheduled to be adopted on October 29, 2020. Environmental review for VISION 2050 was prepared and issued in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS), which was issued in March 2020 and prepared in accordance with SEPA. The VISION 2050 FSEIS evaluates the environmental effects of four regional growth alternatives that distribute growth in unique patterns throughout the region. It builds on data and analysis contained in the VISION 2040 FEIS and contains updated environmental analysis, comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), and responses to those comments.

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is revising the methodology for estimating future household size. The revised methodology reflects a slightly different distribution of household sizes, which could result in more households and housing units in some geographies. This update does not change population and employment assumptions listed in the VISION 2050 FSEIS or the published Regional Growth Strategy in VISION 2050, nor does it change the relative performance of the alternatives for the measures in the FSEIS.

While the revised methodology does affect some measures in the FSEIS tied to household size, these changes do not lead to significant adverse impacts beyond those identified in the VISION 2050 FSEIS and VISION 2040 FEIS. This addendum assesses and documents the potential environmental effects of a slightly different distribution of future households, attributable to the change in household estimation methodology.

This addendum complies with SEPA rules under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C and Chapter 197-11 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

Additional Environmental Information

The VISION 2050 FSEIS addresses a wide variety of environmental impacts and mitigation for each alternative, considering impacts to transportation, air quality, climate change, land use (population, employment, and housing), noise, visual and aesthetic resources, water quality and hydrology, ecosystems and Endangered Species Act issues, energy, earth, environmental health, public services and utilities, parks and recreation, historic and cultural resources, and environmental justice. The revised household estimation methodology would slightly affect measures related to housing density, land development, and impervious surface, but would not create significantly different environmental impacts than those published in the VISION 2050 FSEIS in March 2020. The revised methodology would not change the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy, Multicounty Planning Policies, or actions.

Impact of methodology change on households. The revised methodology changes the way that households are estimated from the population by regional geography. In the VISION 2050 FSEIS, changes in household size by regional geography between 2017 and 2050 were applied to the increment of population growth between 2017 and 2050, while applying the existing household size by regional geography to the population already in those geographies in 2017. The revised methodology applies the 2050 estimates of household size by regional geography to the entire population in 2050. This revised methodology to calculate household size better reflects current best estimating practices and there are likely to be further adjustments over the life of VISION 2050. This change in household size estimation has a small impact on the distribution of total households by all regional geographies and results in slightly smaller households in the Rural geographies across all alternatives. Estimates of households are controlled to the regional forecast for all alternatives, so any increases in households in a geography are offset by a decrease in another. As shown in Table 1, the small increases in rural households are accompanied by small decreases in households in the other regional geographies. Because Rural areas have smaller increments of population growth, the methodological change has a slightly larger percentage impact to household totals in Rural areas.

Table 1. 2050 Estimates of Households by Alternative

Regional Geography	Original	Preferred Alternative		
		Updated	Difference	% Difference
Metro	864,700	861,000	(3,700)	-0.4%
Core	592,100	584,300	(7,800)	-1.3%
HCT	511,100	511,300	200	0.0%
Cities & Towns	168,900	170,800	1,900	1.1%
UU	77,300	77,400	100	0.1%
Rural	205,700	215,300	9,600	4.7%
Total	2,419,900	2,419,900	0	0.0%

Regional Geography	Original	Reset Urban Growth		
		Updated	Difference	% Difference
Metro	821,300	822,200	900	0.1%
Core	566,600	561,800	(4,800)	-0.8%
HCT	437,600	440,300	2,700	0.6%
Cities & Towns	181,700	181,800	100	0.1%
UU	177,800	172,500	(5,300)	-3.0%
Rural	234,900	241,400	6,500	2.8%
Total	2,419,900	2,419,900	0	0.0%

Regional Geography	Transit Focused Growth			
	Original	Updated	Difference	% Difference
Metro	857,200	854,000	(3,200)	-0.4%
Core	597,600	589,200	(8,400)	-1.4%
HCT	473,700	471,500	(2,200)	-0.5%
Cities & Towns	165,500	167,600	2,100	1.3%
UU	121,400	123,800	2,400	2.0%
Rural	204,500	214,000	9,500	4.6%
Total	2,419,900	2,419,900	0	0.0%

Regional Geography	Stay the Course			
	Original	Updated	Difference	% Difference
Metro	840,000	839,000	(1,000)	-0.1%
Core	541,000	534,300	(6,700)	-1.2%
HCT	365,000	365,600	600	0.2%
Cities & Towns	156,000	154,500	(1,500)	-1.0%
UU	287,300	290,000	2,700	0.9%
Rural	230,600	236,600	6,000	2.6%
Total	2,419,900	2,419,900	0	0.0%

As noted above, these differences in total household estimates across all alternatives in the FSEIS would lead to small differences in measures connected to land consumption. Since the revision does not change population and employment growth assumptions listed in the FSEIS, the majority of measures in the FSEIS would be unchanged with the revised methodology. The environmental scope of the changes is not significantly different from the analysis presented in the FSEIS.

Housing density. Due to higher estimates of total households in some regional geographies in the revised methodology, the amount of housing in high density areas could decrease regionally by approximately 5,700 total units (a -0.7% change) and lower density housing units could increase by approximately 3,800 units (a 0.3% change). These changes would be similar among all the alternatives analyzed in the FSEIS and the differences between them would be consistent with the previous analysis. The environmental scope of the changes is not significantly different from the housing density analysis presented in the FSEIS.

Developed land. Due to higher estimates of total households in some regional geographies in the revised methodology, the amount of new developed land could increase by approximately 13,000 acres regionally (a 1.7% difference). This increase would be similar among all the alternatives analyzed in the FSEIS and the differences between them would be consistent with the previous analysis. The environmental scope of the changes is not significantly different from the developed land analysis presented in the FSEIS.

Impervious surface. Due to higher estimates of total households in some regional geographies in the revised methodology, the area of impervious surface could increase by approximately 800 acres

regionally (a 0.3% difference). This increase would be similar among all the alternatives analyzed in the FSEIS and the differences between them would be consistent with the previous analysis. The environmental scope of the changes is not significantly different from the impervious surface analysis presented in the FSEIS.

Subsequent Environmental Review and Project Review Process. The household assumptions in VISION 2050 and the FSEIS are estimates for regional long-range planning purposes. Local planning for housing growth will be subject to planning and environmental review during local comprehensive plan periodic updates.

Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents are incorporated by reference into this addendum:

- VISION 2040 Draft, Supplemental, and Final EIS:
<https://www.psrc.org/environmental-review-vision-2040>
- VISION 2040 Regional Centers Framework Addendum:
https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/sepa_addendum1-23-2018.pdf
- VISION 2050 Draft and Final Supplemental EIS:
<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/regional-planning/vision-2050/environmental-review>

Conclusion

Environmental impacts using the revised methodology for estimating future household size are similar to those documented in the VISION 2050 FSEIS and are not significantly different than environmental review considered in the VISION 2050 FSEIS and VISION 2040 FEIS. The modified measures documented in this addendum would apply across all of the alternatives, resulting in the alternatives having the same relative performance as documented in the FSEIS. The Preferred Alternative and Transit Focused Growth Alternative still perform better than the other alternatives for almost all measures.

The revision to the methodology does not change VISION 2050's population and employment assumptions, the distribution of population and employment in the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy, the multicounty planning policies, or actions.

The SEPA Responsible Official concludes that the revised methodology better reflects potential implementation of VISION 2050 and would not create new significant adverse environmental impacts beyond those addressed in the VISION 2040 Draft, Supplemental, and Final EIS and the VISION 2050 Draft and Final Supplemental EIS. Measures have been identified in the FSEIS to mitigate impacts. Further environmental review will be required as part of local comprehensive plan update processes.