

Environmental Review for Capital Projects – Summary Sheet

King County Housing & Community Development

King County Housing & Community Development (HCD) Project Managers conduct environmental reviews (ERs) for every Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. CDBG is a federally-funded program, so projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

*** Important note on Choice-Limiting Activities:** From your *application* submittal date until the full ER completion date, your agency and any third parties (ex: contractors) may *not* undertake any “choice limiting” activities (including but not limited to: property acquisition, clearing, grading, site prep, etc.), regardless of funding source. Undertaking such activities during this timeframe could void the project’s eligibility. For more information, please see 24 CFR 58.22

Please contact the HCD staff for an ER cost estimate for your application. Historically, most have been \$4,000, with some at \$5k, \$10k or \$15k, depending on various factors.

LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

ER Level	Project Examples (partial list)	ER Regs Review?	Public Notice Required?
Exempt	Human/public service; administration; planning; architectural & engineering; design.	No	No
Subject to 58.5 (ER Regs.)	Acquisition, rehabilitation, improvements, when... - no change of land use; and - no increase of building’s size/capacity > 20%; - etc.	Yes	No: complies w/all regs Yes: If any reg requires extra review/abatement
Environmental Assessment	- New construction; or - change of land use; or - building's increase size/capacity >20%	Yes	Yes

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Projects must comply with the following environmental laws and authorities to receive CDBG funds:

- Airport Hazards
- Clean Air Act
- Coastal Barrier Resources Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Contamination & Toxics
- Endangered Species Act
- Environmental Justice
- Explosive & Flammable Operations
- Farmland Protection Act
- Floodplain Management
- Flood Insurance
- Historic Preservation & Archaeology
- Noise Abatement
- Sole Source Aquifers
- Wetlands
- Wild & Scenic Rivers

- *Sample ER questions from previous applications:*

- A.1 Identify the nearest natural water body (stream, lake, etc.). How far is it from the project site?
- A.2 What are the current site conditions, including ground surface (grass, asphalt, etc.) and natural features (trees, etc.)?
- A.3 Describe the area surrounding the project site (commercial, residential, heavily wooded, etc.).
- A.4 What is the current use of the site?
- A.5 How developed is the site and its adjacent properties? Please explain.
- A.6 Does a current stormwater system exist at the project site? Please explain.
- A.7 Is the project located in a(n):
- A.7.1 FEMA-designated floodplain / floodway? *(CDBG funds may not be used in a floodway; floodplains might be okay).*
 - A.7.2 Wetland?
 - A.7.3 Ecologically-sensitive area?
 - A.7.4 Designated Historic neighborhood?
- A.8 How much impervious surface (concrete, etc.) will be added (if applicable)?
- A.9 Will the project excavate or otherwise disturb soil? If so, to what depth and horizontal dimensions? Will any previously-undisturbed soil be impacted? Please explain.
- A.10 Do any underground storage tanks (used to store oil/fuel) exist on, or adjacent to, the property? Did any exist in the past? If yes, please explain, include size of the tank(s).
- A.11 Identify any environmental reports/studies already completed for this site:
- Studies: [Title_____] Date Completed:_____
- Phase I: [Title_____] Date Completed:_____
- Other: [Title_____] Date Completed:_____
- A.12 Provide and label pictures of project site:
- A.12.1 North; A.12.2 East; A.12.3 South; and A.12.4 West.
- A.13 Attach a site plan.

Environmental Review contact:

David Mecklenburg: dave.mecklenburg@kingcounty.gov / (206) 263-9101