

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Ferndale School District No. 502 Ferndale High School

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: The proposed action is building, grading, infrastructure, stormwater and associated permit approvals from the City of Ferndale for Ferndale High School (FHS). The proposed new FHS would be designed with core facilities (cafeteria, gym, library) to support 1,600 students and classroom space for 1,375 students. The proposed square footage of new construction is approximately 178,000 square feet.

The proposed project includes modernization of selected buildings, and replacement of the majority of the existing campus buildings. The Performing Arts Center, shop building and several smaller maintenance buildings at the southeast end of the site would remain. In addition, the bus maintenance facility would remain undisturbed along with the tennis courts and portions of the existing western parking lot along Malloy Avenue. New learning spaces would house general education, special education, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and athletics. Other upgrades include campus security and improvements to student parking and bus loading areas. In addition, the existing photovoltaic panel system may be relocated to the roof structure of an existing or new building. The existing wind turbine may also be relocated on-site to the southwest of the new track and field.

The new classroom building would be constructed in the approximate location of the existing football field. New athletic facilities would be developed between the new building and the existing fastpitch/baseball fields along with space for a greenhouse.

Associated site improvements include the extension of utilities, grading, and drainage; the development of a new bus loop, new student drop-off area, and improvements to staff and visitor parking; a new track and field, a new grandstand, and new practice field.

Approval being sought for this project includes grading and/or filling permits as well as stormwater approval and building permits.

PROPONENT: Ferndale School District No. 502

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: The address of Ferndale High School is 5830 Golden Eagle Drive, Ferndale, Washington. It is located in Section 20, Township 39N, Range 2E, W.M. The Whatcom County Tax Parcel number associated with the site is 3902200752000000.

LEAD AGENCY: Ferndale School District No. 502

Note: Issuance of this threshold determination does not constitute approval of the permit. This proposal will be reviewed for compliance with all applicable City of Ferndale codes, which regulate development activities.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This determination assumes compliance with State law and City

of Ferndale ordinances related to general environmental protection including, but not limited to, access improvement requirements, drainage and utilities. This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public upon request.

It is the policy of the District that, when undertaking an action involving the exercise of substantive SEPA authority, the District shall consider, as appropriate under the circumstances, the ramifications of such action as to one or more of the factors listed in Ferndale School District Policy 6890, Substantive Authority, which adopts WAC 197-11-660 by reference. This Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance is issued with the following conditions:

Earth

1. During construction, the contractor will install all appropriate measures and Best Management Practices(BMPs) will be in place to prevent erosion as required by the City of Ferndale, including mechanisms such as silt fences and straw wattles that are designed to capture sediment. Compliance with the City's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for soil stabilization is required. A NPDES permit is required.

Air

2. Erosion and sediment control BMPs will be used during construction. Spraying the disturbed soil with water will limit the amount of dust. Idling of work vehicles will be reduced or eliminated. Measures to reduce or control emissions including shutting off engines when not in use, covering dump trucks and performing regular inspections on vehicles.
3. If required, the District is required to obtain a NWCAA permit prior to construction.

Environmental Health

4. All construction activities will be limited to daylight hours, generally between 7 am and 10 pm.
5. Any potential spills during construction activities and subsequent daily use will be addressed immediately in accordance with City of Ferndale and Washington State Department of Ecology standards and requirements.
6. Any hazardous materials onsite during construction or as part of subsequent daily use must be stored in accordance with adopted State and local regulations.
7. Construction equipment will be closely monitored when onsite to identify any possible leaks.

Plants

8. The site development will incorporate landscaping plants per City of Ferndale regulations.

Cultural Resources

9. Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Resources:

Should archaeological resources (e.g. shell midden, animal remains, stone tools) be observed during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity should

stop, and the area should be secured. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (Stephanie Jolivette, Local Government Archaeologist: 360-586-3088) and the Lummi Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (Lena Tso, THPO 360-312-2257; Tamela Smart, Deputy TPHO 360-312-2253) should be contacted immediately in order to help assess the situation and to determine how to preserve the resource(s). Compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to archaeological resources is required.

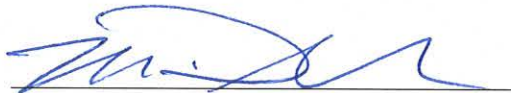
10. Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains on Non-Federal and Non-Tribal Lake in the State of Washington (RCWs 68.50.645; 27.44.055; and 68.60.055:

“If ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of construction, then all activity will cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains. The area of the find will be secured and protected from further disturbance until the State provides notice to proceed. The finding of human skeletal remains will be reported to the county medical examiner/coroner and local law enforcement in the most expeditious manner possible. The remains will not be touched, moved or further disturbed. The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic. If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, then they will report that finding to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) who will then take jurisdiction over the remains. The DAHP will notify any appropriate cemeteries and all affected tribes of the find. The State Physical Anthropologist will make a determination of whether the remains are Indian or Non-Indian and report that finding to any appropriate cemeteries and the affected tribes. The DAHP will then handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation and disposition of the remains” (DAHP).

This MDNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by October 21, 2020 to the Responsible Official, Ferndale School District No. 502, P.O. Box 698, Ferndale, Washington 98248.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Mark Deebach
POSITION/TITLE: Assistant Superintendent for Business & Support Services
Ferndale School District No. 502
ADDRESS: 6041 Vista Drive
Ferndale, Washington 98248

SIGNATURE:



PUBLISHED: **October 7, 2020**

There is no administrative appeal process for this determination.