

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PURPOSE OF CHECKLIST

The Department of the Environment requests all public and private agencies, corporations and individual persons to consider the environmental impacts of a proposed project before making decisions. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, an environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all project proposals with potential adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to assist the proponent and the Government of Belize, identify impacts of a proposal and to take adequate and practical measures to mitigate any adverse environmental effect that may result from the proposal. This checklist will also help the Department of the Environment decide whether an E.I.S. is required for said proposal.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
When people put the environment first, development will last

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. The Department of the Environment will use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Please answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If a question does not apply to your proposal, write **"DOES NOT APPLY"**.

Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later. Some questions ask about governmental regulations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you. The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The Department of the Environment, to which you must submit this checklist, may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

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2. Name of applicant:

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3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

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4. Date checklist prepared:

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5. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

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6. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with the proposal? If yes explain.

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7. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

8. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the project and/or land area covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

9. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range the proposed uses, the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

11. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for this office to understand the precise location of your proposed project. If the proposal is to occur over a large area, provide the range or boundaries of the site (s). Include in your answers: legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans

submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

(Attach available information to this question)

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH

- a. General description of the site. For example: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other.
- b. What are the steepest slopes on the site (approximate percent slope)?
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, mulch)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so, generally describe.

- g. Provide a cross-sectional diagram of the soil profile.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

2. **AIR**

- a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposed (ie. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.
- b. Are there any off-shore sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.

3A **SURFACE - WATER**

- 1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including

year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? if yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.
3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.
4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
5. Does the proposal lie within a 10-year flood plain? If so, note location of the site plan.
6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

B. GROUND - WATER

1. Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

2. Describe the waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial; containing the following chemicals..... agriculture; etc). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animal or humans the system (s) are expected to serve.

C. WATER RUNOFF (INCLUDING STORM WATER)

1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so describe.
2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface water? If so, generally describe.
3. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any. (Attach typewritten response)

4. PLANTS

- a. List types of vegetation found on the site. Including:
 - deciduous tree
 - evergreen tree
 - shrubs
 - grass
 - pasture
 - crop or grain
 - wet soil plants

other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

5 **ANIMALS**

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. (List the animals which have been observed on or near the site).

Birds

Mammals

Reptiles

Amphibians

Fish

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

6. **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, bottled gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by plans adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.
 - 1. Describe special emergency services that might be required.
 - 2. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

8. **NOISE**

- 1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment operation, other)?
- 2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
- 3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.

9. **LAND AND SHORELINE USE**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so explain.
- c. Describe any structures on site.
- d. Will any structure be demolished? If so, what.
- e. What is the current land use classification of the site?
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in this completed project?
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with surrounding land uses and plans, if any.

10. HOUSING

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

11. AESTHETICS

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s) not including antennae; what is the principal exterior building material (s) proposed?
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.

12. LIGHT AND GLARE

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light or glare impacts, if any.

13. RECREATION

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
- b. Would the proposed displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe?
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.

14. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any.

15. TRANSPORTATION

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed distance to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.
- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads and streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

16. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

17. UTILITIES

- a. Please indicate utilities currently available at the site: electricity, fuel, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

18. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Department of the Environment is relying on them to make its decision.

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Signature

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Date Submitted