Appendix A: Acronyms and Glossary

This appendix includes a list of acronyms and glossary of technical terms and definitions that appear in the document.

**Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFR</td>
<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\text{CO}_2$</td>
<td>carbon dioxide</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\text{CO}_2\text{e}$</td>
<td>carbon dioxide equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Washington State Department of Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>Energy Information Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIS</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEIS</td>
<td>Final Environmental Impact Statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>GMA</td>
<td>Growth Management Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCT Communities</td>
<td>High-Capacity Transit Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-5</td>
<td>Interstate 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-90</td>
<td>Interstate 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-405</td>
<td>Interstate 405</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAAQS</td>
<td>National Ambient Air Quality Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUGA</td>
<td>Municipal Urban Growth Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\text{NO}_x$</td>
<td>nitrogen oxides</td>
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<tr>
<td>OFM</td>
<td>Washington State Office of Financial Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAA</td>
<td>Potential Annexation Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>particulate matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{PM}_{2.5}$</td>
<td>fine particulates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{PM}_{10}$</td>
<td>coarse particulates</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCAA</td>
<td>Puget Sound Clean Air Agency</td>
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<td>PSRC</td>
<td>Puget Sound Regional Council</td>
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<td>RCW</td>
<td>Revised Code of Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEIS</td>
<td>Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement</td>
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</table>
SEPA  State Environmental Policy Act
SR    State Route
SWMMWW  Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington
WAC   Washington Administrative Code
WDFW  Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR  Washington State Department of Natural Resources
WSDOT Washington State Department of Transportation
**Glossary**

**Activity Unit**
A unit measuring activity, calculated by adding together the number of residents (population) and jobs (employment) in a given area. Activity units represent the total amount of activity present in an area, and do not distinguish by the mix or proportion of the activity that is residential versus commercial. PSRC has used activity units for other projects; for example, an activity unit threshold has been established as one of the criteria for designating new regional growth centers.

**Adverse Impact**
Any undesirable or harmful effect to a person or to any natural or human-made resource.

**Affordable Housing**
Affordable housing is generally defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as housing where the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utility costs.

**Alternative**
Under Washington’s State Environmental Policy Act, an environmental impact statement must evaluate reasonable alternatives that could feasibly attain the proposal’s objective and are within a jurisdictional agency’s authority to control. Alternatives should cover a broad enough range of scenarios such that all feasible options for a preferred alternative lie within the scope of impacts studied.

**Autonomous Vehicles**
Also known as self-driving cars, these are vehicles that navigate the roadway with limited or no human interaction. They use an array of in-vehicle technologies to process their surroundings, detect road signage and markings, and determine the most suitable navigation path.

**Average Annual Vehicle Delay**
The amount of time the average person spends in congestion each year.

**Average Daily Vehicle Miles and Minutes**
How far the average person is driving each day and how much time is spent in cars.

**CO₂e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent)**
A term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO₂e signifies the amount of CO₂ that would have the equivalent global warming impact.
Communities of Color
Census tracts where over 50 percent of the people are people of color.

Community Protocol
The U.S. Community Protocol is a framework for providing accurate community-level estimates of greenhouse gas emissions. The 2015 inventory for PSCAA adheres to the Community Protocol and includes emissions from transportation and building energy use, water and wastewater treatment and conveyance, land use changes, and solid waste transport and disposal.

Connected Vehicle Technology
Allows vehicles to transmit and receive important mobility, safety, and other information in real time. Communication can occur with other vehicles, traffic lights, pedestrians and bicyclists, and any other entity that may interact with or affect the vehicle.

Critical Area
An area of specific environmental value that is protected from encroachment or adverse impacts from development. Under the Growth Management Act, five types of environmental features are identified as critical areas: wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

Cumulative Effect/Impact
Cumulative impacts from past actions or the incremental effect of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time.

Displacement
The involuntary relocation of current residents or businesses from their current residence. This is a different phenomenon than when property owners voluntarily sell their interests to capture an increase in value. Physical displacement is the result of eviction, acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of property, or the expiration of covenants on rent- or income-restricted housing. Economic displacement occurs when residents and businesses can no longer afford escalating rents or property taxes. Cultural displacement occurs when people choose to move because their neighbors and culturally related businesses have left the area.
Displacement Risk

A composite of indicators representing five elements of neighborhood displacement risks: socio-demographics, transportation qualities, neighborhood characteristics, housing, and civic engagement. The data from these five displacement indicators were compiled into a comprehensive index of displacement risk for all census tracts in the region. "Areas of Higher Displacement Risk" is determined by sorting all census tracts based on their index scores and represents the top 10 percent of scores among all tracts.

Economic Clusters

Geographic concentrations of interconnected businesses, suppliers, and institutions that share common markets, technologies, and worker skill needs. These clusters tend to be specialized to a geographic area and represent unique characteristics of the economy.

Economic Sectors

Large components of the economy defined by their place in the production chain, such as manufacturing and construction, services, education, and government. These sectors are usually defined consistently across most economies.

Ecosystem

A functional unit consisting of all the living organisms (plants, animals, and microbes) in a given area and their physical and chemical environment.

Endangered Species

Animals, birds, fish, plants, or other living organisms threatened with extinction by anthropogenic (human-caused) or other natural changes in their environment. Requirements for declaring a species endangered are contained in the federal Endangered Species Act.

End-Use Energy

The output of the power plant that is consumed by homes, businesses, industry, and the transportation sector.

Environmental Justice

Equal protection from environmental hazards for individuals, groups, or communities regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status. This applies to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength.
Equity Geographies

Areas where impacts can be differentiated between the entire regional population and social equity populations. Examples are:

1. Communities of color – census tracts where over 50 percent of the residents are people of color.
2. Low-income communities – census tracts where over 50 percent of the households earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Gentrification

The influx of capital and higher-income, and oftentimes more highly educated residents into lower income neighborhoods.

Growth Management Act (GMA)

GMA was adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 and 1991 and represents the framework for land use planning and development in Washington state. The act is contained in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington. Establishes the underlying framework for local governments and state and regional agencies to establish comprehensive plans. Related to land use, these plans designate urban growth areas and describe how population and employment growth would be accommodated within each jurisdiction.

Impervious Surface

A surface that prohibits the movement of water from the land surface into the underlying soil or dirt. Buildings and paved surfaces (e.g., asphalt, concrete) are considered impervious covers. A natural condition (e.g., bedrock close to the surface, very dense soil layers such as hardpan that restrict water movement) is generally not considered an impervious surface.

Inclusionary Zoning

A system that requires a minimum percentage of housing affordable to lower- and moderate-income households to be provided in new developments. Inclusionary programs are based on mandatory requirements or development incentives, such as density bonuses.

Infill Development

Development that takes place on vacant or underutilized parcels within an area that is already characterized by urban development and has access to urban services.

Jobs Accessible by Transit, Biking, and Walking

Number of jobs located within a 45-minute transit trip, a one-mile walk trip, or a three-mile bike trip.
Jobs-Housing Balance

A planning concept that advocates for housing and employment to be located close together. A jobs-housing ratio, which is indexed to the regional average in the VISION 2050 SEIS, compares the number of jobs in relation to the number of housing units in a given area. A lack of housing, especially housing affordable to moderate- and low-income households close to job centers, will push demand for affordable homes to more distant areas, increasing commute times and development pressure outside of the urban growth area, which could lead to natural resource impacts and higher household transportation costs. A “balance” of jobs and housing is achieved when a community attains roughly the regional average ratio.

Lahar

A specific type of debris flow associated with volcanoes. It is a dense mixture of water-saturated debris that moves down-valley, looking and behaving much like flowing concrete. It occurs when loose masses of unconsolidated material are saturated, become unstable, and move downslope.

Level of Service

A grading system developed by the transportation profession to quantify the degree of comfort (including such elements as speed, travel time, number of stops, total amount of stopped delay, and impediments caused by other vehicles) afforded to drivers or transit riders as they travel through an intersection or roadway segment. This system can also be applied to other public services such as the provision of parks, emergency response time, or pedestrian facilities.

Liquefaction

The process by which loose, unconsolidated soils and fill respond to the shaking motion of an earthquake, causing the soil to liquefy and flow like water, similar to quicksand. This process strongly amplifies ground motion and is a major source of catastrophic damage in earthquakes.

Low-Income Communities

Census tracts where over 50 percent of the households earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Maintenance Area (Air Quality)

Any geographic region of the United States previously designated nonattainment pursuant to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and subsequently redesignated to attainment subject to the requirement to develop a maintenance plan under Section 175A of the Clean Air Act, as amended.
Manufacturing/Industrial Centers
Regionally designated areas for the preservation of intensive manufacturing and industrial activity. These areas are characterized as large contiguous blocks served by the region’s major transportation infrastructure, including roadways, rail, and port facilities.

Mitigation
Mitigation is defined as the following: (1) Avoiding an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimizing the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation by using appropriate technology or taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts; (3) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; (5) compensating for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or; (6) monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures.

Natural Resource Lands
Lands not already characterized by urban growth and characterized as one of the following:
- Agricultural lands that have long-term significance for commercial production
- Forest lands that have long-term significance for commercial production
- Mineral resource lands that have long-term significance for extraction of minerals

No Action Alternative
The no action alternative for a plan is generally defined as no change in existing policy. The environmental impacts of predicted growth under this “no action” scenario is then compared to that of the other alternatives.

Opportunity Index
Represents a comprehensive index of five key elements of neighborhood opportunity: education, economic health, housing and neighborhood quality, mobility and transportation, and health and environment. The level of opportunity score (very low, low, moderate, high, very high) is determined by sorting all census tracts into quintiles based on their index scores. Areas of opportunity for this measure are defined as those areas that score “Moderate to Very High Opportunity”—which represents the top 60 percent of scores among all tracts. Areas of opportunity that experience greater proportions of growth may experience an increased risk of displacement.
People of Color
Individuals who report as black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, other, Pacific Islander, or two or more races or ethnicities. People of color are sometimes referred to as “minority populations” in other PSRC publications or elsewhere to be consistent with U.S. Census Bureau data.

People with Low Income
Individuals with a household income less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Preferred Alternative
Under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act, the individual or hybrid alternative that is selected from those analyzed in a draft environmental impact statement for further environmental review in a final or supplemental draft environmental impact statement.

Primary Energy
The input to the power plant that generates electricity—from sources such as coal, natural gas, or wind.

Regional Geographies
Groupings of cities and unincorporated areas used for planning and growth distribution purposes in the Regional Growth Strategy. Regional geographies include Metropolitan Cities, Core Cities, HCT Communities, Cities & Towns, Urban Unincorporated Areas, Rural, Resource Lands, and Major Military Installations.

Regional Growth Centers
Regionally designated areas of compact development where housing, employment, shopping and other activities are in close proximity. They are focal points of higher density population and employment, with efficient multimodal transportation infrastructure and services. The term “regional growth center” is used to differentiate centers that are designated for regional purposes from those that have a more local focus.

Riparian Corridor
Areas adjacent to rivers and streams with a differing density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands.

Rural Lands
Lands not designated for urban growth, agriculture, forest, or mineral resources. These lands may consist of a variety of uses and densities.
Scoping
The first phase of an environmental impact analysis process in which the extent of the project is established. The purpose for environmental scoping is to determine the scope and range of proposed actions, alternatives, environmental elements and impacts, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the environmental impact statement. The scoping process is also intended to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant, and those that have been covered by prior environmental review.

Sole Source Aquifer
An aquifer that supplies 50 percent or more of the drinking water to an area.

Threatened Species
An animal or plant species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Transportation Demand Management
Activities that help people use the transportation system more efficiently by promoting alternatives to driving alone, shifting trips out of peak travel periods, or eliminating the need for trips.

Transportation Mode Share
The percentage of trips made by people driving alone, carpooling, using transit, walking, or biking.

Urban Growth Areas
Areas where “urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature” (RCW 36.70A.110).

Urban Lands
Lands where growth is intended to be concentrated to reduce conversion of undeveloped land and encourage development where public facilities and services exist or can be provided efficiently. These lands occur within a designated urban growth area.

UrbanSim
A software-based simulation model for integrated planning and analysis of urban development, incorporating the interactions between land use, transportation, and public policy.

Watershed
The land area that drains into a stream; the watershed for a major river may encompass a number of smaller watersheds that ultimately combine at a common point.