

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## ***Purpose of checklist:***

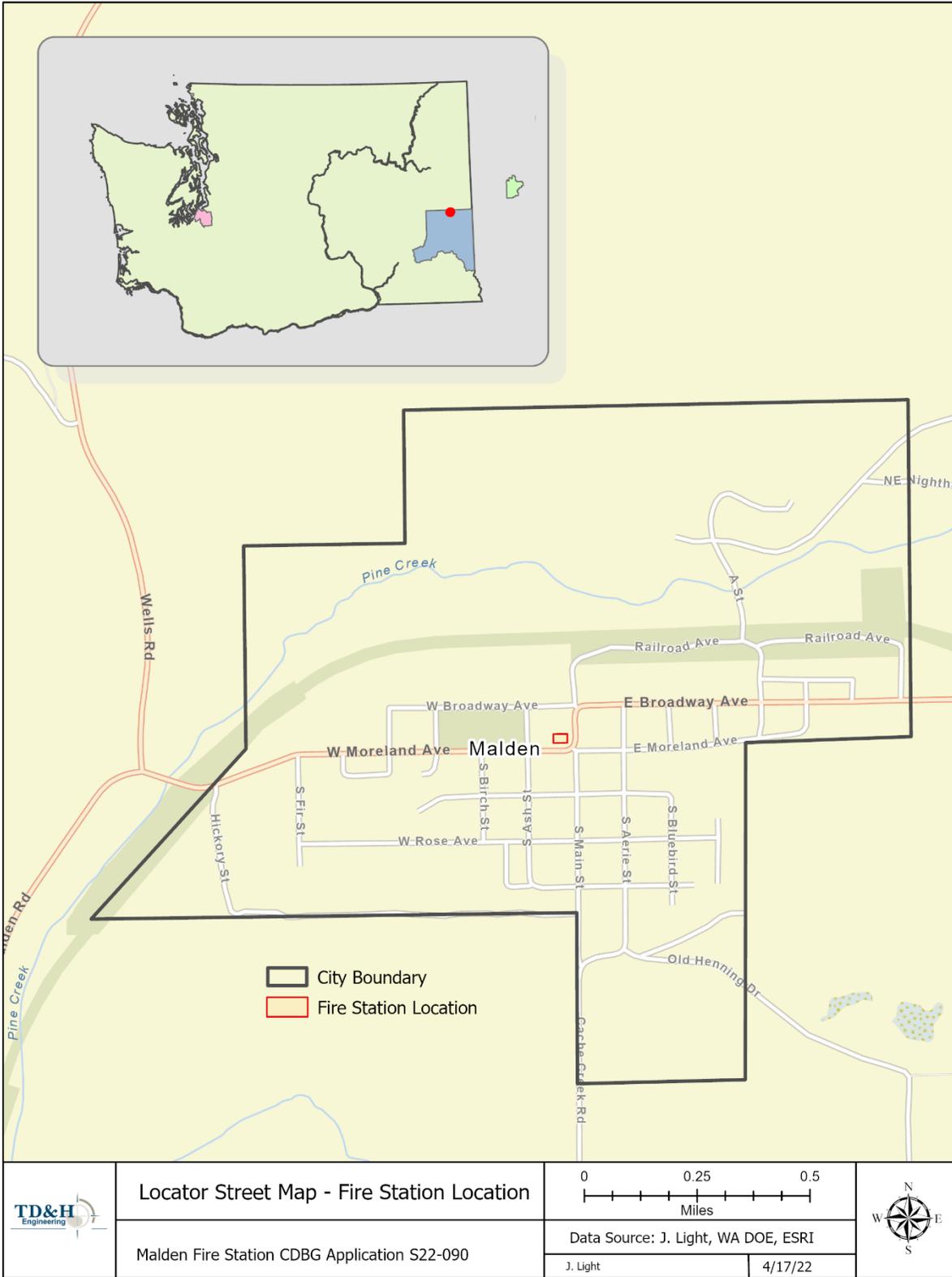
Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## ***A. Background***

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Town of Malden Fire Station**
2. Name of applicant: **Town of Malden**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **Dan Harwood, Mayor, 204 W. Moreland, Malden, WA 99149, 509-595-8297**
4. Date checklist prepared: **4/30/2022**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Town of Malden – HUD CDBG Grant**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Summer 2022**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **No**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **NEPA documentation per HUD guidance has been completed along with CDBG-required documentation (HUD Form 58 is being substituted for CBDG EA Form 6-F). Cultural Resources Study on project site is completed. Calculations for assuring septic capacity from “temporary” buiding can accommodate new building have been completed.**
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. **None known.**
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **Whitman County building permit and Town of Malden letter site plan, NPDES general construction permit, Whitman County Septic approval, HUD/CDBG Environmental approval**
11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and 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. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project

description.) **This project consists of building a fire station with space in the building for City Hall and the Post Office. The fire station will house up to four fire/emergency vehicles, a minor vehicle maintenance area, apparatus room storage, restrooms/shower, small kitchen/eating area, and training room. The project also includes preparation of surrounding ground for driving and parking, adequate site drainage, water connections, sewer system, and exterior lighting. The new building will be approximately 60 x 100 ft<sup>2</sup> and will be situated on the previous fire station location which was destroyed in a wildfire in 2020.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a 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. **The project is located at 14 W. Moreland Avenue, Malden, WA 99149.**



## **B. Environmental Elements**

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site: **The project site is within the city boundaries near the center of town. The site is generally flat and has no buildings on it. There is natural vegetation, a few lodgepole and pine trees (several which are fire damaged) and unimproved.**

(circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **1-2%**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. **Cheney silt loam; the project will regrade but not remove soil from the site.**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No**

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **There will not be added fill or removal of soil from the site. The area is approximately one acre including the area of potential affect where removed fill may be located from footings until the site is graded.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **No, the site is flat**

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **Approximately 80% of the site will be impervious between the building roof and paving approaches to bay doors and parking.**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **The remainder of the site will be left in natural vegetation and stormwater will be allowed to infiltrate without leaving the site.**

### **2. Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **There will be wind-blown dust, short term diesel exhaust from construction equipment during construction. After construction there will be typical HVAC ventilation.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **none known**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **none**

### 3. Water

#### a. 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. **Pine Creek is approximately 1,200 feet north of the project site. Pine Creek flows to Rock Creek Lake, which eventually flows to the Snake River.**
- 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. **No**
- 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. **none**
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No**
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **No**
- 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. **No, stormwater from the site will be allowed to infiltrate**

#### b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **Yes, the new fire station will be served by the Malden Public Water System which consists of a 148 GPM well and a back up well. The building will have restroom and shower facilities, but will not provide any residential services. Typical restroom/shower use for a fire station with 3-12 volunteer firefighters and administrative people. No water from this project will be discharged to groundwater.**
- 2) Describe 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. . . ; agricultural; 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 animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. **domestic sewage for fire station/City Hall/Post Office facility. There will be men's and women's restrooms and showers. See septic calculations in "Septic" part of NEPA materials.**

#### c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 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. **Stormwater from building rooftop, parking, and paved apron approaches to bay doors. Stormwater will be allowed to infiltrated on property.**
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **No**
- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. **No**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: **site will be graded to allow stormwater infiltration on property.**

#### 4. **Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, **pine**, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **There are several fire-damaged trees that will need to be removed. Grasses that have grown on the site will also be removed.**

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **A recent iPAC report listed Spalding's Catchfly as possible in the vicinity. None has been identified on the site.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **No landscaping is proposed currently. The area will be regraded and seeded to revegetate naturally.**

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. **According to the Washington Noxious Weed Control Board, the following are in the vicinity but not identified on the project site: Yellow Starthistle, Wild Chervil, Canada Thistle, Bull Thistle, Sentless Mayweed, Russian Olive, Rush Skeletonweed, Poison Hemlock, Perennial Pepperweed, Kochia, Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Jointed Goatgrass, Houndstongue, Hoary Cress, Field Bindweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, Common Tansy, Common St. Johnswort, Absinth Wormwood**

## 5. *Animals*

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

Examples include:

birds: **hawk**, heron, eagle, **songbirds**, other:

mammals: **deer**, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **A recent iPAC listed Yellow-billed Cuckoo, monarch butterfly (candidate species) in the vicinity. None are known to be on the site.**
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **No**
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **care will be taken to avoid disturbing nests or dens during construction; trees will be checked for bird nests (and removed) prior to removing.**
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. **none known**

## 6. *Energy and Natural Resources*

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural 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. **The building will use an electric heat pump for heating and cooling.**
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. **no**
- 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: ?? **Solar panels are being investigated for this building**

## 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 any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. **none known, none expected; see Environmental Assessment Report in NEPA documentation**
  - 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. **none known**
  - 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. **There will be typical construction materials that include petroleum products,**

glues/adhesives, cleaning materials during construction. Over the life of the project there may be some Class A Firefighting foam stored in small quantities; care will be taken to use non-toxic training and firefighting chemicals to the extent practicable. Some vehicle maintenance products can be toxic or hazardous; if these are necessary, they will be stored according to NFPA codes and standards. Fire extinguishers use CO<sup>2</sup> with potassium bicarbonate or water, or hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and do not contain halons or chlorine. City Hall and the Post Office will likely have small quantities of typical cleaning and maintenance products on hand for general operational use.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **None required**
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **Any chemicals and any maintenance products will be purchased in small quantities and stored appropriately, fire fighting equipment will be stored appropriately, firefighting foam will be stored appropriately per National Fire Protection Association codes and standards.**

*b. Noise*

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **none known**
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. **short-term noise impacts will be from construction equipment; long-term noise impacts will be from emergency sirens**
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **construction activities will occur during normal business hours per city requirements**

**8. Land and Shoreline Use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. **The site is currently vacant land. The city is storing some equipment on the site. There are no buildings on the site. The project area was the site of the original fire station which burned in the 2020 Malden wildfire. Adjacent properties include residential homes, the post office, city administrative offices, and a pole building storage area for storing emergency vehicles and serving as a temporary fire station.**
- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? **No, The project site has been vacant since the 1950's, some time around 1998 the Malden fire station was built on the lot and it's been a fire station ever since.**
  - 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: **No**

- c. Describe any structures on the site. **There currently are no structures on the site, the former Malden fire station occupied the site since about 1998.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **No**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **The project site is located within the city boundaries and the zoning is Town Center/Mixed Use**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Town Center/Mixed Use**
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **No shoreline plan**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. **No**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **No one will reside in the building**
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None**
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **There are no displacement impacts from this project**
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **The site was the location of the prior fire station; no land use change, no functional use change.**
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: **N/A**

## **9. Housing**

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **No housing units**
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **N/A, there are no structures on the site.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **N/A, there are no structures on the site.**

## **10. Aesthetics**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **The height will be approximately 32 feet to accommodate fire/emergency vehicles. The building will be a coated steel structure.**

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **The building will occupy a space where the previous fire station was located. The new building will be slightly larger. There is one other structure approximately 60 feet north of the proposed structure that will have a slight visual impact for views to the south. The building setbacks will mitigate any traffic visual obstructions from Moreland and Main streets.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **The building will be similar to existing metal structures in the vicinity.**

### **11. Light and Glare**

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **There will be outside shielded lighting that will light the outside throughout the night**
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **No, lighting will be shielded**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **none known**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **using shielded lighting**

### **12. Recreation**

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **There is a rails-to-trails bicycle path approximately 1,500 feet from the site. Other recreational activities include hiking, ATV, hunting Town Park.**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **No**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **none planned**

### **13. Historic and cultural preservation**

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe. **No**
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. **Cultural Resource Survey for the Malden Fire Department and Maintenance Building Project, Whitman County, Washington; the study determined the site was not eligible for NRHP listing. SHPO concurrence letter for ground disturbing activities received 5/12/2022. Tribal invite to consult letter sent through FEMA 11/3/2021. See NEPA Historic Preservation section.**
- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of

archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.  
**Cultural Resources Study; invitation to consult letter sent through FEMA 11/3/2021 to tribes listed on HUD tribal contact database.**

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required. **None**

#### 14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. **Moreland Avenue and Main Street.**
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **No**
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? **There will be approximately six parking spaces. No parking spaces would be eliminated**
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **No**
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **No**
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? **Not known**
- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. **No**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **none needed, land use remains the same**

#### 15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **No, the project will relieve a current need for fire protection.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **Malden Fire Department is the fire protection entity with assistance from Rosilia and St. John fire stations and will be through construction of the Malden fire station.**

#### 16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:  
electricity, propane gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer  
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. **The project will use water from the public water system, Avista utilities for**

electricity and gas, and communications utilities through Zply Fiber. Septic system exists and qualifies for reconnect per Whitman County Environmental Health.

**C. Signature**

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

Signature:     \_\_\_ *Dan Harwood*\_\_\_\_\_

Name of signee \_\_\_ Dan Harwood\_\_\_\_\_

Position and Agency/Organization \_\_\_ Mayor, City of Malden\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_ 5/18/2022\_\_\_\_\_

**D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions**

This section is not applicable and has been removed