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FINAL SEPA DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) OF PROPOSED ACTION (NON-PROJECT ACTION)

Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan

The Port of Seattle has completed an environmental analysis, including review of pertinent and available environmental information and preparation of a Non-Project State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist for the following proposal:

Description of Proposal: The Port of Seattle has prepared an evaluation of potential fish and wildlife habitat restoration actions using port-owned bank line and aquatic area in the lower Duwamish River. The objective of the Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan (Duwamish restoration plan) is to evaluate estuarine restoration opportunities at port-owned sites and to present a planning and policy framework for shoreline and aquatic area restoration coincident with continuing marine commerce and industrial use. The Duwamish restoration plan provides an inventory of potential fish and wildlife habitat restoration opportunities and guidance for future implementation efforts, including coordination with federal, state, and City of Seattle actions and programs.

The Duwamish restoration plan lists 31 potential fish and wildlife habitat restoration opportunities located in port-owned shoreline and aquatic area in the Duwamish Waterway. These restoration opportunities include potential for restoring inter-tidal substrate, marsh, and riparian habitat. Each of the potential restoration actions may include combinations of the following activities: (1) removal of existing bank line and aquatic area rubble, riprap, and derelict materials; (2) removal of non-native, invasive plants; (3) re-grading bank line area to create more gradual slopes, expanding aquatic and shoreline area; (4) creating low-slope inter-tidal substrate areas as exposed mud/sand habitat or for the purpose of establishing marsh vegetation; (5) creating bank line slope areas suitable for planting of native riparian vegetation; and, (6) installation of erosion-control, bank line stabilization measures, including use of large-woody-debris and fiber materials. No specific project proposals are included in the Duwamish restoration plan and the present environmental checklist reviews the Duwamish restoration plan as a non-project action, pertaining to fish and wildlife habitat restoration programs and policies, and areas with the potential for habitat restoration.

Location of Proposed Action: The properties included in the Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan include port-owned bank line and aquatic area along the margins of the lower Duwamish Waterway, area extending from the south margin of Harbor Island, river mile 0.6, in south Elliott Bay, upstream to the head of navigation at Turning Basin Number Three, river mile 5.3.

Lead Agency: Port of Seattle (SEPA No. 09-01)

Determination: This environmental evaluation has been prepared following the provisions of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under Chapter 43.21C, Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and Resolutions 3028, 3211 and 3539, Port of Seattle SEPA Policies & Procedures. As lead agency, the Port has determined that the proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c).

Supporting Information: Information used to reach this determination, and applicable State laws and Port of Seattle policies, regulations and procedures are available for public review at the Port of Seattle Engineering Department, Second Floor Bid Counter, Pier 69, and 2711 Alaskan Way, Seattle. Any questions relating to this determination or to the proposed action should be referred to George Blomberg at Port of Seattle, P.O. Box 1209, Seattle, WA 98111, and Telephone: 206-728-3194 or the Port of Seattle electronic mail Internet address at SEPA.p@portseattle.org. Include your mailing address when submitting questions or inquiries.

Public & Agency Comment: The DNS and Environmental Checklist for this project circulated on December 12, 2008, and the comment period ended on January 7, 2009. The Port's Final DNS is now being issued based on the final determination of no significant environmental impacts. Please refer questions and comments about this determination or the proposal to George Blomberg at the address or telephone above.

Appeals: The Port's decision on the proposal described above and the Port's issuance of a Final DNS on this proposal constitute the Port's Final SEPA decision. This SEPA DNS determination may be appealed by filing a writ of review in King County Superior Court within twenty-one (21) days of the date of issuance pursuant to Port of Seattle Resolution No. 3028, 3211 and 3539.

Signature on File

Charles Sheldon, Managing Director
Seaport Administration
February 9, 2009