

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

FINAL DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (NON-PROJECT ACTION) FOR CHARTING THE COURSE TO ZERO: PORT OF SEATTLE'S MARITIME CLIMATE AND AIR ACTION PLAN (MCAAP)

Date Issued: October 22, 2021
SEPA Lead Agency: Port of Seattle
Agency File Number: 2021-07
Agency Contact: Laura D. Wolfe, AICP, ENV SP, WEDG
Environmental Program Manager, Port of Seattle
P.O. Box 1209, Seattle, WA 98111
E-mail: SEPA@portseattle.org
Phone: 206-247-2193

Previous related SEPA Decisions for the MCAAP: The Port of Seattle issued a *Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy (NWPCAS)* non-project proposal SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) on December 17, 2007 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 the then-applicable Resolution 3028, 3211, and 3539, Port of Seattle SEPA Policies & Procedures. An addendum to the Port of Seattle DNS was issued in 2013 for the *NWPCAS Update* and a new DNS was issued in 2021 for the 2020 update.

Name of New Proposal: *Charting the Course to Zero: Port of Seattle's Maritime Climate and Air Action Plan (MCAAP)*

Background: The *MCAAP* is a comprehensive plan to address climate change and air pollution from maritime sources. It charts the course to achieve the Port's 2030 Century Agenda greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target to reduce GHG emissions 50% from the baseline and implement the *NWPCAS* vision.

The *NWPCAS* is a collaborative effort between the Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, the Northwest Seaport Alliance, and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority in British Columbia (the Ports) to reduce seaport-related impacts to air quality and emissions contributing to climate change within the shared Georgia Basin-Puget Sound airshed. The 2020 *NWPCAS* set a vision to phase out emissions from seaport-related sources by 2050.

Description of Proposal: The *MCAAP* identifies strategies and actions that can reduce maritime-related emissions, focused on actions ahead of 2030. It covers emissions sources related to internal operations of the Port's Maritime and Economic Development Divisions, such as energy used in port buildings, fuel used in fleet vehicles and equipment, and emissions associated with employee commuting and solid waste transportation and disposal. It also covers emissions sources from Port Maritime tenants and the maritime supply chain, such as cruise sailings, grain terminal operations, commercial fishing, and recreational marinas. In addition to emission reduction opportunities, the plan encompasses the future carbon sequestration potential of the Port's shoreline restoration programs.

The *MCAAP* will be reviewed and or updated at least every five years in coordination with updates to the *NWPCAS*. Port of Seattle commits to reporting progress toward implementation of the strategies and actions on an annual basis, including reporting on the performance metrics in the *MCAAP*. The Port will continue to evaluate the advancement of new technology or other factors that could accelerate implementation of the strategies and actions set in the *MCAAP* and will report information on technology development or other factors

as relevant during annual reporting. Copies of the *NWPCAS* and *MCAAP*, are available online at <https://www.portseattle.org/page/northwest-ports-clean-air-strategy> and <https://www.portseattle.org/page/charting-course-zero-port-seattles-maritime-climate-and-air-action-plan>.

Location of Proposal: The geographic area covered by the *MCAAP* includes shoreline and upland areas of maritime facilities owned by Port of Seattle (Figure 1). It also includes shoreline, upland, and marine areas within the U.S. portion of the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Airshed (Figure 2). In general, the marine areas include the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the greater Puget Sound area, the Strait of Georgia, Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, Rosario Strait, and other relevant regional waterways. The uplands include rail yards, railways, and freight corridors within the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Airshed that are used for the transportation of port-related cargo.

Determination: The Port has determined the proposed *MCAAP* will not have probable significant adverse impacts on the environment. As such, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under the provisions of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21, WAC 197-11) and Port of Seattle SEPA Policies and Procedures (Port Commission Resolution 3650). This decision was made after review of a completed Environmental Checklist and the *MCAAP*, which is available online at <https://www.portseattle.org/environment/sepa-nepa>.

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

- As a program action, adoption of the *MCAAP* would not directly result in adverse effect on environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for governmental protection.
- The *MCAAP* is intended to result in cleaner air in the region, including environmentally sensitive areas and areas designated for governmental protection.
- More specific information on approvals or permits for projects anticipated under the *MCAAP* will become available during project-level design, environmental review, and permitting. For projects triggering additional SEPA, the site-specific environmental impacts will be evaluated in future SEPA checklists for those specific projects.

Supporting Information: Information used to reach this determination is available upon request. The 2021 Determination of Non-significance (POS SEPA File No. 21-07), Environmental Checklist, and the *MCAAP* are available online at <https://www.portseattle.org/environment/sepa-nepa>.

Public and Agency Comment: The DNS and Environmental Checklist for this project was published on October 1, 2021 and the comment period ended on October 15, 2021. No comments, written, online, or via voice communication were received by the Port during the comment period. The Port has concluded that no significant negative environmental effects will result due to the proposed *MCAAP* and formally adopts this Final DNS. Please refer any questions relating to this determination or to the proposed actions to Laura Wolfe, Maritime Environment and Sustainability Department, P.O. Box 1209 Seattle, Washington 98111. Telephone 206-247-2193. Email the Port of Seattle SEPA address at SEPA@portseattle.org.

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. 3650. Any appeal of the SEPA DNS must also satisfy the requirements of RCW 43.21C.075.

SEPA Responsible Official: Jon Sloan, Interim Director Maritime Environment and Sustainability

Signature: 
Jon Sloan (Oct 19, 2021 12:48 PDT)

Date: 10/22/2021

Figure 1. Map of Port of Seattle Maritime Facilities

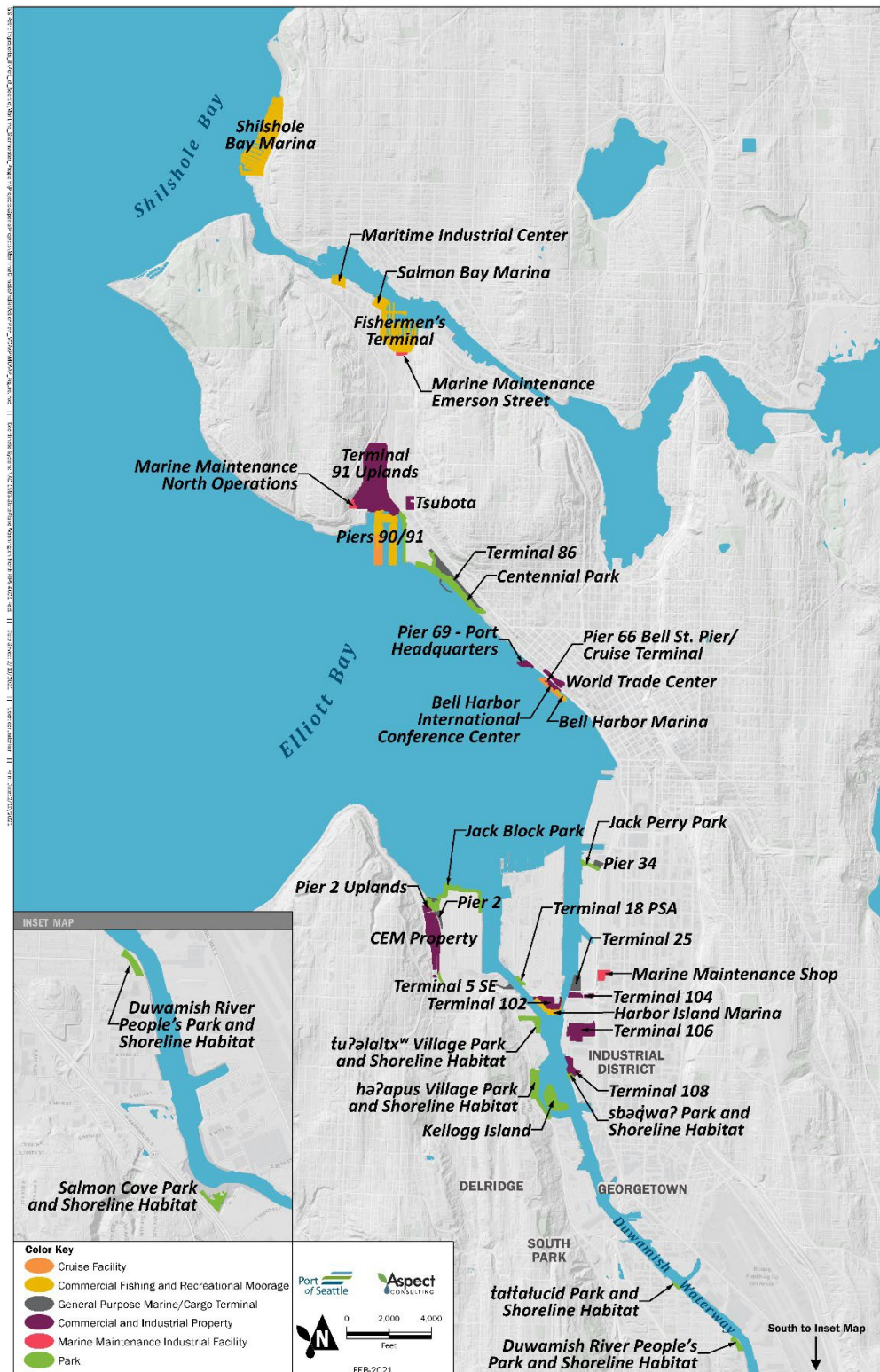


Figure 2. Map of the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Airshed

