

**SEPA DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) OF PROPOSED ACTION**  
**Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)**  
**Flight Corridor Management Program**

The Port of Seattle has completed an environmental analysis, including review of pertinent and available environmental information and preparation of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist for the Flight Corridor Management Program.

**Description of Proposed Action:** The Flight Corridor Management Program (Program) identifies and manages obstructions to the flight corridor at SEA, which are typically trees. Maintenance of the flight corridors is a requirement and priority for the FAA, State of Washington, and the Port of Seattle. The Port is required to ensure there are no obstacles or obstructions on or around SEA that could affect the flight corridors.<sup>1</sup> The Program, implemented on a regular basis (i.e., approximately every 5 years), ensures obstructions (e.g., trees) are identified and removed. The Program also requires ongoing site management and monitoring to support healthy ecological communities as a result of obstruction removal. Tree removal and replacement requirements are identified based on the jurisdiction and/or property they are located. The Port will coordinate directly with commercial and private property owners and affected jurisdictions. Information about each implementation cycle, including the number and location of trees identified for removal, tree replacement requirements and commitments, and best management practices (BMPs), is available on the Port of Seattle's website, [www.portseattle.org](http://www.portseattle.org).

**Location of Proposed Action:** To complete this environmental review of the Program, the area where tree removals may occur in the future has been estimated. The area is based on the Runway Protection Zones for SEA's east and west runways (34R/16L and 34L/16R), extending 1,500 feet east and west, and 3,500 feet north and south beyond the outer limits of these zones. This area covers the location of obstructions identified during past data collection in 2014, 2019, and 2024. The Program Area includes Port-owned properties; public properties (owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation [WSDOT], Highline School District and the cities of SeaTac, Burien and Des Moines; and commercial and privately-owned lands in the cities of Burien, SeaTac, and Des Moines.

**Lead Agency:** Port of Seattle (SEPA File Number 2025-05)

**Determination:** The Port of Seattle has completed an environmental evaluation including review of the Flight Corridor Management Program, including review of pertinent and available environmental information, 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 Port Commission Resolution 3650, Port of Seattle SEPA Policies and Procedures. On August 21, 2025, as lead agency, the Port of Seattle

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<sup>1</sup> SEA has three parallel runways, each with instrument- guided, very precise flight procedures and flight paths. The Port is required to follow conditions of Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.) Subtitle VII and Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR 139), as stipulated in SEA's Airport Operating Certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

determined the proposed action would 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). Any action to set aside, enjoin, review, or otherwise challenge such action on the grounds of noncompliance with the provisions of Chapter 43.21C RCW (State Environmental Policy Act) shall be commenced within 21 days from the date of last newspaper publication of the notice or be barred. Port Commission Resolution 3650 contains the procedures for appealing a SEPA decision of the Port of Seattle.

**Supporting Information:** Information used to reach this determination is available upon request. Flight Corridor Management Program Determination of Non-significance (POS SEPA File No. 2025-05), Environmental Checklist, and supporting documents are available online.

**Public and Agency Comment:** No action will be taken on the proposed action until after the 15-day\* public comment period expires on 4:00 PM on September 11, 2025, after which the Port will (1) formally adopt this Determination of Non-Significance; (2) clarify or review the proposal; or (3) complete additional environmental analyses, as appropriate. The Port will accept public and agency comments until 4:00 PM on September 11, 2025. Please refer any questions relating to this determination or to the proposed actions to Steve Rybolt, Port of Seattle, Aviation Environment and Sustainability Department, P.O. Box 68727, Seattle, Washington 98168. Telephone 206.787.5527. Email [Rybolt.S@portseattle.org](mailto:Rybolt.S@portseattle.org) or the Port of Seattle electronic mail Internet address at [SEPA@portseattle.org](mailto:SEPA@portseattle.org). Include your mailing address when submitting comments to the electronic Internet address.

*\*The comment period is extended from 14 to 15 days to accommodate the federal holiday.*

**Appeals:** 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 the Port formally adopts this determination pursuant to Port of Seattle Resolution No. 3650 and RCW 43.21C.080.

### **SIGNATURE ON FILE**

Sarah Cox  
Director, Aviation Environment and Sustainability  
SEPA Responsible Official  
Port of Seattle, Seattle – Tacoma International Airport  
August 21, 2025