

Appendix A

Best Management Practices for Sensitive Ecosystem Resources

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The following list of measures is a compilation of best management practices (BMPs) that can be used to avoid and minimize temporary construction and permanent operational impacts of the East Link project on sensitive ecosystem resources. These BMPs are either required by state or federal agencies to obtain permits required for the project or may be required to comply with typical permit conditions. They are based on Sound Transit's knowledge of permit requirements and experience with conducting environmental compliance and permitting for numerous other projects in the Puget Sound area.

Construction-Related BMPs

General BMPs for All Sensitive Areas

The project would delineate construction limits for vegetated and habitat areas that may be disturbed during construction. The intent is to prevent unintended impacts on riparian vegetation, wetlands, woodlands, and other sensitive sites outside of the construction limits. The construction limits would be clearly marked with high-visibility construction fencing prior to any ground-disturbing or construction-related activities. There would be no direct site disturbance outside of the construction limits.

Soil or rock stockpiles, excavated materials, or excess soil materials would be prevented from eroding into sensitive habitats, including stream channels, wetlands, and riparian areas outside of the construction limits by high water or storm runoff. Sound Transit or its construction contractor would develop a Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control plan that would be implemented during construction. This TESC plan would address potential erosion during construction. The contractor would implement the plan before discharging or allowing runoff from the site. Monitoring requirements specified in the TESC would provide feedback to make sure that the erosion control practices are operating properly and effectively. BMPs would be implemented to limit soil compaction in sensitive areas.

Fish and Aquatic Habitat Protection

All work would comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) issued for the project by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The HPA program is the vehicle through which WDFW regulates activities that affect the bed or flow of waters of the state for the protection of fish life. An HPA is required for construction or structural work associated with any bridge structure or culvert construction within or below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of waters of the state.

Seasonal restrictions (i.e., work windows) applied to work conducted below the OHWM would be as required by an HPA issued by WDFW and by the Section 404 permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

In accordance with typical requirements of an HPA, when large woody debris must be moved to allow the reasonable use of an over-water or in-water facility, the large woody debris would be returned to the water downstream, where it would continue to provide aquatic habitat function.

All newly installed culverts would be in compliance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 220-110-070 (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/engineer/w2201170.htm>) regarding fish passage requirements. Any affected streambeds, stream banks adjacent to culverts, and at the stream relocation reach, would be permanently restored after in-water work with plantings of native or approved woody and herbaceous species within one year of completion of each phase of construction. Bank protection would follow the guidelines set forth in WDFW's *Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines* (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/ispdoc.htm>).

Water Quality

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (1972, and later modifications, 1977, 1981, and 1987) established water quality goals for the navigable (surface) waters of the United States. One of the mechanisms for achieving the goals of the CWA is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, which is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA has delegated responsibility to administer the NPDES permit program to the State of Washington on the basis of Chapter 90.48 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), which defines the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) authority and obligations in administering the wastewater discharge permit program.

Ecology's construction stormwater general permit is required for certain construction activities. The goal of the permit is to reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution and other impacts on surface waters from construction sites.

The project must complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the permit. The project must also develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that implements BMPs for identifying, reducing, eliminating, or preventing sediment and erosion problems on site.

Any materials placed below the OHWM (e.g., cobble or boulders for energy dissipation at culvert ends, streambed gravel or other substrates) would be relatively clean and handled in a way to minimize turbidity. Methods would be used such that it is not expected the project would exceed state water quality standards at the point of compliance (WAC chapter 173-201A) when flow is restored to the work site. To the fullest extent practicable, culverts would be installed, modified, and/or replaced in isolation from stream flow (if there is flow during the work window) by means of a temporary bypass flume, diversion culvert, or by temporarily pumping flow around the in-water work zone. Any temporary dewatering of the in-water work zone would be preceded by work area isolation and fish removal/relocation (as necessary). Fish handling would be conducted by a trained and qualified biologist. Turbid water produced during the course of in-water work would be prevented from discharging to fish-bearing waters or wetlands. Turbid wastewater may be routed to temporary or permanent detention facilities, or to upland areas that provide adequate rates of infiltration.

In accordance with conditions of a typical HPA, heavy equipment used during the course of in-water work would operate from above the OHWM wherever possible. Use of equipment below the OHWM would be limited to that necessary to gain position for work. Drive mechanisms would not enter or operate below the OHWM, except under the terms of the HPA issued by WDFW.

Uncured concrete and/or concrete byproducts would be prevented from coming in contact with streams or water conveyed directly to streams during construction. Any water having direct contact with uncured concrete would be contained and treated or removed from the site (as appropriate) to prevent discharge to streams or wetlands.

Installation of permanent footings and all drilled or pile-driven shafts (and excavated spread footings) below the OHWM (e.g., for culvert endwalls) would be conducted in a manner consistent with Section 404 and other permits issued for the project by the USACE and other parties (as applicable). When constructing drilled shafts, the contractor would ensure that all drilling equipment, drill recovery and recycling pits, and any waste or spoil produced are properly contained to prevent discharge of drill wastes or fluids to any surface water or wetlands.

In accordance with typical Section 401 permit requirements, turbidity would be monitored if in-water work occurs when water is flowing in the streams. Equipment (excluding track-mounted equipment, large cranes, and other relatively immobile equipment) would be refueled and maintenance activities conducted at a distance from the nearest wetlands, ditches, and flowing or standing water approved by regulatory permits. Appropriate spill prevention measures and fuel containment systems would be designed and implemented to completely contain a potential spill as specified in the Spill Prevention and Control Countermeasure plan. If flooding of the work area is expected to occur within 24 hours, all equipment and material would be evacuated from near-stream construction sites. An exception would be for efforts to avoid or minimize resource damage. All equipment that is used for in-stream or in-wetland work would be cleaned prior to operations below the OHWM. Wash-water would not be discharged directly into any water body without pretreatment.

Weed Control

If herbicide use is required during the monitoring period, the type and application of the pesticide should be chosen based upon City of Seattle Tier Tables (<http://www.seattle.gov/environment/Pesticides.htm>) or other locally accepted methodology. Additionally, Sound Transit's Integrated Pest management Plan (IPM) would provide guidance regarding pesticide use and IPM practices.

Design and Operation BMPs

The project would install permanent storm water runoff treatment and flow control facilities where needed according to the requirements of the 2004 Ecology *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* or the most recently adopted manual.

The project would incorporate stormwater conveyance and management facilities that promote infiltration where applicable.

The project would select, design, and install runoff treatment BMPs that are best suited to the site conditions and best capable of achieving the required levels of treatment (subject to negotiation with the local jurisdiction and/or Ecology). These would or may include natural or engineered dispersion BMPs; biofiltration BMPs such as vegetated filter strips, biofiltration swales, or ecology embankments; wet-pool BMPs; and infiltration BMPs.

The project would not reroute existing drainage configurations to the extent that stormwater from one basin or subbasins is conveyed and discharged to another.

The project would implement IPM techniques, in accordance with current Ecology water quality agreements, to minimize the impact on aquatic and terrestrial environments.