



Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Everett, WA 98201-4046

(425) 388-3488
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June 26, 2009

Re: Smith Island Restoration Project, RR49206

Dear Reviewer/Interested Party:

Snohomish County Public Works recently issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for its Smith Island Restoration Project (the Project), that will allow for multiple uses of several hundred acres of land located in the Snohomish River estuary. The fundamental purpose of the Project is to restore estuarine tidal marshlands that provide critical habitat for ESA-listed salmon in the Snohomish River watershed. A new setback dike will be constructed further to the west of the existing dike, and large sections of the existing dike along Union Slough will be removed. Besides the tidal marsh restoration element, the other primary project elements are a proposed compensatory mitigation program, and conservation and support of agricultural lands and activities. Additional project elements include: potential partnerships with the City of Everett; Williams NW Pipeline Company property donation; recreational and public access opportunities; improved flood protection; preservation of substantial green/open space area in a rapidly urbanizing region; and research and experimental opportunities associated with tidal marsh restoration.

The DNS for this project was originally issued on May 9, 2009. Snohomish County Public Works has made the decision to withdraw the DNS following comments received from citizens, organizations and agencies. A Determination of Significance will be issued and an Environmental Impact Statement prepared to analyze the environmental impacts of several alternative dike alignments in greater depth, including a preferred dike alignment. Enclosed with this letter are copies of both a Withdrawal of the Determination of Non-Significance, and a Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement. You are invited to provide written comments to the County regarding areas for discussion, alternatives, and other matters related to the project no later than July 20, 2009. Comments received during the prior public comment period for the SEPA environmental checklist are already being considered.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (425) 388-3488, extension 2341, or by e-mail at: julie.highton@snoco.org.

Sincerely,



Julie Highton
Senior Environmental Planner
Environmental Services Section
Transportation and Environmental Services Division

Enc: (1) Withdrawal of Determination of Non-Significance
(2) Determination of Significance and Request for Comments
on the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement

cc: Manuela Winter, Environmental Services Section Supervisor
Craig Garric, Surface Water Management Division Project Manager
John Engel, Surface Water Management Division Supervisor
Bobann Fogard, Transportation and Environmental Services Division Director
Steve Thomsen, P.E., Public Works Director
Owen Carter, P.E., County Engineer