Determination of Non-Significance

Name of Proposal: King County Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program for Maintenance of Agricultural Waterways

Description of Proposal:
This proposal is for Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) projects to maintain agricultural waterways in unincorporated King County to improve drainage of agricultural fields. These projects will include the removal of the accumulated sediment and noxious or invasive vegetation that has decreased the capacity of the affected waterways or blocked drainage of field drain tiles. These projects may also include culvert replacement or beaver dam removal in the agricultural waterways. The agricultural waterways will be maintained to historic depth and width except when the existing channel is unstable in which case the side slopes will be re-sloped in accordance with the Regulatory Guidance Letter Number 07-02 issued by the Corps and dated July 4, 2007. Only accumulated sediments will be removed from a waterway. Because of the similarity of possible impacts from the multiple drainage maintenance projects and the similar land uses of the parcels involved, King County Water and Land Resources Division is analyzing these similar actions and nonproject actions in a single checklist, as allowed in WAC 197-11-060, 3, c., and is addressing them together as a programmatic proposal in this determination. We intend that this SEPA process will cover applications for all ADAP projects.

King County has worked with regulatory agencies to develop best management practices (bmp’s) for waterway maintenance for agricultural areas in unincorporated King County. The bmp’s will include the time of year for the project, sediment and erosion control, fish removal from the construction area, and planting requirements. The bmp’s implemented may depend on the type of watercourse and the likelihood of salmonids being present during the project. Waterways are classified as artificial, modified, or natural channels based how they were created. The likelihood of salmonids being present is based on known fish presence, water quantity, and water quality. Waterways with the Agricultural Production Districts (APD’s) have been classified and watercourse outside the APD’s will be classified on a case-by-case basis.

Location of Proposal:
This multi-project SEPA covers the maintenance of the agricultural waterways in unincorporated King County.
The King County Water and Land Resources Division has determined that this program and the projects that will participate in the program are not likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON REQUEST (for a nominal photocopying fee). The checklist can be found on the King County website at www.kingcounty.gov/stormwater.

THIS DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) is issued under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-1-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal until after January 15, 2012. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by that date.

For additional information, please contact:

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