

## **King County Agriculture Drainage Assistance Program for Maintenance of Agricultural Waterways**

### **D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

(Do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented.

Respond briefly and in general terms.

*1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?*

Discharge of sediment to water will likely be created during construction of projects covered by this proposal. During Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) project construction, various gasoline and diesel vehicles and other small equipment will emit exhaust. No toxic or hazardous substances will be produced or stored by this proposal. During construction of projects, it is possible that construction equipment could leak fuel or hydraulic fluid. Projects will create noise during construction but there will be no ongoing noise after construction is complete.

*Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:*

The ADAP has established an extensive set of construction best management practices (bmp's) to reduce the discharge of sediment to water. The construction bmp's comply with all federal, state, and local requirements for preventing or reducing discharge to water. King County has an extensive set of pollution prevention bmp's that all construction activities in King County are required to implement, including having a spill kit on site during construction and training staff in the response to spills. King County has a noise ordinance that all construction activities must follow.

*2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?*

Projects covered by the proposal will remove noxious and invasive plant species that grow in and on the banks of agricultural drainage channels. Native plants will be retained to the extent possible while still allowing equipment adequate access to the drainage channel. Animals that use the vegetation along agricultural channels for shelter or forage will be displaced until plants have grown on the cleared areas. Fish in project areas will be relocated prior to the start of construction. Typical fish relocation techniques like trapping and electrofishing may result in the mortality of a very small percentage of the fish relocated. Predation on fish may be higher after a project is constructed because there will be less cover for fish to hide in. No marine life will be affected by this proposal.

*Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:*

Projects will identify and flag native vegetation so that it will not be removed. Most projects under the proposal will plant 1, 2, or 3 rows of native vegetation on each side of channel. The impacts to animals and fish will end when the planted vegetation matures. Fish relocation will be performed by trained staff who will comply with fish relocation bmp's established for the King County Regional Road Maintenance coverage under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act.

3. *How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?*

This proposal will have no impact on the depletion of energy or natural resources.

*Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:*

N/A

4. *How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?*

Projects will improve the drainage on prime farmlands, many of which are in floodplains, on or near historic wetlands. Threatened or endangered species could exist in the drainage channels and said channels could run through historic or cultural sites.

*Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:*

Projects under the proposal will ultimately result in a benefit to prime farmland by improving the drainage of the farmlands, allowing them to be more productive for agriculture. The only threatened or endangered species expected to be found in agricultural channels are fish. Fish will be relocated from projects using bmp's specifically designed to reduce the impact to threatened or endangered species as part of King County's Regional Road Maintenance coverage under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act. Projects will not excavate below the historic bottom of the channel, which will reduce the likelihood that cultural or historic sites will be uncovered. If cultural or historic sites are discovered, protocols have been developed to notify the King County Historic Preservation Program. Projects will not import any material. Material moved within the floodplain will be spread on active farm fields or pastures in a single lift no more than six inches deep. Projects in a floodplain will comply with the King County Flood Hazard Certification review process. The ADAP has developed an extensive set of bmp's to reduce or eliminate discharge into wetlands. The construction bmp's include ways to reduce fallback into the channel being cleared. Spoils will be spread on active farm fields or pastures. If no such areas are available on site, the spoils will be hauled offsite.

5. *How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?*

The proposal will have no effect on shoreline use and will not encourage uses incompatible with existing plans. The proposal will result in improved drainage on farms and pastures. The use of

the land will not change. The productive period of the field or pasture may be extended by the improved drainage.

*Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:*

N/A

*6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?*

The proposal will have no impact on the demand for transportation or public services and utilities.

*Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:*

N/A

*7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.*

The ADAP has worked closely with federal, state, and local agencies to develop an extensive set of bmp's that complies with laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.