



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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Decision to Proceed

The Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program within the Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) of King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks has made a Decision to Proceed with the Agency Action, as described below.

Proposal Name

Maintenance of Agricultural Drainages in the Snoqualmie Agricultural Production District

Proposal Description

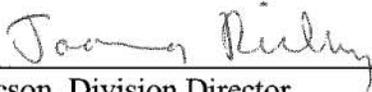
This proposal is for projects to maintain agricultural drainage within or adjacent to the Snoqualmie Agricultural Production District to reduce flooding of agricultural fields. These projects will include the removal of the accumulated sediment and noxious and invasive vegetation that have decreased the capacity of the affected drainage ways or blocked drainage of historic drain tiles. These projects may also include the removal of the beaver dams in the agricultural waterways. The agricultural drainage ways will be maintained to historic depth and width. Only sediments accreted since the last maintenance will be removed. Because of the similarity of possible impacts from the multiple drainage maintenance projects and the limited geographic area, King County Water and Land Resources Division is analyzing these similar actions in a single checklist, as allowed in WAC 197-11-060, 3, c., and is addressing them together as a multi-project proposal in this determination. We intend that this SEPA process will cover applications for the agricultural drainage maintenance proposals received in 2011 through 2012.

King County is working with regulatory agencies to develop best management practices guidelines for ditch maintenance for agricultural areas in unincorporated King County. The public will have an opportunity to review the best management practices through a separate SEPA process before they are adopted. The guidelines will include such best management practices as the time of year for the project, sediment and erosion control, fish removal from the construction area, and mitigation requirements. The best management practices implemented will depend on the type of waterway and the likelihood of fish being present during the drainage maintenance project. Waterways are classified as artificial, modified, or natural channels based how they were created. The likelihood of fish being present is based on known fish presence, water quantity, and water quality. Projects will be evaluated ahead of time to

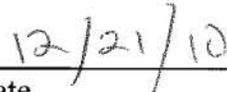
determine the classification of the waterway. The projects covered by this proposal, which will be conducted following the best management practices described in this proposal and required under relevant permits, will help to inform the development of the guidelines.

Agency Action

The WLRD Deputy Division Director hereby approves the above-described Determination of Non-Significance Project Proposal for design and construction. The Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program fully complied with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Rules regarding notification, meetings, and SEPA documents for this proposal as required under WAC 197-11, RCW 43.21c, Ordinance 12196, and ESHB 1724.



Mark Isaacson, Division Director
Water and Land Resources Division



Date