



## King County

### Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

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## Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance

**Date of Issue:** September 8, 2010

**Name of Proposal:** May Creek Drainage Improvement Project (9A1205)

**Description of Proposal:** King County's Water and Land Resources Division proposes to improve in-stream flow conditions along segments of May Creek in May Valley between approximately River Mile 4.3 and 4.9. Sediment accumulation and in-stream vegetation (e.g., reed canarygrass and willows) throughout the valley reach of May Creek have been gradually decreasing channel flow capacity, causing a backwater effect. This is increasing the duration of flooding in actively used pastures on adjacent rural residential properties with flood conditions now persisting well into the summer months. The goal of this project is to reduce the duration of flooding on these properties at both the start and end of the rainy season by removing in-stream channel obstructions. This effort should help alleviate the duration of localized flooding on adjacent properties during low to moderate storm events and should allow the pastures to drain more effectively when flooding does occur. Due to the high groundwater table in the May Valley and because there will be no measureable difference in the geographic extent of flooding, it is not likely that this project will change the amount of wet pasture or wetland in the project vicinity. In addition, the project hydraulic analysis found that the potential for erosion downstream of May Valley is virtually unchanged for the pre- versus post-project conditions.

Flow obstructing in-stream vegetation and accumulated sediment will be removed from the stream channel primarily using machinery operated from the stream bank. The vegetation and sediment removal will negatively impact existing in-stream fish habitat. Mitigation has been proposed to offset these impacts.

**Mitigation:** The following mitigation will be implemented to avoid, minimize, and compensate for negative impacts to the in-stream and wetland habitat.

- During construction, the stream flow will be diverted around the work area, and in-water work will only be conducted during the summer low flow when fish are less likely to be present. A King County biologist will be onsite during construction to monitor water quality.
- Construction techniques, such as utilizing existing access roads or using temporary steel plates (or equivalent), where additional access is needed, will minimize disturbance to existing vegetation. In addition, direct access to the stream channel by equipment will only be allowed in specific areas where vegetation disturbance can be minimized.
- Approximately 1.3 acres of wetland and riparian vegetation will be planted along May Creek (15 feet on each side of the stream from 148th Avenue SE upstream to the end of the project). Fencing will be installed to protect the plantings and the stream from livestock.

- Approximately 3.75 acres of wetland will be enhanced on the west side of 148th Avenue SE by removing invasive reed canarygrass and replanting with native wetland vegetation. Off-channel alcoves will also be excavated along May Creek in this location and large woody debris and streambed gravel will be added in the alcoves to enhance wetland fish habitat.
- Fish habitat and natural stream processes will be restored at either the confluence of Long Marsh Creek and May Creek, or at another similar location in the project vicinity.

**Location of Proposal:** The project is located in the May Valley near the cities of Renton and Newcastle (Sections 2 and 3, Township 23N, Range 5E) on the south side of SE May Valley Road. The project area includes multiple segments of May Creek between approximately River Mile 4.3 (about 0.25 miles downstream of 148th Avenue SE in Renton) and River Mile 4.9.

**Responsible Official:** Mark Isaacson  
**Position/Title:** Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division  
**Address:** 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
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DATE: 9-2-10

SIGNATURE: 

**Proponent and Lead Agency:** King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Water and Land Resources Division  
**Contact Person(s):** Doug Chin, Project Manager, 206-296-8315

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable 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). It is also available on the King County website at:  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/watersheds/cedar-river-lake-wa/may-creek.aspx>

THIS MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (MDNS) is issued under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal until after **September 22, 2010**. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by that date. For additional information, please contact:

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