



King County

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

BELMONDO LEVEE REPAIR PROJECT

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Belmondo Levee Repair

2. Name of applicant:

King County Water and Land Resources Division

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Alex Lincoln, King County-Water and Land Resources Division
King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5600
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 263-0989
Email: alincoln@kingcounty.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 2022

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The levee repair is anticipated to occur in summer 2023. In-water work will occur during the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife approved in-water work window, which is August 1 – 31.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The following documents have been or are being prepared for the Belmondo Levee Repair Project:

- Belmondo Levee Repair Project, Critical Areas Report (ESA 2022a)
- Belmondo Levee Repair Project, Biological Assessment and Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (ESA 2022b)
- Belmondo Levee Repair Project, King County Washington, Cultural Resources Assessment (ESA N.D.)
- Draft Basis of Design Report – November 2022
- 30 percent design plans – October 2022

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

- Section 404, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Section 401, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- Section 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife & National Marine Fisheries Service
- Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act
- Hydraulic Project Approval, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- King County Clearing and Grading Permit
- King County Shoreline Exemption
- King County Floodplain Development Permit
- King County Parks Authorization
- Seattle Public Utilities Temporary Use Permit
- WSDOT Traffic Plan Permit

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

King County will repair the damaged portion of the Belmondo levee while also enhancing aquatic habitat. During a flood event in February 2020, an existing engineered log jam (built in 2011) and approximately 100 linear feet of levee was damaged. The damage includes embankment erosion and loss of toe and face rock, which has resulted in an over-steepened unprotected levee core. The facility protects critical infrastructure including the Maple Valley Highway (SR 169), the Cedar River Trail, and a buried regional fiber optic trunk line. If unaddressed, the damage will likely expand, resulting in potential impacts to infrastructure and loss of public property.

The section of damaged levee will be repaired with rock placement and construction of a new engineered log jam (ELJ). The latter is intended to provide bank protection, deflect flow, and enhance stability of the existing damaged ELJ by interlacing the two structures. Repair to the damaged ELJ will also include adding slash and large wood pieces, but will not involve a full re-build of the structure such that the deep pool in front of and below the structure can be preserved. Large wood pieces placed parallel to the bank will also be added to the rock repair for bank roughening. These project elements will involve work below and above the ordinary high water mark.

The project will also include habitat enhancement in the floodplain adjacent to the damaged section of levee. Floodplain grading will increase connectivity of a groundwater channel and floodplain wetland with the Cedar River, creating backwater habitat for juvenile salmonids and removing existing reed canarygrass. Large wood placement in the floodplain and within graded channels will increase floodplain roughness and aquatic habitat quality. An existing rock barb on the floodplain will be

enhanced with placement of large wood elements to create a more habitat-friendly structure that will deform as the mainstem Cedar River migrates leftwards over time. Plantings in the floodplain and on the bank adjacent to the levee and ELJ repair are intended to provide channel shading and riparian habitat.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The Belmondo Levee Repair Project is located on the left bank of the Cedar River, near River Mile 10.4 within the SE quarter of Section 29, Township 23 North, Range 6 East. The site is located on two King County parcels 292306-9021 and 292306-9035, east of the Cedar River Trail and just north of the Belmondo Reach Natural Area. The project parcels have a legal description of:

292306-9021:

C P S R/W ACROSS W 1/2 OF SEC

292306-9035:

POR GL 8 & 10 LY ELY OF C & P S R/W & NLY OF LN BEG AT PT ON ELY MGN C & P S R/W 550 FT N OF S LN OF GL 8 TH S 05-17-00 E 30 FT TH N 73-27-09 E 683 FT M/L TO RIVER W 20 FT FOR RD LESS C/M RGTS



SOURCE: Imagery: King County, 2021; ESA, 2022

Belmondo Levee Repair Data

Figure 1
Vicinity Map



B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other river bank

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slope is approximately 40 percent at the left bank of the Cedar River, between the Cedar River and the Cedar River Trail.

- c. *What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.*

The Web Soil Survey maps Puyallup fine sandy loam and Sultan silt loam within the site (NRCS 2022). Puyallup soils are very deep well drained soils found on floodplains and low terraces. Sultan soils are moderately well drained soils formed on floodplains at elevations below 120 feet (NRCS 2022). Puyallup and Sultan series soils are not hydric soils.

- d. *Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.*

There is a history of unstable soils within the project area. The existing levee was damaged during a flood event in February 2020. The damage includes embankment erosion and loss of toe and face rock, which has necessitated the levee repair.

- e. *Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.*

Approximately 0.96 acre of the site will be disturbed to facilitate levee repair and installation of the ELJ. Aside from repairs and shaping of the levee, the existing ground surface topography will remain essentially the same with only minor grading to shape the ground surface to facilitate surface drainage. Excavation and fill quantities are estimated below:

- Total excavation: 1,400 cubic yards (CY)
- Total fill: 1,410 CY. The proposed fill materials are slash and large wood for the ELJ and large angular rock for levee repair (see table below).

Structure / Material	Sub-Total (CY)		Total (CY)
	Below OHWM	Above OHWM	
Riprap	350	90	440
Quarry Spalls	60	0	60
Wood Chip Mulch	0	50	50
Compost	0	70	70
Topsoil	0	120	120
Select Fill	0	370	370
Large Wood	140	0	140
Ballast Rock	160	0	160
TOTAL	710	700	1,410

- f. *Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.*

As with any construction project, erosion could occur as a result of construction activities, particularly earthwork. The potential for erosion will be minimized with adherence to construction best management practices (BMPs) (see question B.1.h. below).

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?*

The project will not result in any new impervious surfaces.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:*

A Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be developed prior to construction, and measures will be implemented both prior and during ground disturbing activities, as needed. During the construction of the Belmondo Levee Repair Project, best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to minimize erosion. BMPs are physical, structural, and/or managerial practices that can prevent or reduce the erosion and pollution of water caused by construction activities. The following mitigation measures and BMPs will be incorporated during construction to minimize the potential for erosion:

- All debris and spoil material will be transported off-site to an appropriate disposal facility.
- Erosion-control best management practices and controls will be implemented as part of the required temporary erosion and sediment control plan. These include covering bare soil stockpiles, surrounding the staging area with straw bales or wattles and silt fencing to prevent discharge of sediment-laden runoff, using mulch berms for perimeter sediment control near aquatic areas, and establishing a stabilized construction entrance
- In-water work areas will be isolated.
- Other erosion control measures will be incorporated, as necessary, in accordance with King County requirements.
- Refueling will take place more than 100 feet from surface waters where practical.
- Clearing will be phased as needed seasonally and limited to within the project area. Any areas cleared prior to summer construction will be temporarily stabilized, using measures such as erosion control fabric.
- Finished grade surfaces will be seeding or planted to stabilize with vegetation.

Following construction, all temporarily disturbed areas will be restored. Operation of the project is not anticipated to result in any erosion.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.*

The proposed project will result in temporary and minor emissions from the use of construction equipment. The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Worksheet is attached to the end of this checklist.

b. *Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.*

No.

c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:*

Contractors will use BMPs to minimize construction-related emissions. These emissions are expected to be minimal. Engines will not idle unnecessarily and will be kept in proper working order with all filters and other emission control devices functional. Dust could be generated by construction equipment but will be controlled by water application.

3. Water

a. *Surface Water:*

1) *Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.*

Yes, the project is located on the left bank of the Cedar River at approximately river mile 10.4. A small groundwater-fed channel of the Cedar River and a riverine wetland are also located within the project area. The Cedar River is a shoreline of the state that flows northeast into Lake Washington approximately 10.4 miles downstream of the project site.

2) *Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.*

All of the work will occur in or within 200 feet of the described waters. The work includes the levee and ELJ repair, construction of a new engineered log jam, placement of large wood, floodplain grading to increase connectivity of the small channel and wetland with the Cedar River, and enhancement plantings.

3) *Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.*

The project will involve the following quantities of fill and dredge material either placed or removed from surface waters or wetlands:

Activity	Location	Quantity	Source
Excavation	Levee footprint,	800 CY below OHWM	-
	floodplain and wetland	600 CY above OHWM	
Fill: Riprap	Along damaged bank	350 CY below OHWM 90 CY above OHWM	Salvaged onsite & imported from approved offsite quarry

Fill: Quarry spalls	Along bank below OHWM	60 CY	Imported from approved offsite quarry
Fill: Topsoil, compost, wood chip mulch, select fill	Along bank, on top of existing ELJ and new ELJ; all above OHWM	120 CY topsoil 70 CY compost 50 CY wood chip mulch 370 CY select fill	Imported from offsite
Fill: Ballast rock	Within existing ELJ, new ELJ, wood bank roughening structure, large wood elements on rock barb. All below OHWM	160 CY	Imported from approved offsite quarry
Fill: Bulk bags (temporary)	In Cedar River below OHWM	100 CY	Washed river gravels imported from approved offsite quarry
Fill: Large Wood	New ELJ, existing ELJ, bank roughening structure, wood elements on rock barb	140 CY	Harvested within standard of Washington State Forest Practices Rules (Title 222 WAC)

4) *Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.*

Significant dewatering will not occur in the river part of the project. Pumping to create slightly negative head may occur by the contractor to decrease turbid water escaping from the temporary work area isolation. Work area isolations using clean fill supersacks parallel to the Cedar River shoreline will be required briefly during certain work tasks at or near the water's edge. These isolations will be installed and removed during the approved in-water work window.

Bypass of existing groundwater channel water will likely occur in the wetland enhancement section of the project and dispersion/infiltration of any water pumped from the temporary work area isolation will occur in the floodplain outside of wetland and stream boundaries to decrease the likelihood of turbid water escaping the temporary work area isolation.

5) *Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.*

Yes. With the exception of the staging area, the project is located within the 100-year floodplain and the floodway of the Cedar River (FEMA 2022).

6) *Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.*

No.

b. *Ground Water:*

1) *Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.*

No groundwater will be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes. No water will be directly discharged to groundwater as a result of this project, however water pumped from in-water work area isolations will be directed to vegetated floodplain areas and allowed to infiltrate.

- 2) *Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.*

None. The proposed project will not involve any septic systems or discharges to groundwater.

c. *Water runoff (including stormwater):*

- 1) *Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.*

No new impervious surfaces contributing to runoff will result from the completed project. During construction, sources of stormwater runoff could include excavated soil surfaces and staging areas. Runoff from these sources will be contained by erosion and sediment control BMPs, such as straw wattles, silt fencing, covering slopes and stockpiles when needed, and once construction is completed, placement of erosion control blankets, wood chip mulch, and native vegetation.

- 2) *Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.*

No. A spill prevention and pollution control plan will be required of the contractor to prevent such an occurrence.

- 3) *Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.*

No, the project will not alter or affect drainage patterns of the project site.

d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:*

During construction the following mitigation measures will be implemented to limit impacts to the wetland, river, and associated buffers:

- Clearly define construction limits with stakes or flagging prior to the beginning of ground-disturbing activities. No disturbance will occur beyond these limits.
- Schedule excavation and grading work for dry weather.
- Minimize vegetation and soil disturbance to the maximum extent practical.
- Restore buffer areas temporarily disturbed during construction.
- Vegetation removal will be minimized to the greatest extent practical, and rapid revegetation of sites disturbed by construction will occur.

- Mitigation for impacts to stream buffers will be provided in accordance with the County's critical area ordinance (KCC 21A.24.380).
- Prepare and implement a Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) plan which will include the use of silt fencing, straw wattles, among other measures to minimize the potential for direct effects related to soil disturbing activities.
- Sediment control measures include stabilizing all exposed and unworked soils and stockpile areas to prevent erosion, including seeding, mulching, plastic covering, sodding, and topsoiling.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other*
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other*
- shrubs*
- grass*
- pasture*
- crop or grain*
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.*
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other*
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other*
- other types of vegetation: **invasive***

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Construction will result in the removal a total of 16,080 SF of vegetation. Vegetation will be removed from the following areas:

- 1,645 SF of vegetation within Wetland A
- 13,435 SF of vegetation within the buffers of Wetland A, Wetland B, and the Cedar River
- 1,000 SF of vegetation within the area below the OHWM

Vegetation proposed for removal included grasses, Himalayan blackberry, understory vegetation such as salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), western swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Construction will also remove 10 trees, which include Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*), and red alder (*Alnus rubra*).

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitat Species (PHS) does not map any endangered or threatened plant species in the vicinity of the project (WDFW 2022).

- d. *Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:*

A combination of native shrubs, trees, and live willow stakes will be installed to increase plant density, structural diversity, and provide functional lift within Wetland A and the Cedar River buffer. The plantings areas total 12,740 square feet (SF), which includes 3,310 SF of Wetland A and floodplain, 2,900 SF of upland planting areas directly adjacent to the levee repair and river, and 6,710 SF of riparian buffer at the temporary staging area.

- e. *List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.*

The project site contains Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and yellowflag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*).

Additionally, King County iMap maps tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), and bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum bohemicum*) as occurring within or adjacent to the project site.

5. Animals

- a. *List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.*

- **Amphibians:** frogs, toads and salamanders.
- **Fish:** salmon (coho, chinook, sockeye, kokanee), trout (steelhead, bull trout, cutthroat)
- **Reptiles:** snakes and lizards.
- **Birds:** species adapted to urban conditions such as American crow, rock pigeon, chickadee, robin, Steller's jay, northern flicker, and Bewick's wren. Foraging bald eagles were present east of the project site.
- **Mammals:** Coyote, bats, raccoon, opossum, deer mice, voles, and species adapted to urban conditions such as Norway rat. Deer and bear scat were observed in the project site during site visits.

- b. *List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.*

The WDFW PHS maps federal candidate coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), federally threatened Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), and federally threatened steelhead (*O. mykiss*) as potentially occurring in the Cedar River. All three species are known to be present in the Cedar River and likely at the project site. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) does not map any critical habitat as occurring in the vicinity of the project but lists federally threatened bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) as potentially occurring within the Cedar River (USFWS 2022). While not physically excluded from the study area, observations indicate that bull trout are typically confined to areas above the Chester Morse Dam and are not expected in the study area.

While not known to the present, USFWS IPaC also lists the following species as potentially occurring in the project area: federally threatened marbled murrelet

(*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), proposed threatened North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) and federal candidate monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

c. *Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.*

The site is in the Pacific Flyway, which is a flight corridor for migrating waterfowl and other birds. The Pacific Flyway extends from Alaska down to Mexico and South America. No portions of this project will affect it.

Numerous salmonid species including Chinook and steelhead use the Cedar River as a migration corridor.

d. *Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:*

This project has been designed to avoid and minimize direct construction impacts on fish in the Cedar River. In accordance with permit conditions, in-water work will occur during summer low-flow conditions to impact the fewest fish species and life stages possible. Design of the ELJ repair aimed to minimize impacts to existing pool habitat by stabilizing the structure rather than rebuilding it.

The ELJs will provide significant habitat enhancements, including larger and more complex interstitial spaces within the structures creating low velocity aquatic habitat and refuge. Installed wood elements will likely create and enhance salmonid habitat in the floodplain.

The proposed project will remove any invasive plant species, and revegetate all disturbed areas with native riparian and upland species of trees, shrubs and grasses. Plantings in the floodplain may encourage recruitment of additional wood, and excavation in the floodplain aims to create more functional and connected off-channel habitat for fish. Nest surveys prior to construction as well as early site clearing prior to the nesting season will minimize impacts to migratory birds during construction.

e. *List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.*

No known invasive animal species have been identified on or near the site.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. *What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.*

The project will require the use of petroleum fuels during construction to power construction equipment. Operation of the completed project will not require any energy.

b. *Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.*

No.

- c. *What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:*

Not applicable, as the project will not require the use of energy after construction.

7. Environmental Health

- a. *Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.*

Typical risks associated with construction such as leaks and spills from equipment are possible with this project. Risks of this project are within the range of typical construction projects. There will be no toxic or hazardous chemicals stored on site besides the fuels and oils needed to power construction equipment. A spill prevention plan will be implemented to minimize the risk of spills, response kits will be maintained on site at all times during construction, and excess fuel will not be kept on site.

- 1) *Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.*

None. The Washington State Department of Ecology Facility/Site database and What's in My Neighborhood Tool did not identify any contaminated sites within the project limits (Ecology 2022a, 2022b).

- 2) *Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.*

There are no known existing hazardous chemicals or conditions that will affect project development.

- 3) *Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.*

During construction, fuels and oils will be stored on site during construction to power equipment.

- 4) *Describe special emergency services that might be required.*

The use of emergency services is not foreseen as a part of construction.

- 5) *Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:*

To minimize environmental health hazards, construction BMPs will be implemented. There will also be a spill plan in place and a spill kit on site during construction. Construction equipment will be fueled as far as possible from the stream, and equipment working in the stream will be fueled with food grade hydraulic oil and grease to limit the potential for contamination.

- b. *Noise*

- 1) *What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?*

There is vehicular traffic from State Route 169 as well as overhead air traffic. This will not affect construction of the project.

2) *What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.*

There will be short-term noise impacts generated from construction. Noise impacts will be minimized by limiting hours of construction in accordance with applicable regulations. No long-term noise impacts will be created by the project.

3) *Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:*

To mitigate the impacts from noise, construction will follow King County's noise ordinance and only take place during daylight hours. The King County Code states that construction noise is limited to occur between:

- Heavy equipment: From two hours after dawn until 2 hours before sunset
- All other construction activities: From two hours after dawn until 2 hours before sunset

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. *What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.*

The project is located within a forested area adjacent to the Cedar River, Cedar River trail and SR 169.

b. *Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?*

No, the project site has not been used as farmlands or forest lands.

1) *Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:*

No.

c. *Describe any structures on the site.*

There are no structures on site.

d. *Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?*

No.

e. *What is the current zoning classification of the site?*

RA-10 - Rural Area, one DU per 10 acres (King County 2022)

f. *What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?*

Open space and rural area 2.5-10 ac/du (King County 2022)

g. *If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?*

Conservancy Shoreline (King County 2022)

h. *Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.*

The site contains the following critical areas:

- Cedar River, a Type S aquatic area and shoreline of the state (ESA 2022a). Requires a 165-foot buffer.
- Wetland A, a Category II riverine wetland with a habitat score of 7 (ESA 2022a). Requires a 110-foot buffer.
- Wetland B, a Category III depressional wetland with a habitat score of 4. Requires an 80-foot buffer (ESA 2022a).
- Wildlife Network (King County 2022)
- Coal Mine Hazard Area (staging area only) (King County 2022)
- FEMA flood hazard areas (100-year floodplain and floodway) (King County 2022)
- Severe and Moderate Channel Migration Hazard Areas (King County 2022)
- Potential Steep Slope Hazard Area (staging area only) (King County 2022)

i. *Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?*

None.

j. *Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?*

None.

k. *Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:*

Not applicable.

l. *Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:*

No changes to existing or projected land uses will result from this project.

m. *Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:*

The project will not have any impact on agricultural or forest lands of long-term term significance, therefore no measures have been proposed.

9. Housing

a. *Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*

None.

- b. *Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*

None.

- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:*

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

- a. *What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?*

No structures are proposed as part of the project. The project proposes to repair an existing levee and engineered log jam.

- b. *What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?*

None.

- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:*

Any disturbed areas will be replanted to restore native riparian vegetation within the river corridor.

11. Light and Glare

- a. *What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?*

None.

- b. *Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?*

No light or glare anticipated from construction of project.

- c. *What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?*

None.

- d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:*

None. No impacts from light and glare are anticipated, so no mitigation measures have been proposed.

12. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The Cedar River Trail is adjacent to the project site and follows the Cedar River. The trail is paved and open to all non-motorized uses and is popular with bicyclists. Boating, fishing, floating and other water-based recreation occurs in the Cedar River.

- a. *Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.*

A 1,000 linear foot portion of the Cedar River Trail will be closed for up to six weeks during construction in the summer. Operation of the project will not result in any recreational closures.

- b. *Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:*

In general, King County cannot eliminate the inherent risk that recreational users face when in or around the river. Recreational users still need to take appropriate precautions, pay close attention to river conditions, and make wise decisions consistent with their skills and abilities.

During project design and construction, King County will follow the County's Procedures for Considering Public Safety When Placing Large Wood in King County Rivers, which allows opportunities for the public to provide input during the design process for projects that place wood in King County rivers.

During construction, the trail closure will be advertised through a variety of means, such as signage, website alerts, and news releases. The trail may be re-opened on weekends when work pauses.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. *Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.*

There are no buildings or structures located in or immediately adjacent to the project site. Previously, a residential building was located at 16916 Renton-Maple Valley Rd (Van Ness Property, DAHP Property ID 361664/Resource ID 309425) that was constructed in 1945. The building has been demolished. No other above ground resources (i.e., buildings or structures) are located within the project site.

Historic-aged archaeological site 45KI538, Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad, is located within the project site and consists of a historic railroad property. This site contains the railroad grade along the alignment of the railroad and is now utilized as a pedestrian trail – Cedar River Trail. Site 45KI538 dates from 1874 to the present, and sections of this railroad grade have been determined not eligible and potentially eligible according to records provided by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). According to records on file with DAHP, the segment of the site is part of the abandoned grade with rails and ties removed. The Cedar River Trail is paved within this segment. No project-related ground disturbance will occur within the Cedar River Trail or the archaeological site.

- b. *Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.*

There are no landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation beyond the previously demolished historic residence (Van Ness Property,

DAHP Property ID 361664/Resource ID 309425) and recorded archaeological site 45KI538.

There are no recorded human burials or cemeteries within or near the vicinity of the project site.

There are no recorded ethnographic placenames located within or adjacent to the project site.

No previous cultural resources studies have been conducted within the project site. In 2013 King County conducted a Cultural Resources Review for the property acquisition and noted that the Cedar River has historical migrated throughout the area which would limit any archaeological resources to date after 1873. Additionally, ground disturbance within the vicinity observed modern debris to depths of 40 centimeters below ground surface.

As part of the proposed project, the project was reviewed by the King County Historic Preservation Program (HPP). Additionally, a survey for cultural resources was conducted at the site in August 2022 to identify such resources, though none were found (ESA N.D.).

- c. *Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.*

ESA, with guidance from King County, conducted a cultural resources survey of the project site. The HPP reviewed this project in August 2022 for the presence of archaeological and historical above-ground resources and for the probability of an inadvertent discovery of such resources during project construction. This screening included a review of historic registers, databases (including the King County Historic Resources Inventory database, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's "WISAARD"), historical maps and aerial photographs, and predictive GIS modeling.

HPP concluded that the project area has a Low Probability of containing archaeological resources because it was in the Cedar River channel in the historical period. The staging area has a High Probability of containing archaeological sites, but minimal ground disturbance is planned so this area has a low probability of disturbing intact archaeological sites in that location.

- d. *Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.*

Based on the results of the investigations to date described above, the HPP archaeologist recommended that monitoring will not be necessary for project-related ground disturbance (P. LeTourneau, personal communication, August 2022). An Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) will be prepared and will be provided to the contractor for implementation throughout project construction.

The IDP will detail steps to be taken if archaeological resources are observed during project activities. Steps will include but are not limited to temporary suspension of work at the location and consultation with a professional archaeologist.

14. Transportation

- a. *Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.*

The project site is currently accessed by State Route (SR) 169.

- b. *Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?*

Yes, the site is currently served by transit. There are two stops on each side of SR 169 near 201st Place SE, approximately 0.5 mile from the project site.

- c. *How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?*

None.

- d. *Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).*

No.

- e. *Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.*

No.

- f. *How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?*

None.

- g. *Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.*

No.

Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None; not applicable.

15. Public Services

- a. *Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.*

No.

- b. *Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.*

None; not applicable.

16. Utilities

- a. *Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other* _____


Buried regional fiber optic line beneath the Cedar River Trail.

- b. *Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.*

No new utilities are proposed as part of this project.

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee Alex Lincoln

Position and Agency/Organization Senior Ecologist, King County Water and Land Resources Division

Date Submitted: 11/21/2022

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