



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

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TTY Relay: 711

Determination of Non-Significance

Name of Proposal: Rainbow Bend Levee Removal and Floodplain Reconnection Project

Description of Proposal:

In partnership with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), King County WLRD is proposing to restore riverine processes and reduce flood hazards along the right bank of the Cedar River between river mile (RM) 11.2 and 11.5. The site consists of sixteen parcels (40 acres) recently purchased on the north side of the Cedar River. These purchases and subsequent structure demolitions have eliminated the flood risk to the occupants of 56 homes located in this flood prone reach of the river and have prepared the site for the restoration of riverine processes. This will be accomplished by removing approximately 1500 feet of toe rock and 900 feet of levee, grading within the floodplain to reconnect historic side channels and the addition of floodplain roughness elements (wood and plants). Channel roughening elements may also be added on the opposite (left) bank of the river to help protect the Cedar River trail, reduce left bank maintenance needs and encourage channel migration toward the right bank throughout the project site.

The proposed restoration of natural processes (e.g. channel migration, flooding, avulsion, flow interactions with large wood and sediment) is expected to improve quality of existing side channel and backwater habitat and create new off-channel and edge features throughout the site. The loss of these types of off-channel habitat features has been identified as a primary factor limiting Chinook salmon productivity in the Cedar River. This project was identified as a very high priority habitat project in the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

Location of Proposal:

The project site is located north of the intersection of State Route 169 (Renton-Maple Valley Road SE) and Cedar Grove Road east of the City of Renton in unincorporated King County. This location is otherwise described as the northwestern quarter of Section 32, Township 23 North, Range 6 East (Willamette Meridian). The site consists of sixteen parcels on the north side of the Cedar River. In 1962 a levee was constructed along both river banks. The levee located on the right bank extends from the Cedar Gove Road downstream for approximately 950 feet. The revetment located on the left bank protects the Cedar River trail and State Route 169.

Determination of Non-Significance
Rainbow Bend Levee Removal and Floodplain Restoration Project
Page 2

Responsible Official: Mark Isaacson
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DATE: 10/18/12 **SIGNATURE:** Mark Isaacson
Proponent and Lead Agency: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division
Contact Person(s): Jon Hansen, Project Manager, 206-296-1966

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).

THIS DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) is issued under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal until after **November 7, 2012**. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by that date.

For additional information, please contact:

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Or visit: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wlr/sections-programs/river-floodplain-section/capital-projects/rainbow-bend.aspx>