



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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March 18, 2020

FM: Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division

TO: File

RE: SEPA Categorical Exemption – Black River Pump Station Geotechnical Explorations

Project Name: Black River Pump Station Supplemental Geotechnical Explorations

Project Number: 1129574 WLFL8 BRPS High Use Engines

Project Location

The proposed project is located at 550 Monster Road Southwest in the City of Renton, Washington in the SW quadrant of Section 13, Township 23 north, and Range 4 east.

Project Description

The Black River Pump Station (BRPS) consists of a concrete dam that spans the Black River channel, with eight flood control pumps to convey flow from the forebay upstream (east) of the dam to the tailrace downstream (west). The pump station has not had many improvements since its construction in 1972, and extensive renovations are needed. Future proposed facility project work, that will be permitted separately, includes ground improvements to the pump house foundation and abutments, structural upgrades, mechanical systems upgrade and refurbishment, control building replacement, upgrades to the fish exclusion and passage system, and engine replacements. Geotechnical explorations expected to be completed in 2020 will inform that work.

The supplemental geotechnical explorations will involve conducting up to 24 subsurface geotechnical borings in the proximity of the existing pump house. These include up to nine over-water geotechnical explorations upstream and downstream of the existing pump house; up to eight geotechnical explorations within pump bays below the existing pump house; and up to seven land-based geotechnical explorations conducted in uplands.

The project limits are completely within King County tax parcels 3779200090 and 7229500281 and will not impact private property. No trees will be removed for the project and impacts to the Black River will be minor and temporary. The project will use best management practices

(BMPs) to minimize potential for elevated turbidity in the river and damage to riparian vegetation. Regulatory approvals and permits anticipated include federal and Washington State project authorizations according to Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act and compliance with WAC 77.55.021 for a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA). Because the supplemental geotechnical explorations will not involve large amounts of fill or disturbance to waters of the United States, it is anticipated that the BRPS improvement projects will qualify for a Nationwide Permit 6, which has been certified by Ecology. The project is also anticipated to qualify for a Shoreline permit exemption per the exemptions for site investigative work described in the draft Renton Shoreline master Plan code (RMC 4-3-050C(3)) and WAC 173-27-040(2)m.

SEPA Exemption

King County determined that this project is categorically exempt from State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under WAC 197-11-800 subsection 17 *Information Collection and Research*.

Determination Completed on March 26, 2020 by:

Division Director

Title



Signature