SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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 <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, 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 <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. 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 [HELP]

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Port of Tacoma Pierce County Terminal (PCT) Maintenance Dredging Project

2. Name of applicant:

Port of Tacoma

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

Stanley Sasser P.O. Box 1837 Tacoma, WA 98401-1837 253-383-9439

4. Date checklist prepared:

12/21/2021, revised 5/28/2022

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Port of Tacoma

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

The project will begin after permits are issued and within the authorized in-water work window.

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

There are no plans for future additions, expansion or further activities related to the PCT maintenance dredging project.

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

The following environmental information has been prepared directly related to this proposal:

- Archaeological Inadvertent Discovery Plan
- · City of Tacoma Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (SSDP) Exemption
- Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA)
- Biological Evaluation
- Sediment Characterization Report and Suitability Determination (SDM) (pending)
- 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 applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by the Project.

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

Port of Tacoma

SEPA Determination of Non-significance

City of Tacoma

Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (SSDP) Exemption

Department of Ecology

- Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)

Department of Natural Resources

 Site Use Authorization for Commencement Bay Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) site

Army Corps of Engineers

- Section 10 Permit
- Section 404 Permit
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
- Section 106 Review
- 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.)

The Port of Tacoma needs to perform maintenance dredging at the Pierce County Terminal (PCT) facility located along the Blair Waterway in order to remove shoaling areas that are preventing vessels from being fully loaded with cargo. "Light loading" vessels is causing economic impacts and safety concerns. The proposed maintenance dredging will remove shoaling caused by propwash along the berthing areas at Pierce County Terminal allowing the terminal operator to resume normal operations.

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the berthing areas at PCT to the permitted depth of -51 feet MLLW, with an incidental 2-foot over-dredge allowance. Maintenance dredging is needed to allow normal operation at the terminals to resume. The current conditions do not allow for full vessel loading (economic impact) and could lead to grounding out of vessels (safety issue). To achieve this purpose, the Port must dredge up to 28,000 CY of sediments, of which up to roughly 13,000 CY is over dredge. The proposed maintenance dredging is the minimum work needed to return the terminal to normal operations.

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.

Pierce County Terminal 4015 SR-509 N. Frontage Rd Tacoma, WA 98421 Section 02, Township 20, Range 03, NE ¼ and Section 01, Township 20, Range 03, NW ¼ 47. 254465 N lat. / -122.378103 long.

B. Environmental Elements [HELP]

1.	Earth	[help]	

a. General description of the site:	
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _	

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

The project area is submerged subtidal and is nearly flat with the exception of small mounds and scour pits caused by prop wash.

Uplands adjacent to the project area are generally flat but have steep slopes along the shoreline. The shoreline bank is armored with slopes of approximately 40% to 60%.

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 project area is submerged subtidal with silts and sands. The nearby upland areas consist of fill placed during historical dredging of the Blair Waterway.

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

Shoreline bank soil along the Blair Waterway is subject to erosion due to waves and wakes; however, the bank along the Blair Waterway is armored, which stabilizes these soils.

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.

No fill or grading is proposed. The purpose is to dredge to restore previously established water depths of -51 feet MLLW to enable safe navigation by vessels loading/offloading at the PCT berthing areas.

Terminal	Dredge Vol.	Area
PCT	28,000 CY max	176,000 sq ft

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

Erosion is unlikely to occur because the project area is subtidal and relatively flat, and the adjacent upland shorelines are armored.

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

The project area to be dredged does not contain impervious surfaces. The project does not propose changes to impervious surfaces at the site.

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

Erosions is unlikely to occur. Best Management Practices (BMPs) and conservation measure will be in place to avoid or minimize turbidity.

2. Air [help]

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.

Short-term air emission may result from the use of a tug and barge mounted crane during dredging activities.

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:

Low sulfur fuel will be used and the Port's anti-idling policy will be enforced.

3. Water [help]

- a. Surface Water: [help]
 - 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, saltwater (Blair Waterway and Commencement Bay, Puget Sound).

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.

Yes, the project requires dredging in the Blair Waterway. Dredged material determined to be suitable for open-water disposal by the DMMP, which consists of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), and Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will be placed in the Commencement Bay DMMP site. Unsuitable material will be placed in an approved upland disposal site.

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.

Up to 15,000 CY of material (+ up to approximately 13,000 CY over dredge) will be dredged from the Pierce County Terminal berth area.

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

No.

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

Yes.

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.

Dredged material will be disposed of at an approved in-water disposal site or in an upland location above OHW.

- b. Ground Water: [help]
 - 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.

	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.		
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.		
	N/A		
2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.			
No.			
	3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.		
	No.		
	Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern pacts, if any:		
N/A	A		
4.	Plants [help]		
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		

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

None.

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be on or near the site.

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

None.

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

There are no known noxious or invasive aquatic vegetation present in the proposed maintenance dredging area. Several invasive plant species are present in the adjacent upland areas, including Scot's broom, Japanese knotweed, butterfly bush, common tansy, reed canary grass, Canada thistle, and bull thistle.

5. Animals [help]

a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: marine birds mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other

The industrial nature of the area limits wildlife habitat within and around the sites. Terrestrial wildlife that may be present near the project areas is limited to species typically observed in the Tacoma urban environment, such as various songbirds, gulls, crows and ravens, as well as rats and raccoon.

Aquatic (marine) habitat located in the vicinity of the proposed maintenance dredging project is limited due to the industrial nature of the area. Fish and wildlife species that may be present in the Puget Sound may including Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Chum salmon; marine mammals; birds; crustaceans; and bivalves.

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

The proposed work is not expected to have any long-term impacts on threatened or endangered species. The following Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species may be found in the Puget Sound:

Bull trout (Salvelinus confluentus) - Threatened Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) (Puget Sound) - Threatened Southern resident killer whale (Orcinus orca) (Southern Resident DPS) – Endangered Steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) (Puget Sound DPS) - Threatened

The following ESA-listed species can be found in Puget Sound, but are not known to be on or near the project site:

Bocaccio rockfish (*Sebastes paucispinis*) – Endangered Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) - Threatened Yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) – Threatened Humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) - Endangered

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

Yes. The site is part of the Pacific flyway for migrating birds. The Puget Sound is utilized by adult and juvenile salmonid for migration.

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

All work will occur during the authorized WDFW and US Army Corps of Engineer work window.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. **Not Applicable**

6. Energy and Natural Resources [help]

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.

None. The completed project will not change the kind of energy use.

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:

Equipment will not be permitted to idle.

7. Environmental Health [help]

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.

Sediments will be screened per DMMP guidance and handled appropriately per the contractor's Health and Safety Plan.

Equipment could have the potential to spill fuel, oil, or other hazardous material into the water. The selected contractor will be responsible to have a Spill Plan and spill containment kits on hand.

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

Sediment characterization completed in 2020 suggest minor exceedances of DMMP dioxin/furan criteria for open-water disposal; therefore, bioaccumulation testing is proposed under DMMP guidance to determine whether sediments are suitable for open-water disposal.

Sediments within the Blair Waterway have been classified by the Washington Department of Ecology as Waters of Concern (Category 2) for hexachlorobenzene and sediment bioassays. A small section of the waterway has also been classified as impaired waters that do not require a TMDL (Category 4b) for sediment bioassays.

Soil, groundwater, and near shore sediment in the uplands around the Blair Waterway are potentially contaminated with residual hazardous materials including total petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

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.

The surrounding areas have residual contamination from past site uses, which affects long-term redevelopment and use of the sites; however, there is no reason to believe this might affect maintenance dredging development and design.

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.

Fuels and lubricants will be needed for equipment during dredging.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

In the event of exposure to hazardous chemicals or conditions, HAZMAT and/or medical services may be required.

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

The dredge contractor will be required to have a Spill Response Plan and spill kits and follow a site-specific Health and Safety Plan.

b. Noise

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

The area is an active industrial port with a variety of equipment, traffic, and operations which produce background noises. These noises are not expected to affect 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.

Short-term: Dredging equipment and tug noise.

Long-term: No change.

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

None. The project is not expected to produce noise levels above the existing industrial area noises.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [help]

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 site is a berthing area for an international container terminal. The adjacent properties are also designated as heavy industrial and port/maritime facilities. The proposed project will maintain the continued use of the current surrounding land uses.

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.

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:

N/A

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Structures at the sites include items typically associated with a marine terminal such as cranes, wharves, piers, maintenance shops, warehouses, vehicles and other storage facilities. The site also includes above and below ground utilities and private roads.

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

No.

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

S-13 Marine Waters of the State and S-10 Port Industrial surrounded by PMI Port Maritime and Industrial District.

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

S-13 Marine Waters of the State and S-10 Port Industrial surrounded by PMI Port Maritime and Industrial District.

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

High Intensity.

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

Yes, according to Tacoma Municipal Code 13.11.120, critical areas include critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCAs), flood hazard areas, geologically hazardous areas, stream corridors, and wetlands. FWHCA's include migratory corridors.

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

No change.

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

No change.

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

N/A.

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

The proposed project will enhance current and future surrounding land uses.

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

N/A.

9. Housing [help]

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:

N/A.

10. Aesthetics [help]

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

The project does not propose any new structures.

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

None.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

N/A.

11. Light and Glare [help]

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

The project will require short term lighting when dredging at night; however, lighting is not expected to exceed ambient levels associated with this active marine terminal. No long-term lighting will be required. No glare will be produced during or after the completion of the project.

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

No.

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:

Lighting is not expected to exceed ambient levels associated with this active marine terminal.

12. Recreation [help]

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

The project occurs in an active industrial waterway. There are no informal recreational opportunities in the Blair Waterway.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

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

None.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [help]

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.

The proposed project will not affect buildings, structures, or sites located near the project sites. The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) WISAARD online database identified no upland properties on or adjacent to the project site that are eligible for listing in the state register.

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.

Unknown; however, the maintenance dredging area consists of waterway previously excavated to deep subtidal elevations (-51 feet MLLW) that were never exposed when humans were present.

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.

The DAHP WISAARD online database was used to assess the presence of potential cultural and historic resources on or near the project site.

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.

The project is unlikely to affect cultural or historic resources. The area to be disturbed is limited to the footprint of the existing berthing area waterward of the pier at PCT in water depths of -51 feet MLLW. The project will follow state recommendations for Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains on Non-Federal and Non-Tribal Land in the State of Washington (RCWs 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055).

14. Transportation [help]

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 will access the site overwater and does not propose accessing the site using the existing street system. The closest public streets and highways that serve the site are WA-509 and I-5, which are connected to the site by restricted-access roads.

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?

Pierce Transit Route 500 has several stops on Pacific Hwy E to the southeast of the Blair Waterway, which is as close as 0.5 miles from the Pierce County Terminal.

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.

The project will occur in the immediate vicinity of the Pierce County Terminal (PCT).

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?

Quantity of vehicular trips is not expected to be affected by the proposed project.

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.

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

N/A.

15. Public Services [help]

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. The proposed project is not expected to affect public services.

16. Utilities [help]

a.	Circle util	ities currently	y available a	at the site:				
<	electricity,	natural gas,	water, refus	se service,	telephone,	sanitary s	sewep septic	system
	other							

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.

None.

C. Signature [HELP]

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: Stanley & Sasser

Name of signee Stanley H. Sasser

Position and Agency/Organization Port of Tacoma

Date Submitted: 07/26/2022