

SEPA¹ 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 **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.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

A. Background [Find help answering background questions](#)²

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:** Port of Tacoma Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement 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:** 06/25/2024
5. **Agency requesting checklist:** Port of Tacoma
6. **Proposed timing of 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 this 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)
- Puget Sound Nearshore Habitat Conservation Calculator
- 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 known 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

Washington Department of Ecology

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)

Washington Department of Natural Resources

- Site Use Authorization for Commencement Bay Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) site (assuming chemical suitability)

United States 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 (Port) proposes to conduct maintenance dredging in the Blair Waterway, Tacoma, Washington across from the Washington United Terminal (WUT), in front of marine industrial property owned by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians (Tribe) and in an area informally referred to as the Knuckle. This area has previously been dredged to a depth of at least-47 feet (ft) mean lower low water (MLLW). The authorized depth for the Blair Waterway is -51' MLLW.

Sediments have accumulated at critical locations from the Knuckle northwest to an area approximately even with Lincoln Avenue, posing a navigation hazard to vessels transiting that reach of the waterway. This issue requires the terminal operator of PCT (Evergreen) to "light-load" vessels or wait for WUT to boom up their container cranes. As a result, Evergreen has lost one of their two lines of service which is exacerbating nationwide supply chain issues. This critical impairment to operations is causing safety hazards, risk of vessel damage, and economic losses for the Port and its tenants; therefore, maintenance dredging to restore waterway and terminal operations to full capacity is required.

Maintenance dredging includes the Knuckle toe and deeper areas of the slope, as well as a portion of the bottom of the waterway. The volume of sediment to be dredged is will not exceed 12,000 cubic yards (cy).

Due to the urgent need to restore safe navigation, the sediments posing navigational hazards will be sampled and analyzed as soon as possible to evaluate whether they meet Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) suitability criteria.

The Port proposes a 2-foot over dredge depth; however, if testing indicates that the post-dredge sediment surface (referred to as the Z layer) exceeds anti-degradation criteria, the Port may require up to a 3-foot over dredge. The additional over dredge is proposed to either reach a post-dredge surface that meets anti-degradation criteria or to provide sufficient depth to place up to a 1-foot layer of clean sand (up to 3,500 cy) to isolate the Z layer from direct exposure to the water, if required by the DMMP.

The Port proposes to dispose of sediments at the Commencement Bay open water disposal site if the DMMP agencies determine that sediment characterization results meet open-water disposal criteria; otherwise, they will be disposed of at an upland location licensed/permitted to receive the sediments, if sediment quality or schedule dictates.

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.

Port of Tacoma - Washington United Terminals (WUT)
1815 Port of Tacoma Road Tacoma, WA 98421
Section 35, Township 21, Range 03, NE ¼
47. 26372° N / 122.38866° E

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth: [Find help answering earth questions](#)³

a. General description of the site: Marine terminal

Circle or highlight 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. A portion of the project area includes the side slope of the channel.

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 before and 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 soils in the Blair Waterway are subject to erosion due to waves and wakes; however, the bank in 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.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

The purpose is to dredge an area of approximately 95,300 square feet to restore the depth of -47 ft MLLW, including authorization for up to a 3-foot over dredge (-50 ft MLLW). This is the minimum to enable safe navigation by vessels loading/offloading at the adjacent berthing areas. If clean sand placement is necessary, it will be sourced from a licensed/permited quarry, pit, or similar vendor.

Location	Depth (ft MLLW)	Proposed Dredging Volumes (cy)			Max Total Vol.	
		Proposed Depth (cy)	Over Depth			
			1-ft (-48 MLLW)	2-ft (-49 MLLW)	3-ft (-50 MLLW)	
Middle Blair Waterway	-47	2,500	3,100	3,200	3,200	12,000

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

No. Erosion is unlikely to occur due to project activities, because all dredging will occur in deep subtidal areas.

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.

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

2. Air [Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

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.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

3. Water [Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

a. Surface: [Find help answering surface water questions](#)⁶

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 disposed at 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.

The Port proposes to dredge a total volume estimated at up to 12,000 cy to restore the depth of -47 ft MLLW, including authorization for up to a 3-foot over dredge (-50 ft MLLW).

The Port proposes a 2-foot over dredge depth; however, if testing indicates that the post-dredge sediment surface (referred to as the Z layer) exceeds anti-degradation criteria, the Port may require up to a 3-foot over dredge. The additional over dredge is proposed to either reach a post-dredge surface that meets anti-degradation criteria or to provide sufficient depth to place up to a 1-foot layer of clean sand (up to 3,500 cy) to isolate the Z layer from direct exposure to the water, if required by the DMMP.

4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a 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 at the Commencement Bay DMMP site if deemed suitable for open-water disposal by the DMMP; unsuitable material will be disposed at an approved upland location above OHW permitted/licensed to receive the materials.

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

b. **Ground:** [Find help answering ground water questions](#)⁷

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 a 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 (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.**

Not applicable.

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.

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

Not applicable.

4. **Plants**

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

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**

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

- 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

[Find help answering animal questions⁸](#)

a. List any birds and other animals that 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:**
- **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 raccoons.

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 include Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Chum salmon; Bull and Sea-run Cutthroat trout; marine mammals; birds; crustaceans; and bivalves.

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

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

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
- Streaked Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*) – Threatened (Pierce County)
- Yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) – Threatened

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

Yes. The site is part of the Pacific flyway for migrating birds. Puget Sound is utilized by adult and juvenile salmonids 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 Engineers work window.

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

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions⁹](#)

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 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.

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

7. Environmental health: [Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because 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 has the potential to spill fuel, oil, or other hazardous material into the water. The selected contractor will be responsible for having a Spill Plan and spill containment kits on hand.

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

Sediments within the Blair Waterway, listed as Commencement Bay (Inner), have been classified by the Washington Department of Ecology as Waters of Concern (Category 2) for sediment bioassays. Outside the project area, a small portion of Commencement Bay (Inner) has been listed as a 303d, impaired water (Category 5) for the following parameters: benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, dieldrin, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The Port proposes a 2-foot over dredge depth; however, if testing indicates that the post-dredge sediment surface (referred to as the Z layer) exceeds anti-degradation criteria, the Port may require up to a 3-foot over dredge. The additional over dredge is proposed to either reach a post-dredge surface that meets anti-degradation criteria or to provide sufficient depth to place up to a 1-foot layer of clean sand (approximately 3,500 cy) to isolate the Z layer from direct exposure to the water, if required by the DMMP.

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 upland areas may have residual contamination from past industrial site uses. Any contaminated sediment within the project area will be identified and removed, or covered with a clean sand cap layer. The net result will be an equal or improved sediment surface.

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.

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

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

The dredge contractor will be required to have a Spill Response Plan, 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 that 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 will typically be generated during daylight hours.

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 background level industrial area noises.

8. Land and shoreline use [Find help answering land and shoreline use questions¹¹](#)

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 property is currently a navigational waterway, used for the transportation of vessels carrying goods for import, export, and domestic uses. Adjacent properties are primarily industrial or commercial sites.

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 because 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?

Not applicable. There are no surrounding working farm or forest land operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures on the slopes or beds of the waterway within the limits of dredging. Adjacent and nearby structures within the same waterway include marginal wharves, which include fendering systems to aid in moorage and protect the wharves, container cranes for the loading and unloading of containerized goods, pilings that support the wharves, electric service to power the cranes and service moored vessels,

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

and water utilities to service the wharves, moored vessels, and to provide fire suppression.

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.

No critical areas have been mapped within or adjacent to the site. In the greater vicinity, critical areas include critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCAs), flood hazard areas, geologically hazardous areas, stream corridors, and wetlands. FWHCAs 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.

Not applicable.

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

The proposed project is required to maintain the existing and projected land uses associated with marine operations.

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

Not applicable.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions¹²](#)

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

None.

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

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 [Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

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.

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

Not applicable.

11. Light and glare [Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

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

The project is expected to occur mainly during daylight hours and lighting is not expected to exceed ambient levels associated with this active industrial waterway. 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:

None - lighting is not expected to exceed ambient levels associated with this active industrial waterway.

12. Recreation [Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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.

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

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 [Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

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.

All project activities will occur in deep subtidal areas, most of which have been maintained historically at least -47 feet MLLW or deeper. 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.

The Port and Puyallup Tribe of Indians (PTOI) staff will collectively decide this project's risk of encountering cultural resources and how to mitigate that risk. Measures may include an independent archeological assessment and onsite monitoring during construction if warranted.

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 (-47 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 project will follow state recommendations for Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains on Non-Federal

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

and Non-Tribal Land in the State of Washington (RCWs 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055).

14. Transportation Find help with answering transportation questions¹⁶

- 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 via the water 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 approximately 2 miles from the project site.

- c. 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.

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

Yes, the project will occur in the immediate vicinity of the WUT facility, which is operated as a marine shipping terminal.

- e. 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. The quantity of vehicular trips is not expected to be affected by the proposed project.

- f. 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.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

Not applicable.

15. Public services

Find help answering public service questions¹⁷

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-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. The proposed project is not expected to affect public services.

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:** None

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.

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

C.Signature

[Find help about who should sign](#)¹⁹

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.



Trevor Thomsley (Jul 29, 2024 12:48 PDT)

Type name of signee:

Position and agency/organization: Port of Tacoma

Date submitted: Jul 29, 2024

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>