Port of Vancouver USA

SUBMIT TO:
Port of Vancouver
3103 NW Lower River Rd.
Vancouver, WA 98660

SEPA[1] Environmental Checklist WAC 197-11-960

Property Owner: Port of Vancouver, USA (Print or Type Name) Telephone: 360-693-3611

Mailing Address: 3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660 (No., City, State, ZIP)

Applicant: Matt Graves, Port of Vancouver, USA (Print or Type Name) Telephone: 360-693-3611

Mailing Address: 3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660 (No., City, State, ZIP)

Relationship to Owner: Same

Tax Assessor Serial Number(s): Terminals 3 and 4, 59117884, 986028561 and 59117884. See Section A.12 for this information

Legal description: Lot(s) _____ Block(s) _____ Plat name _____
(If a Metes and Bounds description, check here ☐, and attach narrative to this application.)

Site Address (if any): _____

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.

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

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

Find help answering background questions[2]

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

   Port of Vancouver Terminal 4 Stormwater Pond Polishing and Terminal 2/3 Pretreatment System Project.

2. **Name of applicant:**

   Port of Vancouver USA

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

   3103 NW Lower River Road
   Vancouver, Washington 98660
   (360) 693-3611
   Contact Person: Matt Graves

4. **Date checklist prepared:**

   March 17, 2025

5. **Agency requesting checklist:**

   Port of Vancouver USA

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

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

Design and permitting is anticipated to be completed by the fall/winter of 2025. Construction is currently planned to begin in the spring of 2026, depending on available funding. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 9 to 12 months.

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 currently no plans for future additions, expansion or further activity related to this proposal.

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

The project will complete a variety of environmental assessments to facilitate both project design and permitting on local, state, and federal levels. This information will include:

- Geotechnical Engineering Report, Kennedy Jenks, September 2024
- Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Borings for the Port of Vancouver's Improving Water Quality Through Stormwater Systems at Port Terminals, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington, Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (AINW), September 25, 2024
- Cultural Resource Report (Inadvertent Discovery Plan - Future)

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.

There are no known applications pending for government approval for other proposals directly affecting the property covered by the proposal.

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

The following approvals or permits will be required prior to the start of construction.

Federal

- BPA right of way approval for construction of T4 Pond Polishing System

State

- Adoption of Resolution No. 1-2025 amending the Port of Vancouver's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements and Industrial Development- 02/25/2025.

Local

- Archaeological Predetermination Review (City of Vancouver, Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) Chapter 20.710)
- Site Plan Review (City of Vancouver, VMC Chapter 20.270)
- Building (City of Vancouver, VMC Title 17)
- Electrical (City of Vancouver, VMC Title 17)
- Mechanical (City of Vancouver, VMC Title 17)

- Plumbing (City of Vancouver, VMC Title 17)
- Grading Permit (City of Vancouver, VMC Title 14)

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 following project description is based on preliminary plans. As part of continued development of the project design, certain elements may be refined. Project refinements may be subject to further review under SEPA if they extend beyond the project footprint or result in environmental effects that are substantially different from or exceed those identified or addressed in this checklist.

The proposed project includes an underground stormwater runoff pretreatment system for drainage from portions of Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 (T2/T3 Pretreatment System) and an aboveground polishing system for the Terminal 4 Pond (T4 Pond Polishing System). The Terminal 4 Stormwater Retention Pond (Terminal 4 Pond or T4 Pond) collects and treats stormwater runoff from Terminal 4 prior to discharging to the Columbia River under an Industrial Stormwater General Permit. This area is also covered under the port's Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit. The T2/T3 Pretreatment System will treat runoff from approximately 35 acres of impervious surface from Terminals 2 and 3 before discharging to the Terminal 4 Pond. The T4 Pond Polishing System will treat runoff pumped from the downstream section of the Terminal 4 Pond utilizing a new lift station. Runoff will be treated for stormwater contaminants to further enhance stormwater quality discharging to the Columbia River.

The below ground T2/T3 Pretreatment System will have a surface area of approximately 2,500 square-feet and will extend approximately 15 feet below ground surface. The aboveground T4 Pond Polishing System will be installed on a concrete pad with a surface area of approximately 3,200 square-feet. In Addition, approximately 34 cubic yards of fill will be brought onsite to construct a pedestrian access walkway to the T4 pond from the new polishing system. The existing T4 Pond has a surface area of approximately 6 acres. See attached site plan.

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 plan

The proposed project is in Vancouver, WA within the contiguous Port of Vancouver parcels identified in Appendix A and the project drawings included in Appendix B (Account Nos. 59117884, 986028561 and 59117884). The project is located within Section 20 of Township 2N, Range 1E of the Willamette Meridian. The project is located adjacent to NW Harborside Drive on Terminal 3, south of Building 3120 (Terminal 2/3 Pretreatment System) and north of Harborside Drive, adjacent to Building 3400 (Terminal 4 Pond Polishing System).

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

Find help answering earth questions[3]

a. General description of the site:

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, steep slopes, hilly, mountainous, other:

The areas surrounding and including the project site are generally flat.

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

The project site is generally flat, with some work along the western slope of the existing Terminal 4 Pond that has an approximately 60-degree angled slope.

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 work area site surfacing consists of asphalt pavement and compacted gravel. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil maps indicate underlying soils to consist of silt loam and fine sand within the project area. There is no agricultural land or prime agricultural land of long-term commercial significance.

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

The entire project area and vicinity is mapped as having moderate to high liquefaction potential. Areas with liquefaction potential are considered seismic hazard areas and subject to regulation under VMC 20.740.130 Geologic Hazard Areas.

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

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.

The project will involve clearing and grubbing, excavation, filling, and paving activities. Total disturbed acreage is approximately 0.3 acres. Each of these activities is summarized below.

Clearing and grubbing: Clearing and grubbing activities will take place on approximately 0.16 acres of land within the project area. Existing vegetation and topsoil within the project alignment will be cleared and hauled off site for disposal. Disposal will occur within a port approved upland location. A disposal site has not yet been identified.

Excavation: There will be a small amount of excavation required to achieve appropriate grades.

Fill: Approximately 34 cubic yards of fill will be brought onsite to construct a pedestrian access walkway to the T4 pond. Engineered fill will include crushed rock, quarry spalls and aggregate base materials from a clean fill source and will comply with the ports fill acceptance criteria.

Paving: Paving will be completed after all grades have been established. The total surface area of replacement paving is currently estimated at approximately 4,500 square feet. No new pavement will occur as part of this project.

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

Yes, there is a potential for erosion to occur during construction. Construction would involve ground-disturbing activities, including clearing and grubbing, excavating, filling and grading. These activities would affect approximately 0.3 acres. Stormwater runoff from the work area could discharge sediment to adjacent surfaces and the existing T4 Pond. The nearest waterbody, the Columbia River, is located approximately 0.13 miles from the project area, with no direct surface connection. The T4 Pond has a knife gate that will be left in the closed position during construction to avoid any discharges from the pond to the Columbia River during construction. Work will also be completed during the summer months to minimize runoff.

Potential impacts from increased erosion will be minimized through compliance with best management practices (BMPs) required as part of the Construction Stormwater General Permit and City of Vancouver (City) grading permit issued consistent with VMC Chapters 14.24 and 14.25.

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

Approximately 84% of the project area will be impervious pavement or gravel.

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

A Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) Plan will be developed to limit erosion and control sediment during construction of the project. The TESC Plan will be submitted to the City for review and approval as part of the City development review process. The TESC Plan will specify BMPs that will be employed during construction to manage potential soil erosion consistent with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan prepared for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System(NPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit and Washington

Administrative Code (WAC) (WAC 173-226), as well as to comply with the erosion prevention and sediment control plan requirements of VMC 14.24.070.

These BMPs may include marked clearing limits, silt fencing, stabilization of exposed soils, protection of existing stormwater inlets, and periodic watering during dry weather to control dust.

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.

The only emissions that will be generated by the project will be during construction and maintenance. Most of the construction equipment and trucks for hauling materials run on diesel fuels. Operation of this equipment will create short-term increases in diesel particulates. Other small equipment such as generators or vegetation management tools operate on gasoline. There will be a short-term increase in emissions from the operation of these tools. Equipment used for maintenance activities will also generate emissions. This equipment primarily includes vehicles for transporting staff and equipment for managing vegetation and will be similar to equipment used at adjacent properties. The quantity of emissions for construction and maintenance activities has not been calculated but is not expected to exceed any applicable Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) emissions standards.

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

There are no known off-site emissions or odors that will affect the proposed project.

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

Emissions during construction will be limited by implementing BMPs for dust suppression (e.g., applying water, covering stockpiles) and requiring that all construction vehicles and equipment employ legally required emission controls. To the extent possible, construction and staging areas will be designed to reduce equipment wait times and engine idling. These measures will reduce fuel consumption and emissions. All port owned diesel equipment runs on renewable diesel (R99) and the port fleet is in the process of electrification consistent with the port's Climate Action Plan.

[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.**

   Project work will be conducted approximately 0.13 miles from the Columbia River which exists adjacent to Terminals 3 and 4. Work will be performed in and adjacent to the port's Terminal 4 Pond, which is used to collect and treat stormwater runoff from Terminal 4 prior to discharging to the Columbia River under an Industrial Stormwater General Permit.

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.**

   No work for this project will require any work over, in or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the Columbia River.

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.**

   No fill or dredge material will be placed or removed from waters or wetlands as part of this project.

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

   The project will not involve any surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

   No.

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.**

   The project will not involve any discharges of waste material to surface waters.

b. Ground Water:

Find help answering ground water questions[7]

[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
[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

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, the project will not require groundwater withdrawals.

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.**

   The project will not generate waste material or include any systems to handle waste material.

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.**

   The project will create no new impervious surface. All existing surfaces for this project are already impervious. Stormwater from this surface will be collected and conveyed to the existing Terminal 4 Pond. The T4 Pond's outlet structure will remain closed during construction and work will be conducted during the summer months to limit runoff entering the pond during construction. Runoff that does collect in the pond during construction will be treated by the polishing system being installed as part of this project prior to discharge from the pond to the Columbia River. In the event the polishing system is not up and running in time, the port's existing smaller polishing system will be used to treat stormwater from the pond until the new polishing system is online.

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

   There are no vectors for waste material entering ground or surface waters as a result of the project.

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

   The overall pattern of stormwater flows will not change as a result of this project. This project serves to add additional pretreatment and polishing of stormwater to existing infrastructure that does not alter or affect the drainage patterns currently in place.

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

Standard erosion control BMPs will be employed to reduce or eliminate any impacts to surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage patterns. All applicable regulations will be followed in accordance with the NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit.

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**

☐ **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?

Clearing and grubbing activities will take place on approximately 0.16 acres of land within the project area. All clearing and grubbing activities will take place within the footprint of the Terminal 4 Pond facility, an existing stormwater treatment feature. Vegetation that will be removed within the clearing and grubbing zones includes common grasses, invasive shrubs such as Himalayan blackberry, and a variety of shrubs planted along the bank of the existing stormwater pond.

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

Prior SEPA reviews at the port have noted the presence of Western ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes porrifolia*), a plant species listed as state sensitive, at Parcel 3; however, the population is located outside the project area and would not be affected by the project. No instances of this plant have been observed on or adjacent to the project site.

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

Surfaces within the project area not covered with gravel or asphalt will be mulched or seeded in accordance with Washing State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) standard specification 8-02.3.

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

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and reed canarygrass *(Phalaris arundinacea*).

5. Animals

Find help answering animal questions[8]

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 following wildlife is known to occur on or adjacent to the Port of Vancouver and is likely to utilize the project area or immediate vicinity:

- Birds: hawk (*Buteo* spp. and *Accipiter* spp.), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), songbirds (suborder Passeri), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*), and various waterfowl species.
- Mammals: deer (*Odocoileus* spp.), opossum *(Didelphis virginianus),* raccoon *(Procyon lotor),* coyote (*Canis latrans*), and various common rodents.
- Fish: The Columbia River and Vancouver Lake are known to support numerous species of fish, including salmon and trout. Both the river and the lake are over 1,000 feet from the project site. **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (**WDFW) Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) on the Web identifies the following fish species associated with occurrence or migratory patterns within the lower Columbia River: Fall Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Pink salmon *(Oncorhynchus gorbuscha),* Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch),* Winter Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss)*, Fall chum (*Oncorhynchus keta)*, Sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka)*, White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus)*, Summer Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)*, Green Sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris)*, Summer Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss)*, Resident coastal cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki)*, Spring Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)*, and Dolly varden/Bull trout (*Salvelinus malma/S. confluentus)*. WDFW also lists fish species in Vancouver Lake that are available for fishing, including American shad (*Alosa sapidissima)*, Black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus)*, bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), Brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), Chiselmouth (*Acrocheilus alutaceus*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch)*, Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), Northern pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis)*, Peamouth (*Mylocheilus caurinus)*, Pumpkinseed Sunfish

[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

(*Lepomis gibbosus)*, Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss)*, Warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus)*, White crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*), and Yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*).

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

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies the following listed species as potentially occurring in the project vicinity: Columbian white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*), streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). There is no critical habitat for these species located in the project area or in the vicinity of the project area.

Columbian white-tailed deer were relocated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge north of Parcel 3 in 2014 and 2015. The natural areas North of the project area could provide habitat for this deer species. However, Columbian white-tailed deer have not been observed in the project area.

The northwestern pond turtle, formerly known as the western pond turtle, is proposed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and is considered endangered by the state of Washington. Although northwestern pond turtles have not been documented as occurring in the vicinity of the port, they have been recorded in Clark County and have the potential to occur at the port, particularly in emergent wetland habitats near Vancouver Lake. The existing wetlands (Parcel 1A Wetland) north of the project site may also provide suitable habitat. Given the lack of any sightings of turtles near the project area and no impacts proposed to nearby wetlands, the project is not anticipated to adversely impact this species.

The yellow-billed cuckoo was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act and is considered endangered by the state of Washington. Yellow-billed cuckoos require relatively large (>50 acres) contiguous patches of multilayered riparian habitat for nesting. Forested sites less than 37 acres are considered unsuitable habitat. Trees within the project area and contiguous areas are patchily distributed with the largest patches less than 10 acres in size. Suitable habitat may be present north of NW Lower River Road, where larger blocks of trees are present. Given the patchy distribution of trees within the project area and contiguous areas, as well as the lack of any recent sightings in Clark County, the project is not expected to have any effect on yellow-billed cuckoo.

Streaked horned larks (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*) that use habitats on the Columbia River are known to utilize sandy islands and dredge placement sites in and adjacent to the river for nesting, foraging, and in some cases wintering. The nearest designated habitat is downstream of the port, near Kalama, Washington. Streaked horned larks have been previously documented at the port's Parcel 3 dredge placement site and surrounding area; however, the port now maintains the site in a manner not suitable for lark habitat and annual surveys conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have not detected any streaked horned lark at the site since the summer of 2016. Streaked horned larks prefer expansive areas of flat, open ground, particularly sites with minimal vegetation for nesting, and prefer sites with unobstructed views of the river.

The area containing the farm structures does not have the characteristics of suitable lark habitat, and larks are not expected to be present or impacted by the project activities.

There is no critical habitat designated within the project area or immediate surrounding areas for listed species mentioned above.

Sandhill cranes are state listed as endangered but are not federally listed under the ESA. Sandhill cranes are known to occur in the vicinity of the port in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has mapped migratory occurrence locations of sandhill cranes on agricultural land west of the site at the port's Parcel 3 and adjacent land on the west side of the Flushing Channel now owned by Columbia Land Trust. Fall migration of cranes in the Vancouver Lowlands typically occurs in late September and early to mid-October. Spring migration through the Lowlands generally occurs from mid-March to mid-April. The Lowlands are used as stopover habitat during migration and for foraging by over-wintering birds. Cranes are known to rest and feed on Parcel 3 but more commonly use the Columbia Land Trust property west of Parcel 3. The Columbia Land Trust property is a conservation easement held by Columbia River Alliance for Nurturing the Environment for the purpose of protecting and managing the property to provide wintering food for migrating and staging flocks of sandhill cranes, as well as geese, ducks, raptors, and mammalian species. A berm has been constructed on Parcel 3 to provide a buffer for sandhill crane habitat. Because construction will not occur in areas of suitable habitat for overwintering cranes and away from where cranes are typically observed, the project is not expected to adversely affect the sandhill crane.

Protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the bald eagle's nesting season generally occurs from January to August. The US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines recommend that potentially disturbing activities occur outside a 660-foot protective buffer around an active nest during this period. The locations of bald eagle nests vary annually. Large trees are limited near the project area, so it is not anticipated that any nesting would occur within 660 feet of the project. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to adversely affect the bald eagle.

Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) are not listed by the state or federal government but like bald eagles are protected by the MBTA. Ospreys are common in the area, nesting in riparian areas along the Columbia River and Vancouver Lake and foraging in waterbodies near the project area. There are known osprey nests adjacent to the project area in the high tower power line structures but due to their location and existing industrial activities that have occurred around these nests, no adverse effects to ospreys are anticipated.

The operation of the project site is not expected to have adverse effects on wildlife. There will be no new sources of glare or nighttime light. Noise produced by use of the project site will be minimal.

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

The general port area is within the Pacific Flyway, a broad migratory corridor that extends from Alaska to Central America and is used by waterfowl, eagles, hawks, falcons, songbirds, sandhill cranes, and shorebirds (see WDFW's Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species Volume IV: Birds [https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/00026/wdfw00026.pdf]).

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

The port will inspect the project area for wildlife prior to conducting any project activities to avoid impacts to wildlife.

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

American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) and nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) are both invasive species found in existing wetlands (Parcel 1A Wetland) north of the project site and in wetlands throughout western Washington.

6. Energy and natural resources

Find help answering energy and natural resource questions[9]

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 approximately 90 kWh of electric power connection to run pumps associated with the Terminal 4 Polishing System. The Terminal 2/3 Pretreatment System will not require any energy for operation.

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

The project would not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

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.

The project has been designed to limit import and export of material thereby reducing energy and emissions from equipment necessary to complete the work. The project will use electric pumps versus fossil fuel powered pumps.

7. Environmental health

Health Find help with answering environmental health questions[10]

[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

[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

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.

Upon completion, operations at the project site will not present an environmental health hazard beyond what is currently in place. Additional details are provided in the responses below.

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

   There is no known contamination at this site from present or past uses. The Department of Ecology "What is in my neighborhood" website was reviewed to confirm no there is no known potential contamination in the project areas related to previous cleanup sites.

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.**

   All utilities will be located prior to the initiation of earthwork on the site to limit the potential of damage to existing underground utilities. The National Pipeline Mapping System was reviewed online and there are no known underground hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipelines located within the project area or the vicinity.

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.**

   Construction of the project will involve diesel- and gasoline-powered machinery. A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan will be prepared and implemented during construction to contain and manage any accidental gas or diesel spills.

   Upon construction, it is not anticipated that the project would produce or involve the use or storage of any toxic or hazardous chemicals.

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

   It is not anticipated that construction or operation would require special emergency services.

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

   Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards include development and adherence to an SPCC Plan and adherence to the NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit.

b. Noise

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

   The project area is affected by noise from car, truck, and tractor-trailer traffic on Harborside Drive and rail operations at the port. It is not expected that noise from any of these neighboring uses would affect the proposed project as the use is not sensitive to noise.

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)?**

   Noise generated by the proposed project would be limited to construction. Construction will be completed consistent with applicable state and local regulations (WAC 173-60, VMC 20.935.030). Construction will only occur during normal working hours. The project does not include any loud activities such as blasting or driving piles.

   Noise from maintenance operations would be primarily associated with vehicles used to transport staff and equipment used to operate the project and maintain vegetation around the project. Overall, the project is not expected to result in any increased noise levels on a long-term basis.

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

   No measures to reduce or control noise are proposed given that any increase in noise from the project will be temporary and insignificant.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

Find help answering land and shoreline use questions[11]

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 area is currently used for laydown space for cargo, primarily steel pipe on the terminal in the vicinity of the Terminal 2/3 pretreatment project and a storage area for sand and gravel used by maintenance crews on small projects in the Terminal 4 polishing system project site area.

   Once completed, the proposed project is not anticipated to affect land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

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 portion of the project area is used as working farmlands or working 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?**

      The project will have no effect on surrounding farms, forestlands, or agricultural uses, nor will it be affected by them.

[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

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures within the project area. The project will occur adjacent to existing buildings 3400, 3405. The project will construct an approximately 10-foot-high roofed cover to provide weather protection for treatment system electrical and instrumentation panels

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

No structures will be demolished.

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

The project site is zoned Heavy Industrial (IH).

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

Industrial.

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

There are no areas within the project area covered under the shoreline master program (SMP).

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

The entire project area and vicinity is mapped as having moderate to high liquefaction potential. Areas with liquefaction potential are considered seismic hazard areas and subject to regulation under VMC 20.740.130 Geologic Hazard Areas. The entire City, because of its location above the Troutdale Aquifer, is designated as a critical aquifer recharge area (CARA) as defined in VMC 14.26.115. However, the project area is not within 1,900 feet of a municipal water well supply and is therefore not subject to the special protection area provisions of VMC 14.26 Water Resources Protection.

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

No people will reside in the completed project. Workers will access the site for maintenance and operation of stormwater treatment systems on a temporary basis but not for permanent work.

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

The project will not displace any people.

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

No measures are proposed as there will be no displacement impacts.

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

The project is not anticipated to have any impact on land uses or plans within the project vicinity; therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

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

There are no anticipated impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance; therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

9. Housing

Find help answering housing questions[12]

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

No housing units will result from the project.

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

No housing units will be eliminated by the project.

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

None proposed, as the project will not have any impacts to housing.

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 tallest structures installed as part of this project will be water treatment media vessels that will stand approximately 12 feet above existing grade. No buildings are being constructed as part of this project though an approximately 10-foot-high roofed cover will be erected to provide weather protection for treatment system electrical and instrumentation panels.

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

The project will have no impact on views.

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

The project will not have aesthetic impacts to reduce or control because the area is zoned Industrial and used for industrial purposes. Where appropriate, portions of the project area may be revegetated using seed mixes known to promote pollinator habitats and increase the aesthetics at the site.

[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
[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

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 will not generate light or glare.

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

The project will not generate light or glare.

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

No existing off-site sources of light or glare will affect the proposal.

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

No mitigation measures are proposed as no light and glare will be generated by the project.

12. Recreation

Find help answering recreation questions

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

- Boating, bird watching, hiking, swimming, and other passive recreation opportunities at the Vancouver Lake Regional Park
- Bicycling, walking, and jogging on NW Lower River Road (SR 501) and completed sections of the Renaissance Recreational Trail.
- Boating, fishing, and other water recreation activities on the Columbia River
- Picnic opportunities and beach activities at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park
- Wildlife observation and hiking at the Shillapoo Wildlife Area

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

The completed project will not displace any existing recreational uses.

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

The project will have no negative impacts on recreation.

[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

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.

There are no 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.

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.

The boundaries of the port lay within the Vancouver Lake Archaeological District. The archaeological predictive model for Clark County identifies the Vancouver Lake Lowlands and the Columbia River Shoreline, including the port property, as high-probability areas for containing cultural resources due to the high density of known archaeological sites in the area.

While the entire project corridor is located within previously disturbed areas, it is anticipated that excavations will disturb native soils. An archaeologist was present during Geotech work on the project site. The full depth of the borings were monitored for the presence of archaeological resources but no resources were identified.

An inadvertent discovery plan will be prepared and implemented during construction.

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.

Methods used to identify historic and cultural resources, and to assess potential impacts, included surface and subsurface inspections; reviewing archival sources, including maps, newspaper articles, and materials provided by the port; a records search and literature review, including records and reports held by Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) available through the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archeological Records Data (WISAARD) online database, examining historic cadastral survey maps held by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and reviewing documents and maps on file at AINW; and fieldwork including a pedestrian survey and shovel tests.

A post-field memo will be prepared detailing the results of the survey and shovel testing for the review of DAHP and all consulting parties. These results will be used to provide a recommendation for how future work in the area should proceed.

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.

[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

The proposed project will be conducted in accordance with the Revised Codes of Washington (RCW) Chapters 27.44 and 27.53, and applicable regulations of the DAHP. The Indian Graves and Records Act (RCW 27.44) prohibits disturbance of American Indian graves and provides that inadvertent disturbance through construction or other activity requires re-interment under supervision of the appropriate tribe. The Archaeological Sites and Resources Act (RCW 27.53) prohibits the disturbance of known prehistoric and historic archaeological sites on public or private lands.

In the event any unknown archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, work in the immediate area of the discovery will be halted and the projects inadvertent discovery plan for construction activities will be followed.

Should a discovery occur, a professional archaeologist will assess the significance of the find, and DAHP and concerned tribes will be notified so that a course of action can be implemented.

14. Transportation

Find help with answering transportation questions[16]

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 public street serving this site is West 26th Avenue off of NW Lower River Road. This project will not affect the existing access to and from the site.

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?

The closest bus stop, served by C-Tran Route #6 Fruit Valley/Grand, is located at Fruit Valley Road and West 27th Street, approximately 1 mile away from the project site. C-Tran's "The Current" is an on-demand rideshare service that provides bookable rides throughout the Vancouver area. One of the service zones includes service to the Port of Vancouver and surrounding industrial area, but does not include the project area.

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).

The project will not include any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities.

d. 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 not use water, rail, or air transportation but is located adjacent to the Port of Vancouver, which provides transportation of cargo via rail and water.

[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

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 non passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

The completed proposed project is not anticipated to generate any additional vehicle trips.

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.**

The project is physically separated from the road transportation grid and will not interfere with, nor be interfered by, movement of any agricultural or forest products on roads or streets.

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

The proposed project will have no negative impacts on transportation; therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

15. Public Services

Find help answering public service questions[17]

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.**

The project will not increase the need for public services.

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

The project will not impact public services; therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

16. Utilities

Find help answering utilities questions[18]

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

Utilities within or crossing over the project area include a CenturyLink communications line, Clark Public Utilities power lines, a City owned water line and BPA overhead power lines.

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.**
The proposed project includes construction of stormwater collection and conveyance pipelines and installation of conduit and electrical power connection from an existing power source provided by Clark Public Utilities.

[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
[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.

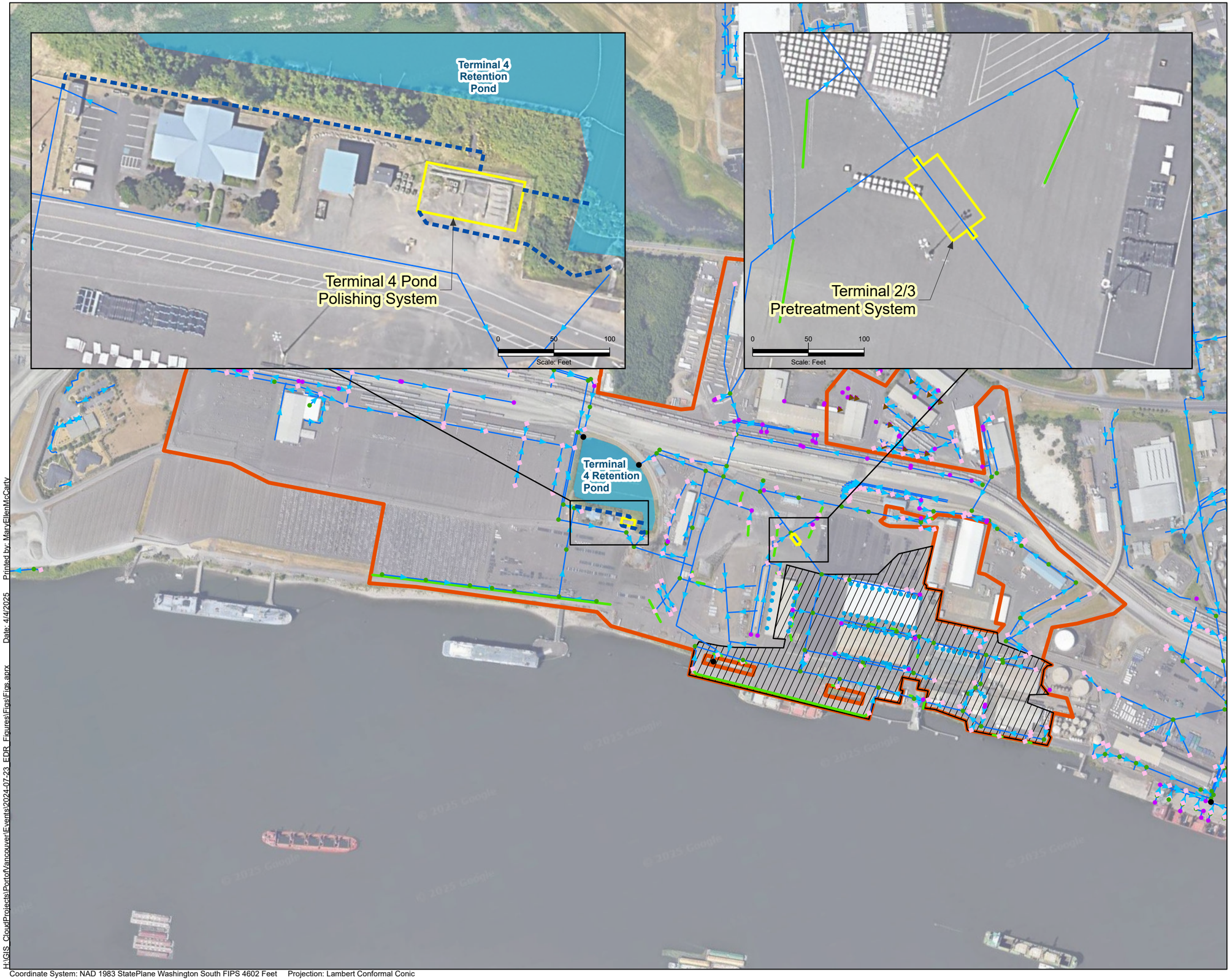
Name of Signee: Matt Graves

Position and Agency/Organization: Environmental Manager / Port of Vancouver, USA

Date Submitted: **05/21/2025**

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

Google Earth Satellite: Google Earth



Legend

- Proposed Piplines
- Construction Project Boundaries

Existing Stormwater Structures

- Stormwater Catch Basin
- Stormwater Manhole
- Stormwater Outfall
- Roof Drain
- UIC
- Other

Existing Stormwater Pipe

- Trench Drain
- Stormwater Pipe, Flow Direction
- T2/T3 Pretreatment Area Boundary
- T4 Pond Drainage Basin

Notes:

1. Locations are approximate.

N

0 250 500

Scale: Feet

1" = 633 feet

Kennedy Jenks

Port of Vancouver
Vancouver, Washington

Construction Area Map

Figure 1

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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic