

## SEPA Notice of Action Taken

Notice is given under SEPA, RCW 43.21C.080, that the Port of Vancouver USA took the action described in (2) below on August 7, 2024

1. Any action to set aside, enjoin, review, or otherwise challenge such action on the grounds of noncompliance with the provisions of chapter 43.21C RCW (State Environmental Policy Act) shall be commenced on or before October 30, 2024

2. Description of agency action: The Port of Vancouver USA is moving forward with the *Renaissance Trail Segments 4 and 5* and is in the process of obtaining required permits.

3. Description of proposal:

The proposed project will involve the construction of an approximately 3,500-foot-long (0.66 miles) by approximately 12-foot-wide asphalt multi-use recreational trail along the southern side of SR 501/NW Lower River Road. The trail will be constructed on the slopes of the embankment for NW Lower River Road, which is identified as a levee on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps (Figure 3). Construction of the trail will require importation of fill material to establish appropriate grades. Where possible, the trail will be constructed on unreinforced, engineered fill. The unreinforced fill slopes will extend south at a maximum grade of 3H:1V. Where the fill slopes would otherwise impact a wetland or extend beyond the right-of-way, the slopes will be steepened by using soil reinforcement techniques, thereby eliminating impacts to wetlands and areas outside the right-of-way. Fill will be stabilized through two methods. The first method will consist of geosynthetic reinforced soil slopes, which consists of closely spaced layers of geosynthetic reinforcement and compacted granular fill material. This soil reinforcement technique allows for slopes steeper than 3H:1V. The second method is the use of mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining walls, which allow for a near-vertical face. Approximately 411 feet of retaining walls and 1,573 feet of reinforced soil slopes will be constructed to allow structural fill to be placed to avoid impacting wetlands. Some work will, however, occur within wetland buffers. The trail will include a small overlook in segment 5 approximately 700 feet from the northern terminus of the trail. At the northern terminus, there will be a shade structure, trail turnaround, and seating. Seating will also be present at the overlook. A guard rail is proposed between the trail and NW Lower River Road to ensure pedestrian safety.

4. Location of proposal:

The project is located within Sections 17, 18, and 20 of Township 02N, Range 01E of the Willamette Meridian. The project is in Vancouver, Washington, along the southern edge of NW Lower River Road (SR 501). Segment 4 of the project starts at the southwestern corner of the NW Gateway Avenue and NW Lower River Road intersection and extends approximately 850 feet to the southeastern corner of the NW Old Lower River Road and NW Lower River Road intersection. Segment 5 of the trail starts at the southwestern corner of this intersection and follows along NW Lower River Road for approximately 2,600 feet before terminating at northern intersection of NW Old Lower River Road and NW Lower River Road. The project is located almost entirely within WSDOT right-of-way. To align with the existing trail east of NW Gateway Avenue, a small portion of the new trail will be located on two parcels owned by the Port (Account Nos. 152183000 and 152184000).

5. Type of environmental review under SEPA (include name and date of any environmental documents):

An Environmental Checklist (WAC 197-11-960) has been completed and reviewed. The Environmental Checklist includes the following documents, which are incorporated by reference:

- Wetland delineation (PBS 2024)
- Geotechnical exploration and report
- Kickoff meeting with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Local Programs (3/4/2024).
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form that will include the following discipline reports:
  - Hazardous materials memorandum
  - Environmental justice memorandum
  - Mitigation bank use plan

- Sole Source Aquifer review checklist
- Cultural Resources Report complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Endangered Species Act no effect letter
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
- Critical Areas Report
- Tree Plan

Following review of the Environmental Checklist, the Port of Vancouver USA, acting as lead agency, determined that conditions could be imposed on the project to reduce potential adverse environmental impacts to a non-significant level. A Notice of Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance was therefore issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) on July 24, 2024.

6. Documents are available to review at:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/separ/Main/SEPA/Record.aspx?SEPANumber=202403135> Documents may also be obtained by contacting:

Matt Graves  
[mgraves@portvanusa.com](mailto:mgraves@portvanusa.com)

7. Name and contact person of agency, proponent, or applicant giving notice:

**Matt Graves**  
[mgraves@portvanusa.com](mailto:mgraves@portvanusa.com)  
Port of Vancouver USA

8. This notice is filed by:

Signature: 

Name: Matt Graves

Date: 9/26/2024