



Meeting Notes

Multi-agency Permit (MAP) Team Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) Project Wetland Briefing March 31, 2011

Please send corrections, edits, or additions to jane.dewell@ora.wa.gov

Locations Ecology Offices, link via video conference:

- Bellevue – Northwest Regional Office (Room 2A)
- Bellingham – Field Office (Groucho Room)
- Lacey – Headquarters/Southwest Regional Office (Room R3A-19)

Purpose MAP Team briefed on wetland delineation information followed by discussion.

Introduction

This meeting was organized by the Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) to review wetland issues at the project site. AMEC staff (Kristie Dunkin) took the lead in briefing the team on maps from the Project Information Document (February 28, 2011) explaining the characteristics of each stream, drainage, and wetland, as well as the proposed conceptual mitigation strategy. The agenda (Attachment 1) and sign-in sheets (Attachment 2) are posted to the GPT MAP Team website:

https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ofm/iprmt24/site/alias_1357/22878/map_team.aspx

Action Items

The following action items were identified during the meeting:

- ▶ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Whatcom County (County) will discuss definitions for streams versus ditches on the project site.
- ▶ Various suggestions were made by agency staff on changes to site (documented below), and will be considered by project proponent. This is part of the ongoing MAP Team process of discussion and feedback.
 - Move the west loop further from Stream 1, toward the southwest.
 - Move a building out of Wetland #10A.
 - Consider trestle structures for rail lines.
 - Consider strategic culverts to reduce bifurcation of site hydrology.
- ▶ Draft meeting notes will be prepared by Jane (ORA) for review by meeting participants.



- ▶ Comments on project documents are due April 7 to Jane or Scott for posting on website under the MAP Team 'Internal' tab. See documents:
https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ofm/iprmt24/site/alias_1357/project_library_active_documents/22894/active_documents.aspx
- ▶ The next MAP Team meeting will be April 28, 2011, with agenda posted by April 14, 2011.

Discussion

Figures from the Project Information Document (February 28, 2011) were projected during the briefing:

- ▶ Figure 5-10, Existing Conditions, Stream Network, Wetlands, and Hydrologic Flow
- ▶ Figure 5-11, Summary of Direct Fill Impacts to Wetlands within the Gateway Pacific Terminal Project Site
- ▶ Figure 5-12, Proposed Wetland Mitigation Areas

Historical points were mentioned:

- ▶ An environmental impact statement (EIS) exists for the neighboring Cherry Point Industrial Park, including trestle and wharf, that was proposed in the 1980s (EIS is dated approximately 1982). A shoreline substantial development permit was issued for this project and was then appealed by Ecology, WDFW and environmental groups. A Settlement Agreement was filed. The shoreline permit is inactive but is still in effect.
- ▶ The Corps provided a jurisdictional determination for the wetlands, March 5, 2009 (date noted in wetland mitigation document, February 28, 2011).

The following issues were brought up for discussion:

- ▶ How were the streams differentiated from the drainages? (Brian, WDFW)
 - The County maps were used, with streams labeled according to what these maps showed, and other water courses labeled 'drainage.' The Corps (from past information provided by Kristie, AMEC) and Ecology (Susan and Loree', Ecology) consider all of the waterways as regulated. Input from WDFW on stream typing was requested.
- ▶ Could the West Loop be moved to the south and west to increase the buffer between Stream 1 and the edge of the developed area? (Barry, Ecology; Tyler, County)
 - This will be looked at. Moving this toward southwest could cause greater wetland impacts, but it's worth considering.
- ▶ There is a building shown within Wetland #10A. Can it be moved out of this wetland? (Tyler, County)
 - This will be looked at. It may involve amending road and conveyor locations but seems that it could be moved.



- ▶ Current plan is for direct cut and fill for rail lines. Trestle structures should be examined. (Joel, NMFS; Krista, EPA)
 - This will be brought up with design team. One purpose of design is to make the rails as level as possible throughout the site to improve efficiency. (Al, SSA)
- ▶ Strategic culverts should be considered to reduce bifurcation of site hydrology. (Joel, NMFS)
 - Engineering design has not got to this level of detail. This will be considered.
- ▶ Will affects on surface and ground water drainage relative to the large cut and fill activities be considered? (Barry, Ecology)
 - Yes. There is some information in the Project Information Document on area sub-basins and preliminary modeling of water flows; however, more monitoring is still being done and a site drainage plan will need to be completed.
- ▶ The water quality pond (Figure 5-12) was discussed.
 - If pond receives storm water it may not be eligible for mitigation credits. (Susan and Loree', Ecology) Treatment of storm water and details of system will be important in evaluating where storm water from treatment ponds should be discharged – whether to water quality pond or to streams or drainages that would discharge to Stream 1. Other concerns with pond included coal dust deposition, attraction of wildlife, endangerment of wildlife relative to adjacent train tracks (birds, amphibians) , and depth. (Joel, NMFS; Krista, EPA; Barry, Ecology)

Attachments

Attachment 1: Agenda

Attachment 2: Sign-in Sheet