

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA
SPECIAL ORDER

Item No.	<u>3b</u>
Date of Meeting	<u>June 28, 2016</u>

DATE: June 20, 2016

TO: Ted Fick, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Elizabeth Leavitt, Senior Director, Environment and Sustainability
Bob Duffner, Senior Manager, Environment and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Special Order of Business –Salmon-Safe Certification Presentation to
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

SYNOPSIS

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport has been granted certification under the industrial standards developed by Salmon-Safe. Salmon-Safe is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and has established the nation's first certification program linking urban land management practices and the protection of water quality and imperiled native fish populations. Following a detailed assessment and independent verification process, Salmon-Safe has certified that Airport operations, environmental policies, and programs meet its infrastructure standards for sustainable land management that protect water quality and salmonid populations. This certification is a significant validation of the Airport's efforts towards environmental sustainability and is a complementary guideline to the Airport's Long Range Plan and Century Agenda strategies and objectives. The Airport is the largest Washington urban site to be reviewed by Salmon-Safe and will be the first major transportation facility in the United States to receive certification.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, Salmon-Safe expanded beyond agricultural land certification to apply the Salmon-Safe assessment and certification process to land and water management within the urban realm. This initiative significantly advanced restoration efforts in urbanized watersheds by developing urban aquatic protection guidelines and a citizen education campaign throughout the Pacific Northwest.

In 2014, Salmon-Safe developed certification standards for infrastructure sites (e.g., airport, road, rail, water and wastewater, energy). These Infrastructure Certification Standards are applicable across a variety of urban development landscapes, ranging from high-level master planning processes to single-site infrastructure projects. While the standards are designed as a stand-alone program, they can also complement other leading certification standards (e.g., LEED), by certifying project activities that specifically address ecological function and the quality of habitat for fish, wildlife, and people.

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Upon completing the full site assessment which included a facilities review and a review of key policies and environmental management procedures, the Salmon-Safe team of independent experts recommended the Airport be certified Salmon-Safe, subject to the conditions detailed in their assessment report. The evaluation team documented the Airport's watershed, stormwater, and landscape-related management policies and programs and concluded that it met Salmon-Safe's core requirements for certification, thereby serving globally as an example of environmental innovation. Specific environmental practices leading to this certification include the Airport's comprehensive stormwater management program, habitat restoration within salmon-bearing streams and water conservation efforts.

Overall the Salmon-Safe standards complement the Airport's Long Range Plan and Century Agenda strategies and objectives. Key Airport initiatives supporting the standards and continued certification include the application of Low Impact Development techniques that manage stormwater in ways that avoid or reduce runoff, and conservation of potable water through a variety of means including rainwater capture and reuse, the use of high efficiency fixtures and recycling of water.

NEXT STEPS

David Burger, Executive Director of Stewardship Partners, the Seattle based organization leading Salmon-Safe implementation in Washington, will provide a brief presentation and a plaque to the Commissioners during the June 28, 2016, Commission meeting.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS SPECIAL ORDER

None.