



P.O. Box 1209
Seattle, WA 98111-1209
Tel: (206) 728-3000
www.portseattle.org

**Final State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) of Proposed Action for
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac Airport)
Flight Corridor Safety Program - Phase 1**

The Port of Seattle has completed an environmental analysis, including review of pertinent and available environmental information and preparation of an Environmental Checklist for the following proposal:

Description and Clarification of Proposal: The Port of Seattle is proposing to remove obstructions consisting of trees and other vegetation at and around Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Removal of the obstructions will ensure the Airport complies with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations that require airport operators to protect flight operations into and out of the airport and assure that objects obstructing aircraft approach and departure areas are removed.

This SEPA determination is for Phase 1 located on Port of Seattle property only. Additional SEPA review will be required for Phases 2 and 3 and will include public and agency outreach and comment periods.

The Flight Corridor Safety Program will remove a total of approximately 2,750 trees and is planned to be accomplished in three phases over the next three years ending in 2019. Phase 1, expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2016, will include the removal of obstructions on Port-owned properties, Phase 2 will include the removal of obstructions on commercial and public properties, and Phase 3 will include the removal of obstructions on private properties.

Phase 1 will remove approximately 1,170 trees located on 27 acres of Port of Seattle property. After the removal of these obstructions, new trees and vegetation will be re-planted in accordance with federal, state, and local requirements and Port of Seattle policy. Mitigation for Phase 1 includes:

- Re-planting of approximately 4,000 trees (updated based on project design) for the removal of approximately 1,170 trees;
- Shrubs and hydro seeding to revegetate areas where ground vegetation or understory impacts occur;
- Erosion control best practices;
- Removal of trees outside of the bird-nesting season;
- Construction design and specifications that require the avoidance of ground disturbing activities inside wetlands; and



- A monitoring period of 5 years (updated based on project design) within wetland and buffer areas.

Location of Proposal: Phase 1 has six project sites located at and around Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The airport address is 17801 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, Washington, 98158. These sites include:

- Site 1 (P-1) - Located immediately north of South 154th Street and Runway 16R/34L and south of State Route 518
- Site 2 (P-2) - Located immediately west and adjacent runway 16R/34L and Port of Seattle's West Side Offices
- Site 3a (P3a) - Located directly south of runway 16C/34C and S 188th Street surrounding the north and east edges of lagoon 3 (i.e. Port of Seattle's stormwater storage)
- Site 3b (P3b) - Located directly south of runway 16C/34C and S 188th Street surrounding the north and east edges of lagoon 3
- Site 4 (P-4) - Located south of the airport and south of Site P-3a and Site P-6, southwest of Site P-3b, west of the runway 16L/34R ALSF, and intersected by S 200th Street
- Site 5 (P-5) - Located south of runway 16C/34C, directly south of S 200th Street, and west of Site P-4
- Site 6 (P-6) - Located west of Site P-3b and runway 16L/34R Approach Lighting System with Sequence Flashers (ALSF) and south of Site P-3a

Lead Agency: Port of Seattle (SEPA No. 16-07)

Determination: The Port of Seattle has determined that this proposal would have likely significant adverse environmental impacts that would require the preparation of an EIS, but that those likely impacts have been reduced down to a nonsignificant level as a result of the proposed Mitigation for Phase I which is described above. See WAC 197-11-350. As a result of the proposed Mitigation for Phase I, this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and a MDNS is an appropriate threshold determination. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under the provisions of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21 RCW, Chapter 197-11 WAC) and Port of Seattle SEPA Policies and Procedures (Port Commission Resolution 3650). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist, comments by the public and other entities, and other information that is available upon request.

Supporting Information: Information used to reach this determination, and applicable State laws and Port of Seattle policies, regulations, and procedures are available for public review at the Port of Seattle office, Environment and Sustainability Department, Pier 69, 2711 Alaskan Way, Seattle, Washington, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Airport Office Building reception, 17801 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington. The document is also available for review on line at <http://www.portseattle.org/Environmental/Environmental-Documents/SEPA-NEPA/Pages/default.aspx> and additional information at the Flight Corridor Safety Program website at: http://www.portseattle.org/Business/Construction-Projects/Airport-Projects/Pages/safe_corridor.aspx.

Public & Agency Comment: The MDNS and Environmental Checklist for this project were circulated on July 15, 2016, and the comment period ended August 5, 2016. Four comments were received by email through the Port of Seattle’s SEPA public and agency comment process. The description of the project proposal and proposed Mitigation for Phase I was updated to provide clarification in response to the comments received and to more specifically describe the mitigation that would be proposed for the proposal. The Port of Seattle has concluded that no likely significant adverse environmental effects will result from the proposed Flight Corridor Safety Program – Phase 1. The Port of Seattle’s Final MDNS is being issued, as of August 26, 2016, based on the final mitigated determination of no significant environmental impacts.

Appeals: The Port of Seattle's decision on the proposal described above and the Port's issuance of a Final MDNS on this proposal constitute the Port of Seattle’s final SEPA decision. This SEPA MDNS determination may be appealed by filing an application for a writ of review in King County Superior Court within twenty-one (21) days of the date below pursuant to Port of Seattle Resolution No. 3650 and RCW 43.21C.075.

Responsible Official: Elizabeth Leavitt
Position/Title: Senior Director, Environment and Sustainability, Port of Seattle
Address: Pier 69
P.O. Box 1209
Seattle, WA 98111

 

SEPA Responsible Official
Port of Seattle
August 26, 2016
Date of Final MDNS

Translations help for non-English speaking neighbors of Sea-Tac Airport

If you need assistance or want to receive a response to a question in your native language, please call the Port’s language help line:

- Para español, llame al (206) 787-3797 y marque 1.
- Để sử dụng tiếng Việt, gọi số (206) 787-3797 và nhấn phím 2
- Soomaali, wac (206) 787-3797, kadib riix 3.
- សម្រាប់ភាសាខ្មែរ សូមហៅទូរសព្ទមកលេខ (206) 787-3797 ហើយចុចលេខ 4។
- For other languages, call (206) 787-3797 and press 5.

SITE MAP

