Item No. <u>7a Supp</u>

Meeting Date: July 25, 2017

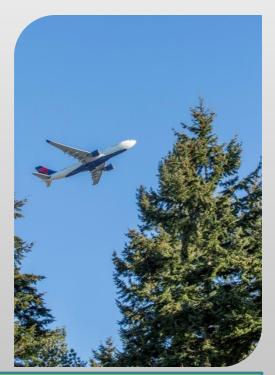
Revised July 27, 2017 (see slide 20)

# Flight Corridor Safety Program

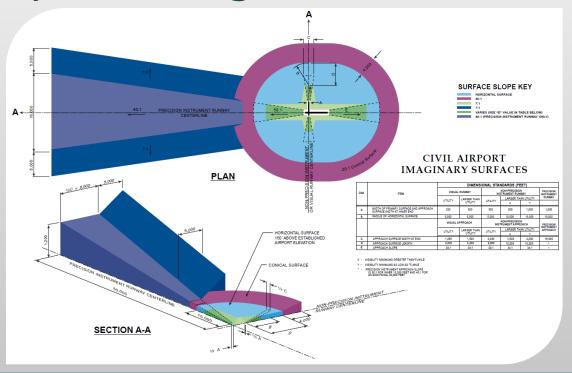


## Why Obstruction Removal?

- FAA regulations and WA State law require airports to identify and remove obstructions to navigable airspace
- Obstruction removal ensures safe operation of aircraft
- Airports around the country manage similar programs to protect the safety of the flying public



## **Example of Flight Corridor Surfaces**



**Protect Flight Corridor** 

# How the Program Ensures Safe Operation of Aircraft

- Equipment Failure
- Weather
- Pilot Error
- Certification Compliance
- FAA Safety Regulations
- Vegetation Management



### What are Obstructions?

- At Sea-Tac Airport Primarily trees
- Existing Obstruction Obstructions currently penetrating flight surfaces
- Potential Obstruction Obstructions that are within 0-6' of penetrating flight surfaces
- Understory Vegetation Non-obstruction vegetation consisting of smaller trees and shrubs growing beneath large trees (obstructions)



## Multi-year Program

- **2016 2017:** Port-Owned Property
- 2017 2018: Publicly-Owned Property
  - Includes WSDOT, Seattle Public Utilities, Highline Public School
    District and possible City right-of-way in the cities of Burien, Des
    Moines, and SeaTac
- 2018 2019: Residential & Commercial Property
  - 66 known residential properties
  - 9 known commercial properties

## **Community Engagement**

### 2016:

- Open House (April)
- Open House and Community Meeting (November)

### 2017:

- Open House (February)
- Open House and Community Meeting on sites P4-5 (June)



## Port Property Update

- All obstructions have been removed from approved Port Property (except P-4 & P-5)
- Replanting trees has occurred on Port property (except P-1, P-4 & P-5)
- On-going irrigation throughout the summer asneeded to increase plant survivability/establishment
- On-going maintenance of invasive species to increase plant survivability/establishment
- Additional shrubs to be planted in October, 2017

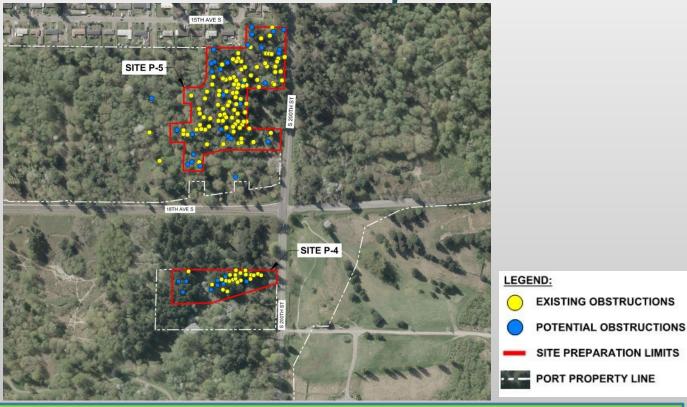


### Sites P-4 and P-5 Update

- As directed by the Port Commission, Port staff undertook additional community engagement before determining the removal and replanting approach on Sites P-4 and P-5
  - Both sites contain a high number of large conifers
  - Both sites nearby to residential properties



### Sites P-4 and P-5 Update



Sites P-4 and P-5

### Sites P-4 and P-5 Update

# Port Removal and Replanting Objectives

- Eliminate obstructions
- Minimize environmental impacts
- Restore a diverse native forest community
- Maintain a barrier between sites
  & adjacent neighborhoods

# What We Heard from the Public

- Stagger the tree removal to allow younger trees to mature
- Protect and prioritize conifers
- Remove invasive species
- Maintain a barrier between sites
  & adjacent neighborhoods

### Removal Alternatives for P-4 & P-5

#### **Alternative 1**

Removal of Existing Obstructions, Potential Obstructions and Understory

#### **Alternative 2**

Removal of Existing Obstructions and Potential Obstructions

#### **Alternative 3 (Public favored)**

Removal of Existing Obstructions Only (Protect Potential Obstructions and Understory)

#### **Alternative 4**

Phased Removal of Existing Obstructions, Potential Obstructions and Understory

#### Four Removal Alternatives

### Recommended Removal Approach

# **Alternative 3:** Removal of Existing Obstructions (Public favored)

- Protect Potential Obstructions and Understory

#### **Advantages**

- Sites are obstruction-free for 5 years
- 30 to 40 tall conifers preserved for 5 years
- Phased plant reestablishment
- Preserves saplings, shrubs and vegetation to the extent feasible.

#### **Disadvantages**

- Site reentered every 5 years after to remove obstructions as they occur
- Repeated disturbance to the site may reduce success of replanting
- Limited removal of invasive species

**Recommend Removing Existing Obstructions** 

## Replanting Options P-4 & P-5

### **Option 1**

Re-establish a Low-Growing Forest Onsite

### **Option 2**

Re-establish a Low-Growing Forest Onsite with a Vegetation Barrier

### **Option 3**

Replace Trees Onsite and Create a Tall-growing Forest Nearby with Vegetation Barrier

### **Option 4 (Community proposed)**

Combine Options 2 and 3

### Recommended Replanting Approach

Replace Trees Onsite, Create a Tall-growing Forest Nearby and Provide a

Vegetation Barrier adjacent to residential properties





### Recommended Replanting Approach

# **Option 4:** Replace Trees Onsite and Create a Tall-growing Forest Nearby with Vegetation Barrier (Public favored)

- Replant on-site over time as-needed to establish a low-growing forest
- Replant in off-site location with tall conifers
- Provide vegetation barrier adjacent to residential properties and road frontage

#### **Advantages**

- Large containers allow trees to mature faster
- Prioritizes replanting of conifers
- Removes invasive vegetation
- Vegetation barrier for adjacent residences
- Tall-growing trees

#### **Disadvantages**

 Longer Period to Re-establish a Low-Growing Forest Onsite

Recommend Replanting On-site, Off-site and Provide a Vegetation Barrier

## **Next Steps**

#### Phase 1

- Develop Removal and Replanting Design Documents
- Negotiate Change Order with the Contractor
- Begin Removal and Replanting Q3 2017

### Phase 2 and 3

Initiate Environmental Evaluation Fall 2017





### Recommended Replanting Approach

Replace Trees Onsite and Create a Tall-growing Forest Nearby



SITE P-5

SITE P-4