

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No. 6a

Date of Meeting July 7, 2009

DATE: June 19, 2009

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Eric Hanson, Manager, Seaport Planning
Joseph Gellings, Seaport Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Motion for approval of the Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan

ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commission approve the January 13th 2009 Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan with one amendment. The sole staff-recommended amendment is to eliminate the Plan's designation of a habitat project fronting on the properties of 523 and 582 South Riverside Drive. By approving the Plan, the Commission will be setting a policy to designate the Plan's 31 sites as future habitat restoration areas.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan (Plan) identifies potential locations for future fish and wildlife habitat restoration in Port-owned aquatic areas and shorelines in the Duwamish Waterway. The Plan demonstrates that restoration actions can take place without constraining marine industrial uses and activities, including navigational access by maritime businesses.

Emphasis on fish and wildlife habitat restoration throughout Puget Sound, including urban industrial locations, is expected to increase in the coming years. An approved inventory of Port owned sites in the Duwamish Waterway with the potential for habitat restoration is appropriate at this time and anticipates the Port's future needs. Port staff submits that approval of this Plan will aid orderly decision-making and implementation of future restoration projects and provide a framework for coordinated habitat improvements.

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTION

On May 5, 2009, Port staff presented a briefing for the Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan. The Plan's purpose, study area, outreach program and content were discussed and several citizens provided testimony.