



NOTICE OF MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (MDNS)

Project Name: Former Scott Paper Company Mill Site Cleanup Action

Location: The project area is upland and marine properties owned by the Port of Anacortes and MJB Properties, located just north of 20th Street, east of Q Avenue, and south of Cap Sante Boat Haven, in Anacortes, Skagit County, Washington.

Proponent: Port of Anacortes

Description of Proposal: The proposed action is the environmental cleanup of the northern portion of a former industrial facility that is a state cleanup site - the former Scott Paper Company Mill site. The project includes demolition and replacement of some existing structures, marine area cleanup actions and mitigation, upland area cleanup actions, shoreline public access and access mitigation, traffic mitigation measures, and natural resource damage restoration elements as appropriate. The complete description of the project is provided in the Environmental Checklist. A summary of project elements is below:

Demolition: An existing small boat launching facility, derelict timber piles, and timber breakwater will be removed. Some existing upland structures, including utilities and paved surfaces will be removed.

Marine area cleanup dredging and backfill: Approximately 55,000 cubic yards of sediment and wood debris will be removed within the marine areas in order to remove contaminated material and wood waste. Marine and shoreline cap materials will be placed to restore original grade and improve habitat conditions.

Wave attenuators and shoreline stabilization: Two wave attenuation structures will be placed to reduce wave energy and erosion. Shoreline stabilization consisting of a block retaining wall and a riprap revetment will be placed.

Upland area cleanup: Approximately 33,400 cubic yards of soil will be excavated within upland areas, including approximately 22,400 cubic yards of contaminated soil and 11,000 cubic yards of clean soils to be used as backfill on site. Approximately 15,100 cubic yards of soils will be removed from shoreline areas, including 10,600 yards of contaminated material and 4,500 cubic yards of material to be used as backfill.

Construct temporary haul road and 17th Street Improvements: A construction haul road will be constructed as an extension of 17th Street from Q Avenue east to the shoreline. 17th Street will be improved between Q and R Avenues including travel lanes, sidewalk, curb, lighting, landscaping, and utilities.

Public Access/Access Mitigation: The small boat hand launching facility will be replaced. A paved esplanade, staging areas, lighting, landscaping, and pedestrian access facilities will be installed.

Mitigation measures: The project includes the following mitigation measures intended to eliminate, reduce, and/or avoid significant adverse environmental impacts:

- Placement of eelgrass over 2.9 acres of the site;
- Riparian planting to provide improved conditions for surf smelt spawning habitat;
- Replacement of existing large substrate (riprap, angular cobble/brick, wood waste) with a graded mix of sand to cobble in order to improve habitat within the marine area;
- Removal of creosote piles and structures, improving long term water and sediment quality;

- Replacement of riprap on Port property with step wall, creating low-sloped fine sediment habitat in upper intertidal area;
- Placement of fine substrate over landward sides of wave attenuators, improving habitat conditions;
- Creation of additional macroalgae attachment sites, improving habitat conditions;
- Replacement of shoreline public access amenities, including small boat facility, staging areas, lighting, landscaping, and pedestrian amenities;
- Implementation of an archeological monitoring plan during excavation;
- Construction of temporary haul road and improvements to 17th Street extension;
- Incorporation of grated structures to minimize shading of nearshore areas;
- Timing of construction to avoid outmigration of juvenile salmonids;
- Use of best management practices to control erosion and water quality impacts during dredging, excavation, and backfill activities.

Lead Agency: The lead agency under the State Environmental Policy Act is the Port of Anacortes.

Determination: The Port of Anacortes has determined that the environmental cleanup of the site, in conjunction with mitigation measures, will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C. 030(2)c. This decision was made after review of a completed SEPA environmental checklist and other supporting documents. This information is available to the public on request, and is available for review at the Port's administrative offices located at First St. & Commercial Ave., Anacortes WA, 98221. The Port's office is open 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on weekdays. The SEPA Checklist and complete MDNS can also be reviewed on the Port's website: www.portofanacortes.com.

Comment Period: This MDNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 30 days from the date of publication listed below. Agencies, Tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the MDNS. There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM in the Port of Anacortes Commission Meeting Room located at 1st St. & Commercial Ave. Written comments must be postmarked no later than March 2, 2009, and should be mailed to the Port's Environmental Administrator:

Connie Thoman, Environmental Administrator
Port of Anacortes
P.O. Box 297
Anacortes, WA 98221

Comments may also be submitted to the Port by:

(a) E-mail to connie@portofanacortes.com or, (b) Fax to (360) 293-9608

Comments will not otherwise be accepted by telephone or personal conversation.

Signed and dated this 30th day of January, 2009 by Robert Elsner, Port of Anacortes SEPA Responsible Official.

DATE (Effective): January 30, 2009

SIGNED:



Robert Elsner, Port of Anacortes SEPA Responsible Official