



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

October 17, 2024

Port of Tacoma  
Attn: Robert Brenner  
P.O. Box 1837  
Tacoma, WA 98401

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **23248** (Corps No. **NWS-2024-563**), Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement, Pierce County, Washington

Dear Robert Brenner:

On 8/27/2024, the Port of Tacoma submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement, Pierce County, Washington.

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies with conditions that the work described in the Water Quality Certification Request and supplemental documents complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and applicable state laws. **This certification is subject to the enclosed Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order).**

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this WQC Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached WQC Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Laura Inouye at 360-515-8213. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

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Loree' Randall, Section Manager  
Aquatic Permitting and Protection Section  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

WQC Order No. 23248, Corps No. NWS-2024-563

Aquatics ID No. 143897

October 17, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Enclosures (2)

By certified mail: 9489 0090 0027 6391 8522 31

Sent via e-mail: [rbrenner@portoftacoma.com](mailto:rbrenner@portoftacoma.com)

E-cc: Andrew Shuckhart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology

Laura Inouye, Ecology

[ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov)

In The Matter of Granting a Water Quality  
Certification with Conditions to Port of Tacoma  
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401), RCW 90.48.120,  
RCW 90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC

Port of Tacoma  
Attn: Robert Brenner  
P.O. Box 1837  
Tacoma, WA 98401

<b>WQC Order No.</b>	23248
<b>Corps Reference No.</b>	NWS-2024-563
<b>Site Location</b>	Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement, located within Blair Waterway, Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington.

Port of Tacoma submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement, Pierce County, Washington. The following required processing dates are listed below:

- On 05/22/2024 the Port of Tacoma submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On 8/27/2024, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) considered the Request valid on this date.
- On 9/4/2024, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.
- Ecology's "Reasonable Period of Time" for this project has been established as 8/27/2025.

The project proposes to dredge a navigational hazard that is directly across from the Washington United Terminal (WUT), located in the Blair Waterway. This hazard feature is informally called "The Knuckle". The intent of the project is to dredge to -48' MLLW, with up to 2 feet of overdredge, an area of approximately 50,000 square feet across from WUT. Up to 12,000 cy will be dredged, with either upland placement or disposal at the Commencement Bay open water disposal site.

The project site is located directly across from the Washington United Terminal (WUT), in the Blair Waterway, Pierce County, Washington, Section NE35, Township 21N., Range 03 E., within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 10 (Puyallup/White).

### Authorities

In exercising authority under 33 U.S.C. §1341, 40 CFR Part 121, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, and Chapter 173-201A, Ecology has reviewed this WQC request pursuant to the following:

1. Conformance with applicable water quality-based, technology-based, and toxic or pretreatment effluent limitations as provided under 33 U.S.C. §§1311, 1312, 1313, 1316, and 1317.
2. Conformance with the state water quality standards contained in Chapter 173-201A WAC and authorized by 33 U.S.C. §1313 and by Chapter 90.48 RCW, and with other applicable state laws; and
3. Conformance with the provision of using all known, available and reasonable methods to prevent and control pollution of state waters as required by RCW 90.48.010.
4. Conformance with Washington’s prohibition on discharges that cause or tend to cause pollution of waters of the state of Washington. RCW 90.48.080.
5. The Project Proponent of the project authorized is responsible for obtaining all other permits, licenses, and certifications that may be required by federal, state, local or tribal authorities.

With this Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order), Ecology is granting with conditions Port of Tacoma’s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement, Blair Waterway located in Pierce County. Ecology has determined that the proposed discharges will comply with all applicable state water quality and other appropriate requirements of State law, provided the project is conducted in accordance with the WQC request that Ecology received on 8/27/2024, the supporting documents referenced in Table 1 below, **and the conditions of this WQC Order.**

**Table 1** Supporting Documents

Date Received	Document Type	Title and Date	Author
8/27/2024	Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form	JARPA, signed 8/27/2024	Robert Brenner, Port of Tacoma
8/27/2024	State Environmental Policy Act	Determination of Nonsignificance. Dated 7/29/2024	Jason Jordan, Port of Tacoma
8/27/2024	Puget Sound Habitat Nearshore Conservation Calculator	Puget Sound Habitat Nearshore Conservation Calculator, Excel spreadsheet dated 6/18/2024	Janae Dinkins, Port of Tacoma

9/11/2024	Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Plan	Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Plan, dated 6/1/2024	Robert Brenner, Port of Tacoma
9/11/2024	Dredge Plan	Dredge Plan, dated 8/26/2024	Robert Brenner, Port of Tacoma

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize Port of Tacoma to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC) or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC) or other appropriate requirements of State law. Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification absolves the Port of Tacoma from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

**Water Quality Certification Conditions**

The following conditions will be incorporated into the Corps permit and strictly adhered to by the Port of Tacoma. Specific condition justifications and citations are provided below.

**A. General Conditions**

1. In this WQC Order, the term “Project Proponent” shall mean the Port of Tacoma and its agents, assignees, and contractors.
  - Justification - Ecology needs to identify that conditions of this WQC Order apply to anyone conducting work on behalf of the Project Proponent to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(j), Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
  
2. All submittals required by this WQC Order shall be sent to Ecology’s Headquarters Office, Attn: Federal Permit Manager, via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to [Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov). The submittals shall be identified with WQC Order No. 23248 and include the Project Proponent’s name, Corps permit number, project name, project contact, and the contact phone number.
  - Justification - Ecology needs to identify where information and submittals are to be submitted to be in compliance with the requirements of this WQC Order.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

3. Work authorized by this WQC Order is limited to the work described in the WQC request package received by Ecology on 8/27/2024 and the supporting documentation identified in Table 1.
  - Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a WQC, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact water quality. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process. Any deviations from information within the WQC Request package and this WQC Order must be disclosed prior to the initiation of the planned work, and may require a new WQC request.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. The Project Proponent shall keep copies of this WQC Order on the job site and readily available for reference by Ecology personnel, the construction superintendent, construction managers and lead workers, and state and local government inspectors.
  - Justification - All parties (including on-site contractors) must be aware of and comply with the WQC Order for the protection of water quality.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
5. The Project Proponent shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by Ecology personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or necessary data collection, to ensure that conditions of this WQC Order are being met.
  - Justification - Ecology must be able to investigate and inspect construction sites and facilities for compliance with all state rules and laws.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.090, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. The Project Proponent shall ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand relevant conditions of this WQC Order and all permits, approvals, and documents referenced in this WQC Order. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology a signed statement (see Attachment A for an example) before construction begins.

- Justification - Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, on behalf of the Project Proponent, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. This WQC Order does not authorize direct, indirect, permanent, or temporary impacts to waters of the state or related aquatic resources, except as specifically provided for in conditions of this WQC Order.
- Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters, and to protect designated uses. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a water quality certification, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact state water quality and will comply with the state's water quality requirements. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process, and as conditioned herein.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300(2)(e)(i), WAC 173-201A-310, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. Failure of any person or entity to comply with the WQC Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions, whether administrative or judicial, to enforce the state's water quality standards and the conditions of this WQC Order.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses. Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Civil penalties and other enforcement actions are the primary means of securing compliance with water quality requirements.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.037, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.140, RCW 90.48.142, RCW 90.48.144, and WAC 173-225-010.
9. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology documentation for review before undertaking any major changes to the proposed project that could significantly and adversely affect water quality, other than those project changes required by this WQC Order.

- Justification - Ecology has independent authority to enforce our 401 certification conditions issued through this WQC Order pursuant to RCW 90.48, and has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. In order to ensure the project will comply with water quality standards in the event of any major changes, Ecology must be able to review the scope of work involved in the construction and operation of the project, otherwise all work must stop and a new 401 certification pre-filing meeting, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(k) and (n), 40 CFR 121.3, 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, and Chapter 173-201 WAC.
10. The Project Proponent shall send (per A.2.) a copy of the final Federal permit via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to Federal Permit Manager prior to the starting of any work authorized by this WQC Order. If the Federal Agency determines the proposed project does not require a Federal permit, the Project Proponent shall immediately inform Ecology.
- Justification - This condition is needed to ensure that the federal permit has been issued and all the conditions of the WQC Order have been included into the federal permit.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, and Chapter 90.48 RCW.
11. To transfer this WQC Order to a new owner or operator the Project Proponent shall:
- Complete a Request for Transfer of Order with a specific transfer date of the WQC Order's obligations, coverage, and liability and submit it to Ecology per condition A.2. Link to form: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070695.html>;
- Provide a copy of this WQC Order to the new owner or operator; and
- The transfer is not considered valid until the Project Proponent receives written notification from Ecology that the transfer has been approved.
- Justification – Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, including any new owners or operators, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
  - Citation – 40 CFR 121.5, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.



## B. Notification Requirements

1. The following notifications shall be made via phone or e-mail (e-mail is preferred) to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to [Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov). Notifications shall be identified with WQC Order No. 23248, Corps Reference No. NWS-2024-00563, and include the Project Proponent name, project name, project location, project contact and the phone number.
  - a. Immediately following a violation of state water quality standards or when the project is out of compliance with any conditions of this WQC Order;
  - b. At least ten (10) days prior to all pre-dredge meetings;
  - c. At least ten (10) days prior to conducting initial in-water work activities; and
  - d. Within seven (7) days of completion of each in-water work activity
    - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. In addition to the phone or e-mail notification required under B.1.a. above, the Project Proponent shall submit a detailed written report to Ecology within five (5) days that describes the nature of the event, corrective action taken and/or planned, steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence, results of any samples taken, and any other pertinent information.
  - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. If the project construction is not completed within 13 months of issuance of this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall submit per Condition A2 a written construction status report and submit status reports every 12 months until construction is completed.

- Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.
- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

### C. Timing

1. This WQC Order is effective upon issuance of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) individual permit for this project and will remain valid until the project is completed.
  - Justification – Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge or fill material into waters. This WQC Order is not valid until the Federal agency issues a permit. Additionally, Ecology needs to be able to specify how long the WQC Order will be in effect.
  - Citation – Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. The following in-water work windows apply to the project:
  - All activities within the wetted perimeter of the Blair Waterway may be conducted between July 15 through February 15 of any year.
    - Justification - This condition is reaffirming the project will take place during a time period that will not harm fish or other aquatic species.
    - Citation - Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
3. Any project change that requires a new or revised Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) from the Department of Fish and Wildlife should be sent to Ecology for review before the change is implemented.
  - Justification - This condition is reaffirming the project will take place during a time period that will not harm fish or other aquatic species.
  - Citation - Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.

#### D. Water Quality Monitoring and Criteria

1. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable water quality standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC, except as authorized by this WQC Order.
  - Justification - This condition ensures compliance with water quality standards to protect surface waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. For in-water activities within marine waters turbidity shall not exceed 10 NTU over background when the background is 50 NTU or less; or a 20 percent increase in turbidity when the background turbidity is more than 50 NTU.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable turbidity standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC as set forth below, unless otherwise authorized in this WQC Order:
  - a. Temporary area of mixing for turbidity established within the state water quality standards for marine waters (WAC 173-201A-210) is as follows:
    01. For estuaries or marine waters, the point of compliance for a temporary area of mixing shall be at a radius of one hundred fifty feet from the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.
      - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
      - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

4. The Project Proponent shall implement the approved Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Plan (WQMPP), identified in Table 1.
  - Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure that the monitoring and BMPs that are proposed by the Project Proponent and authorized by Ecology are conducted to protect water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
5. If water quality exceedances for turbidity are observed outside the point of compliance, work shall cease immediately and the Project Proponent or the contractor shall assess the cause of the water quality problem and take immediate action to stop, contain, and correct the problem and prevent further water quality turbidity exceedances.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. Visible turbidity anywhere beyond the temporary area of mixing (point of compliance) from the activity, shall be considered an exceedance of the standard.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. Monitoring results shall be submitted according to the approved WQMPP (table 1) to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A.2.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

8. Ecology may ask or could use its discretionary authority to require the Project Proponent to provide mitigation and/or additional monitoring if the monitoring results indicate that the water quality standards have not been met.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and ensure that aquatic life and beneficial uses are protected.
  - Citation - RCW 90.48, RCW 90.48.010, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.

## **E. Construction**

### **General Conditions**

1. All work in and near waters of the state shall be conducted to minimize turbidity, erosion, and other water quality impacts. Construction stormwater, sediment, and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) suitable to prevent exceedances of state water quality standards shall be in place before starting maintenance and shall be maintained throughout the duration of the activity.
  - Justification - Disturbed areas without appropriate BMPs and construction methods can discharge excess sediment to waters of the state and degrade water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.48.030 RCW, Chapter 90.48.080 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-300-330 WAC, Chapter 173-204-120 WAC, and Chapter 173-225-010 WAC.
2. No petroleum products, fresh concrete, lime or concrete, chemicals, or other toxic or deleterious materials shall be allowed to enter waters of the state.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

### **Equipment and Maintenance**

3. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-200, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. Barges shall not be allowed to ground-out during in-water construction.
- Justification - This condition is necessary to protect shallow water habitat and prevent suspension of sediment. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.
5. Barges shall be kept free of material that could be blown into water.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. No return water is allowed to discharge from the barge(s) into waters of the state during transit to the disposal site.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

### **Dredging**

7. All dredging is to be done using a mechanical (clamshell) dredge. Ecology must approve any other dredging method prior to its use.

- Justification - Ecology has reviewed the project and the BMPs for a specific type of dredging. Changes to the dredging method would require different BMPs. If new dredging methods are proposed, a new WQC pre-filing meeting request, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, Chapter 90.54.020(2)(b) RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-240(5)(b) WAC, and Chapter 173-204-400(2) WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. All suitable dredged material will be disposed of by bottom dump barge at the Commencement Bay open-water disposal site.
- Justification - Ecology has reviewed the project and the BMPs for a specific type of disposal technique and disposal location. If different in-water disposal sites are proposed, a new WQC pre-filing meeting request, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, Chapter 90.54.020(2)(b) RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-240(5)(b) WAC, and Chapter 173-204-400(2), and WAC 173-225-010.
9. All unsuitable material will be transloaded at a permitted facility and disposed of at a permitted upland disposal site.
- Justification - Use of a permitted transloading facility ensures that appropriate BMPs, including appropriate containment and spill plans, are implemented. Additionally, use of a permitted disposal location ensures appropriate BMPs will be implemented to prevent contaminants from migrating into groundwater or surface waters.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, Chapter 90.54.020(2) (b) RCW, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-240(5)(b) WAC, and Chapter 173-204-400(2), and WAC 173-225-010.
10. Dredging operations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the disturbance and siltation of adjacent waters and prevents the accidental discharge of petroleum products, chemicals or other toxic or deleterious substances into state waters.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

11. Dredged material shall not be temporarily or permanently stockpiled below the OHWM.
  - Justification - Stockpiles below the OHWM can discharge excess sediment to waters of the state and degrade water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
12. All debris larger than two (2) feet in any dimension shall be removed from the dredged sediment prior to disposal at the open water site. Similar-sized debris floating in the dredging or disposal area shall be removed.
  - Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of material to protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
13. A pre-dredge meeting is required to be convened prior to the start of dredging. A final **Dredging and Disposal Work plan** consistent with the draft dredge plan in Table 1 shall be submitted to Ecology per Condition A2 two weeks prior to the pre-dredge meeting. The Dredging and Disposal work plan shall include the following:
  - a. General information including schedule, primary contact, and hours of operation.
  - b. Dredged quantities and disposal location, including any upland locations.
  - c. Dredging procedures and sequence.
  - d. Equipment list.
  - e. A description of the BMPs to be used for dredging, dewatering, trans loading, and disposal.
  - Justification - Ecology needs to meet with the Project Proponent and contractor to go over the work plan prior start of work to ensure that the plan reflects the project that has been authorized by this WQC Order. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.



- Citation - Chapter 70A.200 RCW, Chapter 77.55 RCW, RCW 79.02.300, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.52-040 RCW, RCW 90.54.020(2)(b), Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-240(5)(b), WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-204-400(2), WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
14. All dredging and disposal shall have a valid suitability determination at least two weeks prior to the pre-dredge meeting.
- Justification - The DMMP process confirms that material is suitable for in-water disposal and that the project meets state anti-degradation regulations.
  - Citation - Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-230 WAC, WAC 173-201A-240(1), WAC 173-201A-240(2), Chapter 173-204 WAC, WAC 173-204-110-120, WAC 173-204-400(2), WAC 173-204-410(7), WAC 173-204-350(d), and Chapter 173-225 WAC.
15. Dredging of up to 12,000 cubic yards of dredged material is allowed. Note: If additional material needs to be dredged and disposed of, a new WQC pre-filing meeting request, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
- Justification – Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-230, WAC 173-201A-240(1), WAC 173-201A-240(2), WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, WAC 173-204-110-120, WAC 173-204-400(2), WAC 173-204-410(7), WAC 173-204-350(d), and Chapter 173-225 WAC.
16. If contamination is discovered on site, it must be reported to Ecology (per Condition A.2.). Protective measures shall be implemented to isolate and remove the contaminated media and avoid escaping dust, soil erosion, and water pollution during construction activities.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 70.105D RCW, RCW 90.48, 90.48, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300-330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
17. Any deviations from the authorized dredging footprint, depths, or volumes must be reported to the Project Manager within 24 hours of discovery.

- Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a WQC, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact water quality. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process.
- Citation - 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

18. A post-dredge report shall be submitted to the Project Manager within 30 days of completion of dredging for each dredging season and shall include:

- a. The final dredge volume.
  - b. Location(s) of in-water placement.
  - c. Volume and location(s) of material placed in uplands.
  - d. Plotted results of the post-dredge bathymetric survey. Results must clearly display the post-dredge sediment surface in relation to the permitted dredge boundary and depth, as well as the location of project features such as docks, wharfs and other landmarks. The vertical datum must be clearly indicated.
- Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a WQC, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact water quality. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

#### **F. Emergency/Contingency Measures**

1. The Project Proponent shall develop and implement a spill prevention and containment plan for all aspects of this project.
  - Justification - Ecology must ensure that the Project Proponent has a plan to prevent pollution from entering waterways. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 90.56.280 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
2. The Project Proponent shall have adequate and appropriate spill response and cleanup materials available on site to respond to any release of petroleum products or any other material into waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must have assurance that the Project Proponent has the material readily available in WQC Order to address any spills that might occur to protect waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
3. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
4. Work causing distressed or dying fish and discharges of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is prohibited. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, the Project Proponent shall notify Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A2, and immediately take the following actions:
- a. Cease operations at the location of the non-compliance.
  - b. Assess the cause of the water quality problem and take appropriate measures to correct the problem and prevent further environmental damage.
  - c. In the event of a discharge of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters, or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters, containment and cleanup efforts shall begin immediately and be completed as soon as possible, taking precedence over normal work. Cleanup shall include proper disposal of any spilled material and used cleanup materials.

- d. Immediately notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with the nature and details of the problem, any actions taken to correct the problem, and any proposed changes in operation to prevent further problems.
  - e. Immediately notify the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802, for actual spills to water only.
    - Justification - This condition is necessary to prevent oil and hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
5. Notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office immediately if chemical containers (e.g. drums) are discovered on-site or any conditions present indicating disposal or burial of chemicals on-site that may impact surface water or ground water.
- Justification - Oil and hazardous materials spills cause environmental damage. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.

## Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this WQC Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this WQC Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this WQC Order with the PCHB (see filing information below). “Filing” means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. “Notice of appeal” is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this WQC Order on the Department of Ecology mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

## Filing an appeal

### Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://eluhwa.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

### Service on Ecology

#### Street Addresses:

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

#### Mailing Addresses:

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
PO Box 47608  
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

#### E-Mail Address:

[ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov)

## Americans with Disabilities Act Information

### Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC Order to:

Laura Inouye  
Department of Ecology  
360-515-8213  
[Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov)

## More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**  
<https://elaho.wa.gov>
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice and Procedure**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>
- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05>
- **Chapter 90.48 RCW – Water Pollution Control**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.48>
- **Chapter 173.204 WAC – Sediment Management Standards**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>
- **Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-200>
- **Chapter 173-201A WAC – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-201A>

WQC Order No. 23248, Corps No. NWS-2024-563

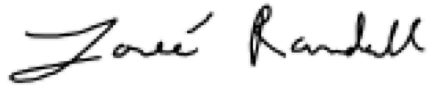
Aquatics ID No. 143897

October 17, 2024

Page 21 of 22

## Signature

Dated this 17th day of October 2024 at the Department of Ecology, Lacey, Washington.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loree' Randall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

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Loree' Randall, Section Manager

Aquatic Permitting and Protection Section

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

## Attachment A

### Statement of Understanding Water Quality Certification Conditions

Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement

Water Quality Certification WQC Order No. 23248

As the Project Proponent for Middle Blair Navigation Safety Improvement project, I have read and understand the conditions of Washington State Department of Ecology WQC Order No. 23248, and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order. I have and will continue to ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand the conditions of this WQC Order and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order.

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Signature

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Date

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Title

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Phone

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Company