



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Central Region Office

1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

12/19/2024

Yakima County Public Services  
ATTN: Luke Stilwater  
128 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yakima WA 98902

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **22911** (Corps No. **NWS-2023-0374**), Gap to Gap Floodplain Restoration, Yakima County, Washington

Dear Luke Stilwater:

On December 21, 2023, Yakima County Public Services submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Gap-to-Gap Floodplain Restoration, Yakima 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 Ryan Anderson at (509) 379-1917. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

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Lori White, Section Manager  
Central Regional Office  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Enclosure (1)

By certified mail: 7014 3490 0001 5526 5721

Sent via e-mail: [luke.stilwater@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:luke.stilwater@co.yakima.wa.us)

WQC Order No. 22911, Corps No. NWS-2023-0374

Aquatics ID No. 142916

December 19, 2024

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E-cc: David Moore, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology

Ryan Anderson, Ecology

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

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

Yakima County Public Services  
Attn: Luke Stilwater  
128 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yakima WA 98902

<b>WQC Order No.</b>	22911
<b>Corps Reference No.</b>	NWS-2023-0374
<b>Site Location</b>	Gap to Gap Floodplain Restoration, located within the Yakima River, near Yakima, in Yakima County, Washington.

Yakima County Public Services 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 Gap-to-Gap Floodplain Restoration, Yakima County, Washington. The following required processing dates are listed below:

- On August 3, 2023, the Yakima County Public Services submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On September 5, 2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent a permit notification to Ecology that indicated that they are processing the project under Nationwide Permit (NWP) Program.
- On December 21, 2023, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- On February 26, 2024, Yakima County Public Services submitted additional information, and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) considered the Request valid on this date.
- On February 29, 2024, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.
- Ecology’s “Reasonable Period of Time” for this project has been established as December 20, 2024.

The project proposes to execute several ecosystem restoration measures along the Yakima River, adjacent floodplain and an extensive side channel on the left bank called Blue Slough. These actions are complimentary to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers similarly named 1135 Gap to Gap project. The proposed work includes five phases in different areas along a two mile stretch of the Yakima River. The phases are:

1. Nob Hill Levy Setback and Floodplain Connections -
  - Set back a portion of the Nob Hill Levy, remove an old bridge foundation and create side channel through the gravel bar formed against the Nob Hill Levy.
2. Washington State Department of Transportation Pilot Channels -
  - Remove berms and hardened channels remnant of gravel mining. Remove a small portion of City of Yakima Corps Certified Levy and create pilot channels that will lead to gravel pit ponds converting to riverine and floodplain habitat.
3. Greenway Trail Relocation and Edler Ponds -
  - Remove the south end of the greenway trail and replace it with an elevated trail on the far right bank side of the Yakima River Floodplain. Partially fill in the Edler ponds with “habitat islands”.
4. Lower Blue Slough floodplain Features –
  - Remove fill in order to increase blue slough connectivity across the floodplain.
5. Blue Slough Culverts -
  - Remove and replace four culverts from Blough Slough to improve fish, water and sediment movement.

The project site is located throughout the Gap-to-Gap Reach of the Yakima River, Yakima County, Washington, within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 37, Lower Yakima.

## 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 Yakima County Public Service’s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Gap-to-Gap Floodplain Restoration Project, Yakima River, located in Yakima 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 12/21/2023 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
12/21/2023	Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form	Gap to Gap Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Project JARPA 4/26/2023	Luke Stilwater, Yakima County Public Services
12/21/2023	Drawings	Yakima River Gap to Gap Restoration 10/14/2021	Shannon & Wilson, Inc.
12/21/2023	State Environmental Policy Act	Yakima County Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project MDNS 12/16/2022	Tua Vang, Yakima County Planning Division
12/21/2023	Biological Assessment	Biological Assessment Yakima River Gap-to-Gap Ecosystem Restoration Phase II 10/13/2023	Shannon & Wilson, Inc
12/21/2023	Wetland Delineation Report	Wetland Delineation Report Gap to Gap LPA Project 2/8/2023	Luke Stilwater, Yakima County Public Works
12/21/2023	Wetland Rating	Wetland Delineation Report Gap to Gap LPA Project 2/8/2023	Luke Stilwater, Yakima County Public Works

12/21/2023	Functional Assessment	Functional Assessment Yakima River Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration 11/30/2023	Shannon & Wilson, Inc
2/21/2024	Water Quality Monitoring Plan	Yakima River Gap to Gap LPA Project Water Quality Monitoring Plan	Luke Stilwater, Yakima County Public Services

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize Yakima County Public Services 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 Yakima County Public Services 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 Yakima County Public Services. Specific condition justifications and citations are provided below.

#### A. General Conditions

1. In this WQC Order, the term “Project Proponent” shall mean Yakima County Public Services 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 [Ryan.Anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Ryan.Anderson@ecy.wa.gov). The submittals shall be identified with WQC Order No. 22911 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 December 21, 2023 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 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) 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:
- a. 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>;
  - b. Provide a copy of this WQC Order to the new owner or operator; and
  - c. 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 [Ryan.Anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Ryan.Anderson@ecy.wa.gov). Notifications shall be identified with WQC Order No. 22911 Corps Reference No. NWS-2023-0374 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 days prior to all pre-construction meetings.
  - c. At least ten days prior to conducting initial in-water work activities; and
  - d. Within seven days of completion of each in-water work activities of each in-water work window.
    - 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 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 complete.

- 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) permit for this project and will remain valid until February 28, 2030.
  - 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 Yakima River may be conducted between July 15 and February 28, 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 fresh waters (including wetlands) turbidity shall not exceed five NTU over background when the background is 50 NTU or less; or a ten 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 fresh waters (WAC 173-201A-200) is as follows:
  01. For waters up to 10 cfs flow at the time of construction, the point of compliance shall be one hundred feet downstream from the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.
  02. For waters above 10 cfs up to 100 cfs flow at the time of construction, the point of compliance shall be two hundred feet downstream of the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.
  03. For waters above 100 cfs flow at the time of construction, the point of compliance shall be three hundred feet downstream of the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.

04. For projects working within or along lakes, ponds, wetlands, or other non-flowing waters, the point of compliance 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 Plan (WQMP), 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.
- Monitoring results shall be submitted monthly 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.

7. 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. All clearing limits, stockpiles, staging areas, and trees to be preserved shall clearly be marked prior to commencing construction activities and maintained until all work is completed for each project.
  - Justification -Ensures that the project proponent preserves sensitive areas from 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.
3. The Project Proponent shall obtain and comply with the conditions of the Construction Stormwater General Permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System - NPDES) issued for this project.
  - 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, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. Within the project limits<sup>1</sup> all environmentally sensitive areas including, but not limited to, wetlands, wetland buffers, shoreline riparian buffers and mitigation areas shall be fenced with high visibility construction fencing (HVF) or staked and flagged in areas of high wildlife use, prior to commencing construction activities. Construction activities include equipment staging, materials storage, and work vehicle parking. Note: This condition does not apply to activities such as pre-construction surveying and installing HVF and construction zone signage.
  - a. If the project will be constructed in stages<sup>2</sup> a detailed description and drawings of the stages shall be sent to Ecology for review at least 20 days prior to placing HVF.
  - b. Condition 5.a. shall apply to each stage.
  - c. All field staff shall be trained to recognize HVF, understand its purpose and properly install it in the appropriate locations.

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<sup>1</sup> Project limits include mitigation sites, staging areas, borrow sources, and other sites developed or used to support project construction.

<sup>2</sup> A stage is part of a project that has been separated into at least two distinct areas to be built during separate timeframes.

- d. HVF shall be maintained until all work is completed for each project or each stage of a staged project.
  - 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.
5. 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.
6. All construction debris, excess sediment, and other solid waste material shall be properly managed and disposed of in an upland disposal site approved by the appropriate regulatory authority.
  - 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.
7. All equipment being used below the ordinary high water mark shall utilize biodegradable hydraulic fluid.
  - 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.



8. Applicant shall ensure that fill (soil, gravel, or other material) placed for the proposed project does not contain toxic materials in toxic amounts.
  - 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.
9. Work within waters of the state shall be conducted in the dry or during periods of low flow to the extent practicable.
  - 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.
10. Temporary cofferdams, bladder dams, super sack dams, floating turbidity curtains, and bypasses used to divert water around the work area shall be in place prior to initiation of work below the OHWM. These shall be properly deployed and maintained in order to minimize turbidity and re-suspension of sediment.
  - Justification - This condition ensures containment and limits movement of sediment that could cause water quality exceedances. 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.
11. To minimize sediment releases, re-introduction of water into the isolated work area shall be done gradually, and at a rate not higher than the normal flow.
  - 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.

12. Prior to initiating the Nob Hill Levy Setback phase of the project, the Yakima County Public Services shall assure that all necessary measures have been met to comply with the requirements established under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) chapter 70A.305 RCW, and chapter 173-340 WAC related to the Nob Hill Auto Wrecking clean-up site within the project area.
  - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state 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, RCW 70A.305 Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.”

### **Equipment and Maintenance**

13. Staging areas will be located a minimum of 50 feet and, where practical, 200 feet, from waters of the state, including wetlands, unless otherwise requested by the project proponent and authorized by Ecology.
  - Justification - Requiring a minimum setback ensures that material will not end up in 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.
14. Equipment used for this project shall be free of external petroleum-based products while used around the waters of the state, including wetlands. Accumulation of soils or debris shall be removed from the drive mechanisms (wheels, tires, tracks, etc.) and the undercarriage of equipment prior to its use around waters of the state, including wetlands.
  - 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.
15. 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.

### **Dewatering**

16. Dewatering water may not be discharged to the Yakima River or Blue Slough or conveyed to surface waters unless it meets Surface Water Quality Standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC) at the point of discharge, unless otherwise authorized by 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.
- 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.

### **Culvert Work and Stream Bypass**

17. All culvert work shall be conducted in the dry or in isolation from stream flow.

- Justification - This condition would limit re-suspension of sediment that could cause water quality exceedances. 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.

17. To minimize sediment releases into downstream water, water reintroduced to the channel shall be done gradually and at a rate not exceeding the normal stream flow.

- Justification - Maintaining natural stream flow rate is important for maintaining beneficial uses and preventing water quality impacts. 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.

## **F. Post-Construction Monitoring**

1. The Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology (see A.2) the results from the monitoring efforts described in Section 7.1 of the Functional Assessment (identified in Table one of this Order).
  - Justification - A monitoring plan describes the methods used to collect and analyze data needed to show that performance standards are being met. Monitoring plans are necessary to track environmental changes to ensure success of the project.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, Chapter 47.85.040 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii), WAC 173-201A-300 and WAC 173-225-010.

## **G. 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.

2. 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://eluhho.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

## 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:

Ryan Anderson  
Department of Ecology  
(509) 379-1917  
[Ryan.Anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Ryan.Anderson@ecy.wa.gov)

## More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**  
<https://eluhho.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>

## Signature

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024 at the Department of Ecology, Union Gap, Washington.



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Lori White, Regional Section Manager  
Central Region Office  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program



**Attachment A**

**Statement of Understanding  
Water Quality Certification Conditions**

Gap to Gap Floodplain Restoration

Water Quality Certification WQC Order No. 22911

As the Project Proponent for the Gap-to-Gap Floodplain Restoration project, I have read and understand the conditions of Washington State Department of Ecology WQC Order No. 22911, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company

## **Attachment B**

### **Information Required for Monitoring Reports**

Gap to Gap Floodplain Restoration

Ecology Order No. 22911

And

Corps Reference No. NWS-2023-0374

Ecology requires the following information for monitoring reports submitted under this Order. Ecology will accept additional information that may be required by other agencies.

#### **Background Information**

3. Project name.
4. Ecology Order number and the Corps reference number.
5. Name and contact information of the person preparing the monitoring report. Also, if different from the person preparing the report, include the names of:
  - a. The Project Proponent
  - b. The landowner
  - c. The party responsible for the monitoring activities.
6. Dates the monitoring data were collected.
7. Date the report was produced.

#### **Project Information**

8. Brief description of the restoration project, including acreage of Cowardin classes and mitigation type(s) (re-establishment, rehabilitation, creation, enhancement, preservation, upland, buffers).
9. Description of the monitoring approach and methods. For each performance standard being measured provide the following information:
  - a. Description of the sampling technique (e.g., monitoring point for soil or hydrology, line or point intercept method, ocular estimates in individually placed plots). If you are using a standardized technique, provide a reference for that method.

- b. Size and shape of plots or transects.
  - c. Number of sampling locations and how you determined the number of sampling locations to use.
  - d. Percent of the mitigation area being sampled.
  - e. Locations of sampling (provide a map showing the locations), how you determined where to place the sampling locations (e.g., simple random sample), and whether they are permanent or temporary.
  - f. Schedule for sampling (how often and when).
  - g. Description of how the data was evaluated and analyzed.
10. Summary table(s) comparing performance standards with monitoring results and whether each standard has been met.
  11. Discussion of how the monitoring data were used to determine whether the site(s) is meeting performance standards.
  12. Goals and objectives and a discussion of whether the project is progressing toward achieving them.
  13. Summary, including dates, of management actions implemented at the site(s), for example, maintenance and corrective actions.
  14. Summary of any difficulties or significant events that occurred on the site that may affect the success of the project.
  15. Specific recommendations for additional maintenance or corrective actions with a timetable.
  16. Photographs taken at permanent photo stations and other photographs, as needed. Photos must be dated and clearly indicate the direction the camera is facing. Photo pans are recommended.
  17. Vicinity map showing the geographic location of the site(s) with landmarks.
  18. Mitigation site map(s), 8-1/2" x 11" or larger, showing the following:
    - a. Boundary of the site(s).
    - b. Location of permanent photo stations and any other photos taken.

- c. Data sampling locations, such as points, plots, or transects.
- d. Approximate locations of any replanted vegetation.
- e. Changes to site conditions since the last report, such as areas of regrading, a shift in the location of Cowardin classes or habitat features, or a change in water regime.

Include the month and year when each map was produced or revised. The site map(s) should reflect on-the-ground conditions during the most recent monitoring year.