



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

**Northwest Region Office**  
PO Box 330316, Shoreline, WA 98133-9716 • 206-594-0000

June 9, 2025

JJ Place LLC  
ATTN: John Piazza  
126 Olympic Avenue  
Arlington, WA 98223

Re: Amendment to 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. 22550 for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reference No. NWS-2023-0397, JJ Place Apartments project, Wetlands, Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Washington

Dear John Piazza:

Enclosed is an amendment to Water Quality Certification Order No. 22550, issued on March 5, 2024, for the above project. We have also included a strikeout version of the Water Quality Certification that reflects the changes made. All other conditions of Water Quality Certification No. 22550 remain in effect.

The purpose of this amendment is to authorize the revised mitigation plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Luerkens at (360) 410-4807. The enclosed Amendment may be appealed by following the procedures described in the Amendment.

Sincerely,

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Joe Burcar, Section Manager  
Northwest Region Office  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Enclosure (2)

By certified mail: 9171 9690 0935 0233 1815 35

Sent via e-mail: [john.jr@piazzaconst.com](mailto:john.jr@piazzaconst.com)

E-cc: Kristin Murray, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mark Merkelbach, Green Earth Operations

First Amendment to Order No. 22550  
Aquatics No. 142697, Corps No. NWS-2023-0397  
June 9, 2025  
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Chris Luerkens, Ecology  
Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology  
[ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov) – Aquatics ID No. 142697

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

JJ Place LLC  
ATTN: John Piazza  
126 Olympic Avenue  
Arlington, WA 98223

<b>WQC Order No.</b>	22550, First Amendment
<b>Corps Reference No.</b>	NWS-2023-0397
<b>Site Location</b>	JJ Place Apartments project located within Wetlands, Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Washington.

On March 5, 2024, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) to JJ Place LLC (John Piazza) for the above-referenced project pursuant to the provisions of 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401).

Ecology received a request from the Project Proponent to modify the WQC on April 28, 2025, related to proposed modifications to the amount of indirect wetland impacts and type and amount of mitigation. The revised mitigation plan no longer proposes to utilize the City of Mount Vernon's Managed Ecosystem Alternative Program, but will instead purchase additional mitigation bank credits. The revised mitigation plan proposes to purchase 0.92 credits from the Skagit Environmental Bank instead of 0.65 credits. The Project Proponent will still install onsite wetland enhancement.

WQC Order No. 22550 dated March 5, 2024, is hereby amended as follows:

I. Project Description, first paragraph which reads:

The purpose of the project is to build a multi-family residential apartment building and associated amenities (driveway, parking, stormwater treatment). The project would include underground stormwater biofiltration cells, detention vault, and bioswale infiltration. The project proposes to fill approximately 0.41 acre of wetlands and indirectly impact 0.47 acres of wetland. Wetland mitigation would occur through purchase of 0.65 credits from the Skagit Environmental Bank, contribution to the City of Mount Vernon's Managed Ecosystem Alternative program, and onsite wetland enhancement.

Is replaced with:

The purpose of the project is to build a multi-family residential apartment building and associated amenities (driveway, parking, stormwater treatment). The project would

include underground stormwater biofiltration cells, detention vault, and bioswale infiltration. The project proposes to fill approximately 0.41 acre of wetlands and indirectly impact 1.01 acres of wetland. Wetland mitigation would occur through purchase of 0.92 credits from the Skagit Environmental Bank, and onsite wetland enhancement.

II. Condition number F1 which reads:

The Project Proponent shall mitigate wetland impacts as described in the wetland mitigation plan (hereafter called the "Mitigation Plan") as identified in Table 1 or as required by this Order.

Is replaced with:

The Project Proponent shall mitigate wetland impacts as described in the Final Mitigation Plan JJ Place Mount Vernon, Washington (hereafter called the "Mitigation Plan") prepared by Green Earth Operations, Inc., revised January 12, 2025, or as required by this Order.

III. Condition number F3 which reads:

Prior to impacting wetlands, the Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology documentation from the bank sponsor verifying the purchase of 0.65 wetland mitigation bank credits (credits) from the Skagit Mitigation Bank. This documentation must include the Ecology Order Number, Order issuance date, impact acreage, the amount of credits required by the Order, and date of credit purchase.

Is replaced with:

Prior to impacting wetlands, the Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology documentation from the bank sponsor verifying the purchase of 0.92 wetland mitigation bank credits (credits) from the Skagit Mitigation Bank. This documentation must include the Ecology Order Number, Order issuance date, impact acreage, the amount of credits required by the Order, and date of credit purchase.

IV. The following condition number F5 is deleted:

The Project Proponent shall provide documentation of financial contribution to the City of Mount Vernon's Managed Ecosystems Alternative program as proposed in the Mitigation Plan.

No other conditions or requirements of the above referenced Order are affected by this amendment.

Ecology retains continuing jurisdiction to make modifications hereto through supplemental order, if it appears necessary to further protect the public interest.

Failure to comply with this amended Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions whether administrative or judicial, to enforce the terms of this amended Order.

## **Your right to appeal**

You have a right to appeal this 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 Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this 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 Order on the Department of Ecology by 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.

## **Address and Location Information**

### **Filing with the PCHB**

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://elaho.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)

## Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this Order to:

Chris Luerkens  
Department of Ecology  
(360) 410-4807  
[Chris.Luerkens@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Chris.Luerkens@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>

## Signature

Dated this 9 day of June 2025 at the Department of Ecology, Shoreline Washington.



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Joe Burcar, Section Manager  
Northwest Region Office  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

This document shows the activities and/or conditions that have been amended since the original Order was issued. Therefore, it is not the official certification and should be used for information purposes only.

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

JJ Place LLC  
Attn: John Piazza  
129 Olympic Avenue  
Arlington, WA 98223

<b>WQC Order No.</b>	22550
<b>Corps Reference No.</b>	NWS-2023-0397
<b>Site Location</b>	JJ Place Apartments project located within wetlands, Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Washington.

JJ Place LLC (John Piazza) 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 JJ Place Apartments, Whatcom County, Washington. The following required processing dates are listed below:

- On May 23, 2023, the JJ Place LLC (John Piazza) submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On September 7, 2023, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- On May 22, 2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent an email notification to Ecology that they are reviewing the project for authorization under Nationwide Permit Program and requires an individual Section 401.
- Ecology's "Reasonable Period of Time" for this project has been established as March 7, 2024.
- On October 5, 2023, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.

The purpose of the project is to build a muti-family residential apartment building and associated amenities (driveway, parking, stormwater treatment). The project would include underground stormwater biofiltration cells, detention vault, and bioswale infiltration. The project proposes to fill approximately 0.41 acre of wetlands and indirectly impact ~~1.01~~ 0.47 acres of wetland. Wetland mitigation would occur through purchase of ~~0.92~~ 0.65 credits from the Skagit Environmental Bank, ~~contribution to the City of Mount Vernon's Managed Ecosystem Alternative program,~~ and onsite wetland enhancement.

The project site is located at 2988 East College Way, Mount Vernon, wetlands, Skagit County, Washington, Section 16, Township 34 N., Range 4 E., within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 3 Lower Skagit-Samish.

## Authorities

In exercising authority under 33 U.S.C. §1341, RCW 90.48.120, and RCW 90.48.260, 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 JJ Place LLC (John Piazza)'s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the JJ Place Apartments, within wetland located in Skagit 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 September 7, 2023, and 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
9/7/2023	Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application(JARPA) Form	JARPA, 5/10/2023	Green Earth Operations, Inc
9/7/2023	State Environmental Policy Act	Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS), 4/7/2023	City of Mount Vernon



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9/7/2023	Wetland Delineation	Wetland And Stream Assessment, JJ Place Mount Vernon, Washington, 7/14/2020	Green Earth Operations, Inc
9/7/2023	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	JJ Place Apartments, Civil Construction Plans SWPP Notes, 6/28/2023	AXE Engineering Services, LLC
2/28/2024	Mitigation Plan	Final Mitigation Plan JJ Place Mount Vernon, Washington, revised 02/28/2024	Green Earth Operations, Inc

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize JJ Place LLC (John Piazza) 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 JJ Place LLC (John Piazza) 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 JJ Place LLC (John Piazza). Specific condition justifications and citations are provided below.

### A. General Conditions

1. In this WQC Order, the term "Project Proponent" shall mean the JJ Place LLC (John Piazza) 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

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chris.luerkens@ecy.wa.gov. The submittals shall be identified with WQC Order No. 22550 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 September 7, 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 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.

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- 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 to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager within two weeks of receiving it.
- Justification - This condition is needed to ensure that all the conditions of the WQC Order have been incorporated 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 [chris.luerkens@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:chris.luerkens@ecy.wa.gov). Notifications shall be identified with WQC Order No. 22550, Corps Reference No. NWS-2023-0397, 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-construction meetings;
    - 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 and mitigation are 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) permit for this project and will remain valid for the duration of the associated permit for the project.
  - 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. To the extent practicable, work within the wetted perimeter of wetlands and drainages shall be conducted during the dry season.
  - 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.

#### **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. 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.
3. Within the project limits<sup>1</sup> all environmentally sensitive areas including, but not limited to, wetlands, and wetland buffers shall be fenced with high visibility construction fencing (HVF), 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.
- 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.
4. 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 173-225-0z10.

### Equipment and Maintenance

5. 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.

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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.



- 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.
6. No equipment shall enter, operate, be stored or parked within any sensitive area except as specifically provided for in 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.
7. Wash water containing oils, grease, or other hazardous materials resulting from washing of equipment or working areas shall not be discharged into state waters. The Project Proponent shall set up a designated area for washing down equipment.
- 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.
8. A separate area shall be set aside, which does not have any possibility of draining to surface waters, for the wash-out of concrete delivery trucks, pumping equipment, and tools.
- 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.

#### **F. Wetland Mitigation Conditions**

1. The Project Proponent shall mitigate wetland impacts as described in the **Final Mitigation Plan JJ Place Mount Vernon, Washington wetland mitigation plan** (hereafter called the “Mitigation Plan”) **prepared by Green Earth Operations, Inc., revised January 12, 2025, as identified in Table 1** or as required by this Order.
  - Justification - Alteration of water quality necessitates the use of mitigation as a method of controlling pollution. When adequate mitigation is provided, the impacts are not considered significant enough to water quality, at least in the long-term. The water quality standards, along with mitigation, protect wetlands as well as permitting some level of degradation where unavoidable or necessary.
  - Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, 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.
2. The Project Proponent shall submit any proposed changes to the Mitigation Plan in writing to Ecology (see A.2) for review, as described in the Mitigation Plan, before implementing the changes.
  - Justification – When adequate mitigation is provided, the water quality impacts are offset and not considered significant, at least in the long-term. Changes to impacts or mitigation must be considered when evaluating mitigation adequacy.
  - Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, 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.

#### Mitigation bank credits

3. Prior to impacting wetlands, the Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology documentation from the bank sponsor verifying the purchase of **0.92 0-65** wetland mitigation bank credits (credits) from the Skagit Mitigation Bank. This documentation must include the Ecology Order Number, Order issuance date, impact acreage, the amount of credits required by the Order, and date of credit purchase.
  - Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure the compensatory mitigation was actually provided by the bank.
  - Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, 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.

4. Unless otherwise authorized by this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall complete the purchase of credits before impacting wetlands. Otherwise, Ecology may require the Project Proponent to provide additional compensation to account for additional temporal loss of wetland functions.
  - Justification - Mitigation that is not emplaced concurrent with impacts will result in degradation of existing beneficial uses of the wetlands affected by the proposed action through temporal loss of functions.
  - Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, 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.

~~City of Mount Vernon's Managed Ecosystems Alternative program~~

- ~~5. The Project Proponent shall provide documentation of financial contribution to the City of Mount Vernon's Managed Ecosystems Alternative program as proposed in the Mitigation Plan.~~
  - ~~• Justification – This condition is necessary to ensure the compensatory mitigation was actually provided by the program.~~
  - ~~• Citation – 33 CFR 332, 40 CFR 131.12, 40 CFR 230, subpart J, RCW 47.85.040, Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.54 RCW, Chapter 90.74 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-260 (3)(i-ii) and WAC 173-201A-300.~~

**Onsite wetland mitigation**

6. Unless otherwise authorized by this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall begin the compensatory mitigation project before, or concurrently with, impacting wetlands. Otherwise, Ecology may require the Project Proponent to provide additional compensation to account for additional temporal loss of wetland functions.
  - Justification - Mitigation that is not emplaced concurrent with impacts will result in degradation of existing beneficial uses of the wetlands affected by the proposed action.
  - 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.

7. After completing construction and planting of the mitigation site, the Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology (see A.2) an as-built report, including plan sheets, documenting site conditions at Year Zero. The as-built report must:
  - a. Be submitted within 90 days of completing construction and planting.
  - b. Include the information listed in Attachment B (Information Required for As-built Reports).
  - c. Include documentation of the recorded legal site protection mechanism required in Condition F.8 (below).
    - Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure the mitigation site was constructed and planted per the approved mitigation plan and serves as a baseline for monitoring performance standards, which must be met to ensure success of the mitigation site.
    - 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.
8. The Project Proponent shall follow the steps below to record a legal site protection mechanism or the onsite mitigation area.
  - a. Request a template from Ecology or use an appropriate alternative to develop a draft legal site protection mechanism.
  - b. Send the draft site protection mechanism to Ecology for review prior to recording.
  - c. Record the legal site protection mechanism with the County Recording Office, Registrar of Deeds, or other official responsible for maintaining records for, or interest in, real property.
  - d. Record the legal site protection mechanism with a figure that corresponds with the legal description showing the area that is being protected, a copy of this Order, and a site map showing the location of wetlands and their buffers that are being protected.
  - e. Send a copy of the recorded legal site protection mechanism to Ecology with the As-Built Report (see G.20).
    - Justification - The mitigation plan needs to ensure that measures will be taken to protect the site for the long term to ensure that wetland functions and values are replaced, thereby preserving beneficial uses and offsetting pollution.

- Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 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.

## Monitoring and Maintenance

9. The Project Proponent shall water and maintain all mitigation site plantings so as to meet the Mitigation Plan's performance standards. If an irrigation system is installed, it shall be removed by the end of year three unless otherwise provided for in the Mitigation Plan.
  - Justification - Designing and implementing an appropriate maintenance plan is crucial to the success of a mitigation site.
  - 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.
10. The Project Proponent shall monitor the mitigation site for a minimum of 5 years. The Project Proponent shall use the monitoring methods described in the Mitigation Plan.
  - 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 at mitigation sites to ensure success of the mitigation site.
  - 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.
11. The Project Proponent shall submit to Ecology (see A.2) monitoring reports documenting mitigation site conditions for years 1, 2, 3, and 5. The monitoring reports must:
  - a. Be submitted by December 31 of each monitoring year.
  - b. Include the information listed in Attachment C (Information Required for Monitoring Reports).
    - Justification- Monitoring reports track the environmental progress of the mitigation site and are necessary to track environmental changes at mitigation sites to ensure success of the mitigation site.

- 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.

12. If the Project Proponent has not met all compensatory mitigation conditions by the end of the monitoring period, Ecology may require additional monitoring, additional mitigation, or both. Conditions include specifications in the approved Mitigation Plan, such as performance standards for the mitigation site.

- Justification - If the mitigation site is not meeting all compensatory mitigation conditions then the water quality impacts will not be offset by the mitigation.
- 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.

13. The Project Proponents obligation to compensate for wetland impacts under Condition F.1 is not met until the Project Proponent has received written notice from Ecology that the obligation is met.

- Justification - If the mitigation site is not meeting all compensatory mitigation conditions then the water quality impacts will not be offset by the mitigation.
- Citation - 40 CFR 131.12, 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.
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.