STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • 360-407-6300

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issuance:

Lead agency: Department of Ecology, Toxics Cleanup Program, Southwest Region

Agency Contact: Sam Meng, Cleanup Project Manager, Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov; 360-999-9587

Permit Number: Work is to be performed under the authority of a Model Toxics Control Act Agreed Order No. DE 18152

Description of proposal:

The proposed project is an interim cleanup action to excavate and dispose of contaminated stormwater solids from the stormwater treatment pond (referred to as the pond) located on Terminal 4 of Port of Vancouver. The drainage basin for the pond includes Terminal 3 and part of Terminals 2 and 4 (See Figure 2) including a portion of the Site as defined by the Washington State Department of Ecology Agreed Order DE 18152 and DE15806. The contaminants of concern at the site include copper and other metals, fertilizer constituents, and volatile organic compounds.

Bentonite clay, copper concentrate, and fertilizer are currently or historically have been handled at the port's terminals. Stormwater from portions of these operational areas discharges to the pond. The stormwater sampling, conducted at these areas, events indicate that concentrations of total metals—arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, silver, and zinc—exceeded the most conservative screening levels for one or more pathways. The stormwater solids settled in the pond was collected and characterized for disposal. The analytical data shows the sediments is impacted by metals and oil-range petroleum hydrocarbons.

The proposed project includes: 1) dewatering the pond and stabilization (if necessary to further reduce the moisture content), 2) excavating the pond to its original depth, 3) disposal of the excavated stormwater solids, and 4) post-excavation soil sampling for site contaminants of concern and other hazardous substances. The solids will be stockpiled within the pond prior to loading into dump trucks. The analytical result from the post-excavation sampling will inform the remedial investigation being conducted at the portions of site that are within the drainage basin for the pond and near the pond.

Location of proposal: The Stormwater Pond is adjacent to and north of 3405 NW Harborside Drive on Terminal 4 between the rail corridor and the Columbia River.

Applicant/Proponent: Port of Vancouver

Project Representative: Patty Boyden
E-MAIL: pboyden@portvausa.com
PHONE: 360-823-5318
ADDRESS: 3103 NW River Road, Vancouver, WA 98660-1027

Ecology has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist, as well as the Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and public review draft Cleanup Action Plan. These documents are available at:

Fort Vancouver Regional Library, 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98663

Ecology Lacey Office (by appointment), 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98503

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

- The project will reduce concentrations of metals and petroleum hydrocarbons in the stormwater pond reducing risk to maintenance workers and potential ecological receptors.
- Engineering design documents will be prepared and approved by Ecology to ensure all on-site work will be performed in accordance with applicable standards and use of best management construction and stormwater control practices.
- A Contaminated Media Management Plan will be prepared and approved by Ecology to ensure proper handling and disposal of contaminated water and solids.
- The Ecology cleanup project manager will provide oversight during project construction.

The comment period for this DNS corresponds with the comment period for the Public Review Draft Interim Action Work Plan and associated Agreed Order Amendment. The comment period begins on June 15, 2023 and ends on July 17, 2023

Responsible official:

Rebecca S. Lawson, P.E., LHG
Section Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Region
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
360-407-6241

Signature Rebecca S. Lawson

Date 6/5/2023

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal,** even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in "Part B: Environmental Elements" that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background Find help answering background questions

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

   Terminal 4 Stormwater Pond Interim Action - Cleanout

2. **Name of applicant:**

   Port of Vancouver

3. **Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

   Patty Boyden
   Port of Vancouver
   3103 NW River Road
   Vancouver, WA 98660-1027
   Phone: 360-823-5318
   Fax: 360-735-1565
   Email: pboyden@portvanusa.com

4. **Date checklist prepared:**

   April 19, 2023

5. **Agency requesting checklist:**

   Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)

6. **Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

   The objective of this proposed action is to remove and properly dispose of contaminated stormwater solids from the stormwater treatment pond located on Terminal 4 (See Figure 1). The pond, initially constructed in the 1990s and modified several times, is designed to collect suspended and settleable solids from stormwater runoff. The drainage basin for the pond includes Terminal 3 and part of Terminals 2 and 4 (See Figure 2) including a portion of the Site as defined by the Washington State Department of Ecology Agreed Order DE 18152 and DE15806. Removal of the contaminated stormwater solids would reduce the potential reduce the potential threat to human health and the environment.

   The general tasks of the project include:

   1. Dewatering – The pond will be pumped in mid- to late June at the start of the dry season.
   2. Stormwater Solids Drying – It is anticipated that 30 to 45 days will be required to sufficiently dry solids in the pond prior to removal.

3. Stormwater Solids Removal – Mechanical equipment will be used to remove solids from the pond. The removal will continue until the fine-grained solids and organic material are removed and the underlying silty sand layer is encountered.
4. Stormwater Solids Drying/Disposal – Solids removed from the pond may require additional drying prior to being hauled to the disposal facility. Disposal receipts will be retained and included in the Interim Action report to Ecology.

   Stormwater Management – If it rains during the construction work, stormwater will be managed per the CMMP that will be developed and subject to Ecology's approval, in accordance to the Ecology-approved Interim Action Work Plan. It is anticipated that as part of the ongoing stormwater management and operation, the port will consider and implement additional treatment, improvements, and other best management practices. Electrical power may need to be installed at any and all stormwater facilities for the purposes of pumping and treating stormwater. It is assumed at a minimum that 3 phase 480 volt power source capable of 800 amps would be sufficient.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

The applicant has no future additions, expansions, or further activity related to this proposed project.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Documents that have been prepared as part of a Supplemental Remedial Investigation currently being conducted at the Site include:

Antea Group. 2021. Supplemental Remedial Investigation – Vancouver Bulk Terminal – Stormwater Investigation Technical Memorandum. Prepared for the Port of Vancouver, U.S.A.

Antea Group. 2022. Supplemental Remedial Investigation – Vancouver Bulk Terminal – Additional Stormwater Investigation Technical Memorandum. Prepared for the Port of Vancouver, U.S.A.

Cascadia Associates, LLC, Antea Group, Parametrix. 2020. Supplemental Remedial Investigation Work Plan. NuStar Vancouver Main Terminal, 2565 NW Harborside Drive, Vancouver, Washington. Prepared for NuStar Terminals Services, Inc./Kinder Morgan/Port of Vancouver. December 18, 2020.

These documents can be found on Ecology's project website:

https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/3450

Documents that have been prepared as part of the proposed project include:

Parametrix, May 2023 Interim Action Work Plan

Maul Foster Alongi, May 2023 Engineering Design Report

Contaminated Media Management Plan (CMMP) - will be developed for disposal of the pond stormwater solids. This CMMP will serve as the technical basis for the project bid and will contain the following information:

- Project background
- Roles and responsibilities for project parties (Port, contractor, consultant[s], engineer[s], and regulatory authorities)
- Nature and extent of stormwater solids contamination
- Stormwater solid and water from dewatering management procedures
- Site controls as required or recommended during performance of work
- Stormwater contingency plan
- Any other site- or project-specific information as found to be necessary

Contractors will receive this CMMP during the bid stage and will be required to use the CMMP as a reference tool during performance of work. If found to be necessary, the CMMP will be updated using information found by any project party during contractor's performance of work.

Additional environmental information can be found on Ecology's project website:

https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/3450

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

There are no pending applications affecting the project site.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

- Grading permit (City of Vancouver)

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The objective of this proposed action is to remove and properly dispose of stormwater solids from the stormwater treatment pond located on Terminal 4. The contamination is related to the MTCA Cleanup Site ID No. 3450.. The stormwater solids will be disposed of at a permitted facility and receipts for proper disposal will be included in an interim action report that will be prepared by the port and submitted to Ecology.

The pond, initially constructed in the 1990s and modified several times, was designed to collect suspended and settleable solids from stormwater runoff. Stormwater discharge from the Terminal 4 pond to the Columbia River is allowed by an Ecology Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP), number WAR000424.

The stormwater infrastructure for Terminals 2, 3 and 4 including the Terminal 4 outfall, are shown on the attached Figure 2.

Bentonite clay, copper concentrate, and fertilizer are currently or historically have been handled at the port's terminals. Stormwater from portions of these operational areas discharges to the Terminal 4 stormwater pond.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposed project is located at the port in the City of Vancouver west of the Interstate 5 Bridge crossing. The Stormwater Pond is adjacent to and north of 3405 NW Harborside Drive on Terminal 4 between the rail corridor and the Columbia River. The Stormwater Pond is in the northeast quarter of Section 20, Township 2 North, Range 1 East.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth Find help answering earth questions

a. General description of the site:

The Site as a whole is relatively flat. It is located within developed industrial lands north of the Columbia River.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The Terminal 4 stormwater pond has the steepest slope on the Site, with slopes at approximately 2:1.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soils on the Site are primarily sand and silty sand. There are no soils classified as agricultural or prime farmland within the project site.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Much of the Site and surrounding area is mapped as moderate to high liquefaction hazard, with some areas of very low to low liquefaction hazard. There are no mapped landslide hazard areas in the vicinity.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Excavation will occur to remove accumulated stormwater solids from the pond. The quantity of solids removed will be determined based on field observations, with a minimum estimated quantity of approximately 1,000 cubic yards.

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is not anticipated as the floor of the pond is flat and side slopes are heavily vegetated. However, very minor erosion could occur during the stormwater solids removal. Erosion control best management practices will be applied.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

No new impervious surfaces will be added to the site from this project.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

Typical best management practices for sedimentation and erosion control will be implemented during construction. Such measures include, but are not limited to, the use of silt fences and straw wattles where applicable.

2. Air Find help answering air questions

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Temporary, minor emissions from vehicles and dust from limited grading activities is anticipated during the removal of stormwater solids from the pond.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

There are no off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect the proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.

Excavation of the material will be conducted in a manner to reduce and control emissions as much as possible. If needed material may be wetted down to prevent dust emissions during the excavation. Equipment will be fit with emission control devices, as appropriate to comply with local, state, and federal regulations and any applicable permit requirements. Excessive and unnecessary idling on port property is prohibited.

3. Water Find help answering water questions

a. Surface Water: Find help answering surface water questions

1. **Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

   The Columbia River is approximately 700 feet south of the Terminal 4 Stormwater Pond and flows directly to the Pacific Ocean, about 100 miles downstream from the Site.

   Vancouver Lake is located northwest of the project area with the lowlands situated approximately1,700 feet north.

   Wetlands (known as the Parcel 1A Wetland) are also located 500 feet to the north of the stormwater pond, north of the rail corridor.

2. **Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No proposed project construction would occur within 200 feet of federal or state jurisdictional surface waters. However, the existing discharge pipe that connects the pond to the Columbia River will remain in place, and the knife gate in the outlet structure will be placed in the closed position to keep any flow from entering the river during construction.

3. **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

   No dredge or fill material would be discharged to surface waters or wetlands.

4. **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

   The proposed project would not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5. **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

   FEMA mapping shows that the majority of the stormwater pond is located within the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE), with the remainder located within the 500-year floodplain.

   The top of the stormwater pond side slopes sit at varied elevations ranging between 30 – 26 feet. The floor of the pond sits at an elevation of 10 feet.

6. **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

   No waste materials would be discharged to surface waters as part of the proposed project.

b. Ground Water: Find help answering ground water questions

1. **Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

   No groundwater will be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes as part of this project.

2. **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals…; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

   No waste material would be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

a) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

This project will be conducted primarily during the dry season to minimize potential stormwater management issues. In the event runoff does need to be managed, it will be managed in accordance with the CMMP.

b) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No new waste materials would be generated as part of the proposed project.

c) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The proposed project does not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the project area. The project removes stormwater solids which will bring the stormwater pond back to its original design grade.

d) Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any.

Stormwater runoff in the vicinity of the Terminal 4 stormwater pond is conveyed to the Terminal 4 stormwater pond. Conducting the work primarily in the dry season is the primary way to control and reduce runoff water. During construction stormwater will be managed in accordance with the CMMP. Stormwater may be managed by re-routing water to another port stormwater facility during construction.

Currently, the port discharges treated water to the Columbia River under an NPDES permit. This discharge will not occur during construction in the dry season.

4. Plants Find help answering plants questions

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☒ **deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- ☐ **evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- ☒ **shrubs**
- ☒ **grass**
- ☐ **pasture**
- ☐ **crop or grain**
- ☐ **orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- ☒ **wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- ☒ **water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- ☒ **other types of vegetation (herbaceous weeds)**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

No vegetation will be removed or altered as part of this project. In the event any vegetation is mistakenly altered or removed it will be replaced in kind at the end of the project.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no threatened or endangered plant species known to be on or near the Site. The Washington Natural Heritage Information System lists several plant species for Clark County, with one recorded as occurring within the floodplain of the lower Columbia River. However, the potential for this water howellia (Howellia aquatilis) to occur within the Site is considered very low because the species requires clay and organic soils, semipermanent water, and overhanging deciduous trees, which are not characteristics of the surrounding area.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

There is no proposed landscaping or use of native plants as part of this project. Measures will be taken to protect existing vegetation on the pond's embankments during the removal of the stormwater solids.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

The invasive Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus), false indigo, and invasive grass species exist throughout the lower Columbia River area and are likely present within the side slopes of the pond.

5. Animals Find help answering animal questions

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- **Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:**
- **Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:**
- **Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:**

The following animals have been observed on or near the stormwater pond, or are known to be on or near the Site:
Birds: hawks, heron, eagle, songbirds, bald eagle, streak horned lark, sandhill cranes, osprey, Canada goose, American crow, barn owl, cliff swallows, European starling, Eurasian collared dove, and ducks
Mammals: beaver, California and Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, coyote
Fish: bass, salmon, trout, forage fish typical of freshwater systems, smelt, sturgeon

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Streaked horned larks (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*) are listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and have been documented at the port's Parcel 3 dredge deposit site located downriver approximately 3.0 miles from the study area. However, they have not been noted in surveys since 2016. Streaked horned lark critical habitat includes several specifically identified sandy dredge deposit locations in and adjacent to the Lower Columbia River, but critical habitat is

not documented within port facilities or Clark County. The nearest designated critical habitat is downstream of the port, near Kalama, Washington.

There are numerous other species that are listed and have known occurrences or historic ranges in Washington but are not likely to occur on or near the port. Examples include the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*), yellowbilled cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), and Columbian white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*). USFWS listed the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas 11ditha taylori*) as threatened and also designated critical habitat for the species. There is no critical habitat designated for this species on or near the port.

The following are other special status species that may occur within or near the port. These special status species may include species protected by other federal regulations (e.g., the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act), state-listed endangered or threatened species, or other sensitive species:

- Steller sea lion (Eastern DPS) *(Eumetopias jubatus):* The Eastern DPS of Steller sea lion was delisted from the Endangered Species list on November 4, 2013. Steller sea lions are still listed as threatened by the State of Washington.
- Sandhill crane *(Grus canadensis)*: Sandhill cranes are listed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as endangered but are not federally listed under the ESA. Sandhill cranes are known to occur in the vicinity of the port in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands (Lowlands). WDFW has mapped migratory occurrence locations of sandhill cranes on agricultural land west of the study area at the port's Parcel 3, and areas north of the Flushing Channel known as Cranes' Landing. Fall migration of cranes in the Lowlands typically occurs in late September and early to mid-October. Spring migration through the Lowlands generally occurs from mid-March to mid-April. The Lowlands are used as stopover habitat during migration and for foraging by overwintering birds. Cranes are known to rest and feed on Parcel 3 but more commonly use the land north of the flushing at Cranes' Landing, which is managed to provide wintering food for migrating and staging flocks of sandhill cranes, as well as other geese, ducks, raptors, and mammalian species, by Columbia Land Trust. A berm has been constructed on Parcel 3 to provide a buffer for sandhill crane habitat to the north at Cranes' Landing.
- Bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus):* The bald eagle is currently a species of concern (federal) and state-listed sensitive. Bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and are listed by the state as sensitive. The USFWS National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines recommend that potentially disturbing activities occur outside a 660-foot protective buffer around an active nest during the nesting season, which generally occurs January to August.
- Western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*): Western Pond turtles (also known as Pacific pond turtles), a state-listed endangered species, have not been documented as occurring in the vicinity of the port but have been documented in Clark County and have the potential to occur in the port area.
- Osprey *(Pandion haliaetus):* Osprey are not ESA- or state-listed but are considered a state-monitored species.

- Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*)
- Other migratory birds

The Columbia River is approximately 700 feet from the Action Area. The following threatened and endangered species, or evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) and their distinct population segments (DPS), exist within the Columbia River near the Port of Vancouver. No work would occur within and no new discharges to the Columbia River are proposed. Aquatic species listed below have known occurrences in the Columbia River but are not present within the study area.

- Chinook salmon *(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)*: Lower Columbia River ESU, Upper Willamette River ESU, Upper Columbia River spring-run ESU, Snake River spring/summer-run ESU, Snake River fall-run ESU
- Chum salmon *(Oncorhynchus keta)*: Columbia River ESU
- Coho salmon *(Oncorhynchus kisutch)*: Lower Columbia River ESU
- Sockeye salmon *(Oncorhynchus nerka)*: Snake River ESU
- Steelhead *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*: Lower Columbia River ESU, Upper Willamette River ESU, Middle Columbia River ESU, Upper Columbia River ESU, Snake River Basin ESU
- Green sturgeon *(Acipenser medirostris)*: Southern DPS
- Eulachon *(Thaleichthys pacificus)*: Southern DPS
- Bull trout *(Salvelinus confluentus):* Columbia River DPS

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The general area of the study area is within the Pacific Flyway, a broad migratory corridor that extends from Alaska to Central America and is used by waterfowl, eagles, hawks, falcons, songbirds, sandhill cranes, and shorebirds (WDFW, Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds). The Columbia River serves as a migration corridor for salmonids.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

There are no anticipated measures to preserve or enhance wildlife as part of this project.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Two animal species from Washington's comprehensive list of invasive animals, plants, microorganisms, or pathogens have been observed within the lower Columbia River, although no sightings have occurred within this project area. These include the bullfrog *(Rana catesbeiana*) and the nutria (*Myocastor coypus*).

6. Energy and Natural Resources Find help answering energy and natural resource questions

1. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**

   The completed project requires no source of energy.

2. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

   The proposed project does not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

3. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.**

   This project does not have a source of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) so no conservation features are included in the plans.

7. Environmental Health Find help with answering environmental health questions

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

1. **Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

   Bentonite clay, copper concentrate, and fertilizer are currently or historically have been handled at the port's terminals. Stormwater from portions of these operational areas discharges to the Terminal 4 stormwater pond.

   In October 2022, the Port collected grab samples of accumulated stormwater solids to characterize solids for disposal. Seven grab samples were collected from the forebay on October 4, 2022, and 10 grab samples were collected from the downstream area on October 11, 2022. All samples were analyzed for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 8 metals, copper and zinc, and diesel- and/or oil-range hydrocarbons. The stormwater solids data are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2 and on Figures 3 and 4 of the Interim Action work plan. Oil-range petroleum hydrocarbons is above MTCA Method A soil cleanup levels in 7 out of 17 samples tested. The concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc are above the state-wide natural background soil concentrations.

2. **Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

   There are no existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. The stormwater solids have been characterized and are designated as a nonhazardous waste but will need to be managed and disposed of according to local, state and federal regulations.

3. **Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

   Gas, Diesel, oil, and grease would be used for operation of equipment associated with construction.

4. **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

   No special emergency services are required for this project, but in the event of an emergency the port will enact their Emergency Response Plan.

5. **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

   A CMMP will be developed for the project and will be included in the specification for the contractor to follow.

b. Noise

1. **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

   The port is a working waterfront and an active industrial area, with zoning that allows for noise-generating activities. The noise associated with standard operations at the port would not affect the proposed project.

2. **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?**

   Short-term noise effects would result from construction equipment used during the stormwater solids removal process. The construction equipment will operate at a similar volume to other industrial activities that occur on port-owned property, and the work is most likely to occur during standard working hours. The project would not have any long-term noise effects.

3. **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.**

   Construction activities would be conducted during normal work hours to minimize potential noise impacts and will comply with local noise ordinances. No other measures are proposed to reduce or control potential short-term noise impacts.

8. Land and Shoreline Use Find help answering land and shoreline use questions

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The port is a working waterfront and an active industrial area.

The project area consists of an existing stormwater pond. Nearby land uses include industrial development, transportation facilities for auto, truck, and rail, wetlands and the North and South Fruit Valley residential neighborhoods to the north and east of the pond. No changes to land use are expected from the proposed project.

Impacts related to noise and traffic are addressed in Section 7.b and Section 14.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

The project site has not been used as working farmlands or forest lands.

1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?

The proposed project would not affect, nor be affected by surrounding working farmlands or forest lands.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The pond is adjacent to two buildings to the south and contains earthen berms within it. No buildings exist within or extend over the pond.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished as part of this project.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The project site is zoned as "Heavy Industrial – IH."

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The project site is designated in the comprehensive plan as "Industrial."

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The pond is not located within Washington State Shoreline jurisdiction.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

The City of Vancouver considers the following as critical areas under its critical area's protection

ordinance: fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, wetlands, frequently flooded areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, and geologic hazard areas.

Based on Clark County GIS mapping the pond is identified as a Riparian Habitat Area by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species mapping, which is subject to City of Vancouver Fish and Wildlife Habitat Critical Areas regulations (City of Vancouver Code 20.740.110).

Clark County MapsOnline indicates a National Wetland Inventory wetland at the location of the pond, subject to City of Vancouver Critical Areas Protection wetlands chapter (City of Vancouver Code 20.740.140).

Much of the surrounding area is mapped as moderate to high liquefaction hazard. The area is rated "low" earthquake ground motion hazard. The project would not increase the risk of a geologic hazard but is subject to City of Vancouver code 20.740.130.

Clark County MapsOnline indicates the pond is within the 500-year FEMA floodplain and the Floodway Fringe, which are not subject to the City of Vancouver Frequently Flooded Areas Chapter of the City of Vancouver code 20.740.120, which applies to the 100-year FEMA Floodplain and Floodways.

The pond and all surrounding areas are underlain by the Troutdale Aquifer, which has been designated as a sole source aquifer by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of this designation is to develop programs that reduce the risk of contamination to this potential community supply drinking water aquifer. The project would not increase the risk of contamination to groundwater, and is subject to City of Vancouver code 14.26, Water Resources Protection.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None, the proposed project would not contain employment or residential uses.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

No people would be displaced by the proposed project.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.

Mitigation measures are not proposed, as no displacement impacts are anticipated.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

The proposed project is fully compatible with existing and projected land uses. No additional assurances are necessary.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term

commercial significance, if any.

No measures are proposed, as no impacts to agricultural or forest lands of long-term significance are expected.

9. Housing Find help answering housing questions

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units would be provided by the proposed project.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units would be eliminated as part of the proposed project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

No housing impacts are anticipated, therefore no measures to reduce or control housing impacts are proposed.

10. Aesthetics Find help answering aesthetics questions

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No new structures/buildings are proposed.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No views would be altered or obstructed.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.

No aesthetic impacts anticipated as views would be returned to prior conditions.

11. Light and Glare Find help answering light and glare questions

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The proposed project would not produce new light or glare.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No new light or glare would be produced by the finished proposed project.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Off-site light or glare would not affect the proposed project.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.

No measures are proposed to reduce or control light and glare since impacts are not anticipated.

12. Recreation Find help answering recreation questions

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The Columbia River, located approximately 700 feet from the project site, provides informal recreational boating and fishing opportunities. The project would not affect recreational boating or fishing opportunities on the Columbia River.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

The proposed project would not displace any existing recreational uses.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.

No mitigation measures are proposed because there are no recreation impacts associated with the proposed project.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

The archaeological predictive model for Clark County identifies the Vancouver Lake Lowlands as a high probability area for containing cultural resources.

There are no listed or eligible historic resources within the project site.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

The Site lies within the Vancouver Lakes Archaeological District, recorded as encompassing over 115 archaeological sites; the district was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The Vancouver Lake area was a focus of settlement in prehistoric times and continued with Euro-American settlement in the middle and late 1800s. Many archaeological studies have been conducted in areas south and west of Vancouver Lake.

In 2009 prior to the pond reconstruction, a cultural resource study was completed on the site as part of the NEPA process:

- *2009a and b memos Port of Vancouver's Terminal 4 Pond Reconstruction Project, Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc Report 2281 and 2402*

During the reconfiguration project, no cultural resources were discovered.

In May of 2018, an ovoid-shaped fishing net weight (or sinker stone) composed of vesicular basalt approximately (19x16 centimeters) was discovered by Port staff laying in a few inches of water in the bottom of the stormwater pond, there were several active beaver burrows directly up the embankment of the discovery. Aside from the net weight, no evidence of cultural materials or archaeological features were identified in the vicinity of the find. Since the net weight was found in secondary context lying in the bottom of the stormwater pond, its original context is unknown. It is suggested by the archaeologist that the artifact may have been dredged from the Columbia River and deposited as fill material used to create the stormwater pond embankments and was dislodged from the bank by beaver burrowing into the side slopes of the pond.

- *May 2018 Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc., Isolate form 16-2429*

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

The following sources were reviewed to identify cultural and historic resources on or near the project sites: Statewide Predictive Model; City of Vancouver's data for archaeological probability; federal, state, and local historic registries; and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) digital repository (WISAARD) and previous archaeological surveys conducted on the property.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

The proposed project will be conducted in accordance with the RCW 27.53.060 (Archaeological Sites and Resources) and RCW 27.44.020 (Indian Graves and Records) and all applicable Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) regulations. In the event any unknown archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, work in the immediate area of the discovery will be halted and the following actions will be taken: 1) implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering; 2) take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site; and 3) take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery. If human remains are uncovered, appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified first, then the steps listed herein will be followed. If remains are determined to be Native American, consultation with the affected tribes will take place in order to mitigate the final disposition of said remains. Should a discovery occur, a professional archaeologist will assess the significance of the find, and DAHP and concerned tribes will be notified so that a course of action can be implemented.

14. Transportation Find help with answering transportation questions

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The project is located inside the secured area of the port and is not accessible from public streets and highways.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The site is not currently served by public transit, the closest C-TRAN bus stop is on NW Fruit Valley Road and W 27th Street approximately 5,100 feet from the project site. In addition, C-TRAN does provide an optional stop at the corner of West 26th Avenue and NW Lower River Road to the main entrance into the port terminals.

c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The proposed project would not require any new transportation facilities, or improvements to existing transportation facilities.

d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The project will not use water, rail or air transportation. The project site is in the immediate vicinity of water and rail transportation because the port is located on the lower Columbia River and is served by BNSF Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad. The project site is located approximately 700 feet from the Columbia River, the nearest navigable waterway.

e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Construction vehicles would access the project site during the removal of the accumulated solids in the stormwater pond. The quantity of solids removed will be determined based on field observations, with an estimated 50 to 150 truck and pup trips from the project site to the permitted disposal facility through the construction period (approximately 2 months). There would be no measurable increase in truck traffic within the port facility, and traffic on adjacent local streets would not noticeably change.

f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project would not interfere with or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products in the area.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

Transportation impacts are not anticipated because of the proposed project; therefore, no measures are proposed to reduce or control transportation impacts.

15. Public Services Find help answering public service questions

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project would not create an increase in the need for public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Because the proposed project would not affect public services, no measures to reduce or control impacts are proposed.

16. Utilities Find help answering utilities questions

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:

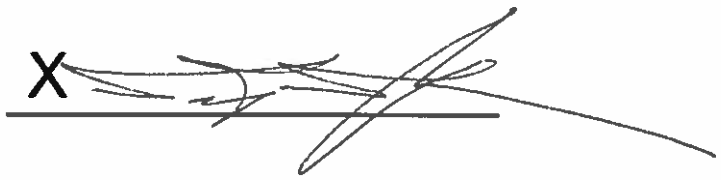
b. Yes, electrical power may need to be installed at any and all stormwater facilities for the purposes of pumping and treating stormwater. It is assumed at a minimum that 3 phase

480 volt power source capable of 800 amps would be sufficient. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

No additional utilities are proposed for the project.

C. Signature Find help about who should sign

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

X 

Type name of signee: Patty Boyden

Position and agency/organization: Director of Environmental Services, Port of Vancouver

Date submitted: 5/23/2023

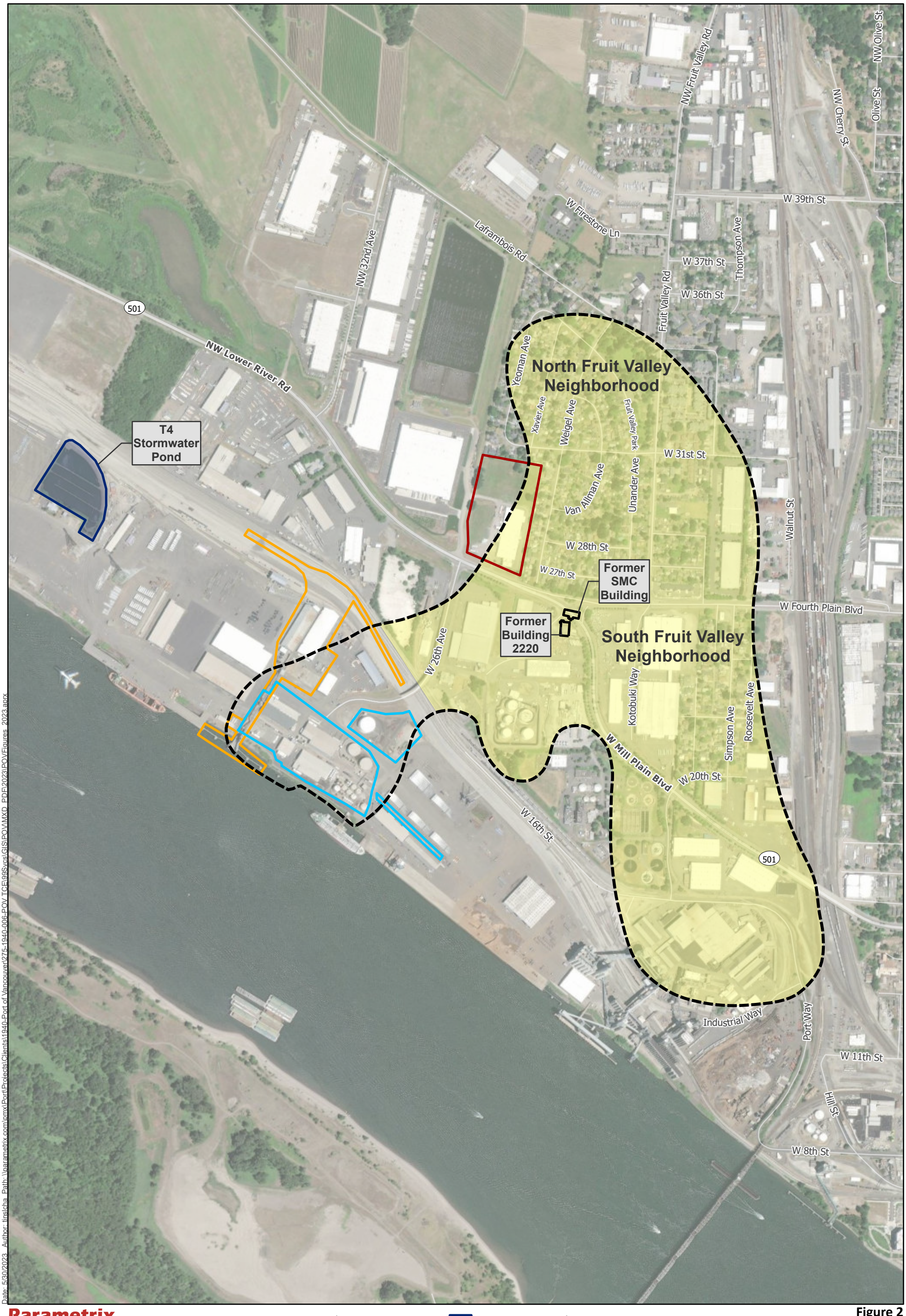
FIGURE 2 - Terminal 4 Pond Location

Legend

Notes:

1,504.7 0 752.33 1,504.7 Feet

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere
Clark County, WA. GIS - http://gis.clark.wa.gov



Date: 5/30/2023 Author: tinslcha Path: \\parametrix.com\pmx\Port\Projects\Clients\1940-Port of Vancouver\275-1940-006-POV TCE\99Svcs\GIS\POV\MXD_PDF\2023\POVFigures_2023.aprx

Parametrix

Source: ESRI, Port of Vancouver

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

- Site - Historical Maximum Extent of HVOC Contamination
- Area of Site Included in Agreed Order 18152
- Stormwater Pond
- Cadet Facility
- Kinder Morgan Facility
- NuStar Facility

Figure 2
Agreed Order 18152 Extent Map

Port of Vancouver
Agreed Order 18152