

# Cornwall Avenue Landfill

## Proposed Interim Action



Photo: 2006

*June 2011*

# Meeting Presenters

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**Brad Petrovich** – *Department of Ecology,  
Public Involvement Coordinator*

**Bob Swackhamer** – *Department of Ecology,  
Site Manager*

**Brian Gouran** – *Port of Bellingham,  
Environmental Site Project Manger*



# Meeting Purpose

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- To provide information on a proposed interim cleanup for the Cornwall Avenue Landfill
- The cleanup (interim action) is described in a proposed amendment to a 2005 agreed order between Ecology, City and Port of Bellingham
- Public review of the proposed amendment is required under state law



# Meeting Agenda

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- 6:05 – 6:15**     **Regulatory framework**  
*Bob Swackhamer, Ecology*
- Cleanup process
  - Interim actions
- 6:15 – 6:25**     **Site History & Environmental Conditions**  
*Brian Gouran, Port of Bellingham & Bob Swackhamer, Ecology*
- 6:25 – 6:35**     **Proposed Interim Action**  
*Brian Gouran, Port of Bellingham*
- Land use
  - Interim Action components
- 6:35 – 6:45**     **State evaluation**  
*Bob Swackhamer, Ecology*
- Use of dredged material
  - Regulatory requirements
- 6:45 – 7:00**     **Closing and next steps**
- 7:00 – 7:15**     **Questions and answers**
- 7:15 – 8:00**     **Open house**

# Regulatory Framework

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- Brief History of Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA);
- Is it a law or a regulation?
- Cleanup Process



# State Cleanup Process

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Initial Site Assessment

Remedial Investigation/  
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

Interim Actions (if necessary)

Consent Decree & Cleanup  
Action Plan

Remedial Design, Permitting,  
Construction, and Monitoring

## An Interim Action:

- ✓ Reduces threat to health or environment;
- ✓ Corrects problem that may become worse or more costly, OR ;
- ✓ Provides for SHA, RI/FS, or cleanup design.
- ✓ If cleanup action is *known*, interim action shall be **consistent** with it;
- ✓ If cleanup action is *not known*, interim action **shall not foreclose reasonable alternatives**.



# Site History

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## Historic operations

- **1800s to Late 1940's** - Sawmilling
- **1953 to 1965** – Municipal Waste Landfill
- **1950's to 2005** - Timber Production, Warehousing & Log Storage
- **2005 to Present** - Vacant Industrial Land
- **1992 Ecology Site Listing**
- **1992 - Present**  
RI/FS Activities under Agreed Order

## Current Property Ownership

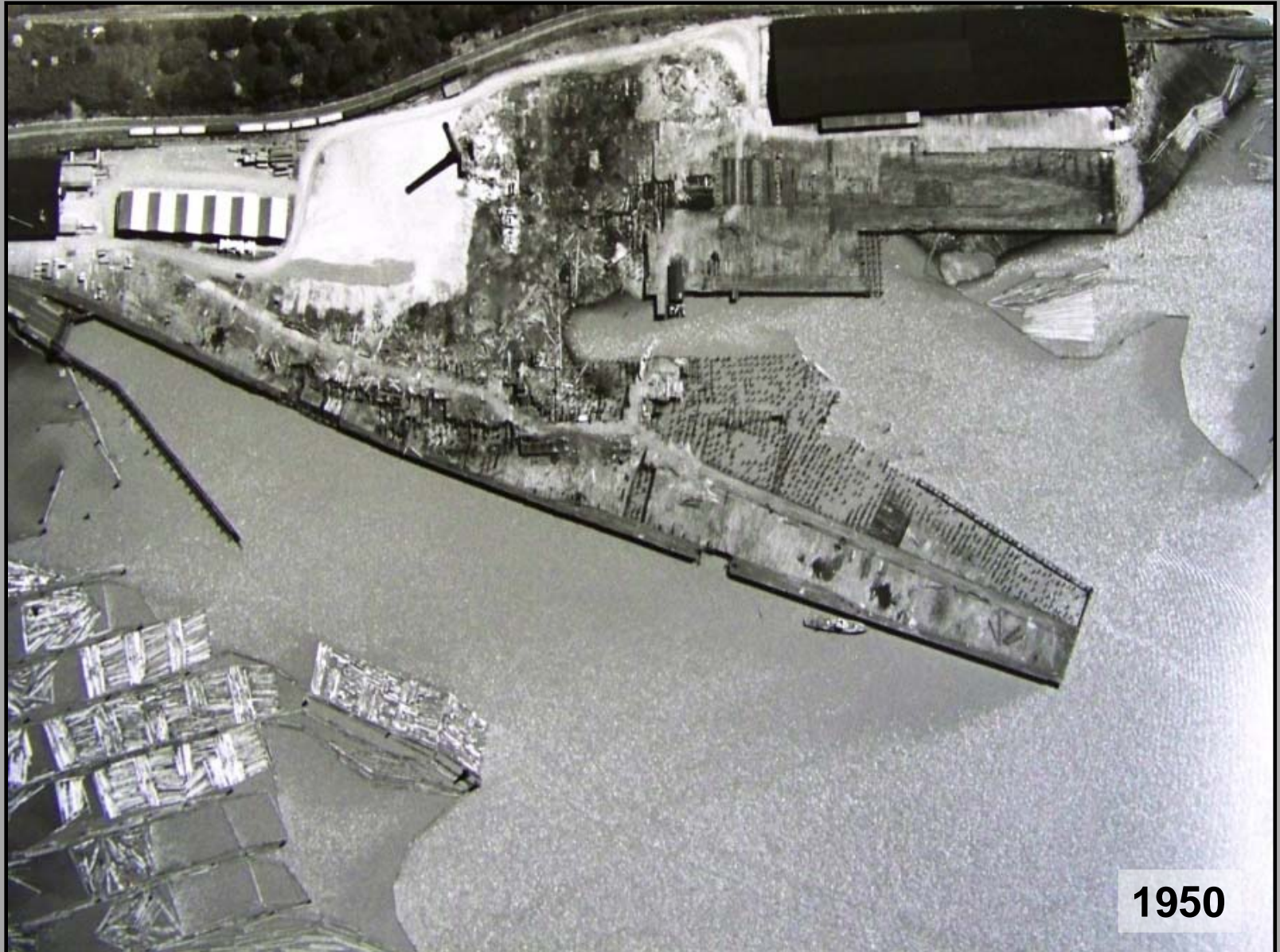
- Port of Bellingham,  
Department of Natural Resources,  
City of Bellingham





# Site History

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1950

# Site History

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1969

# Site History

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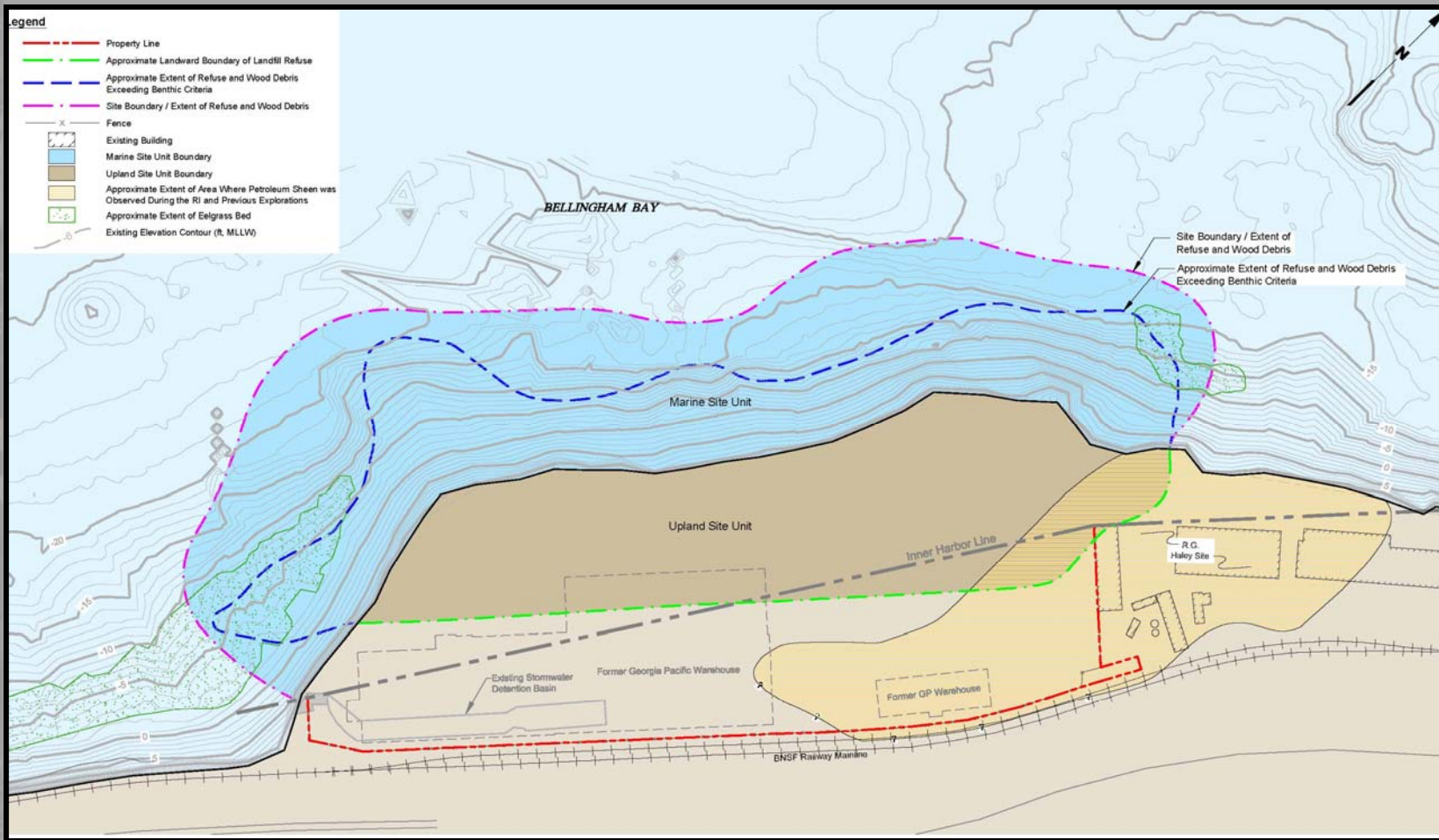
1994

# Site History

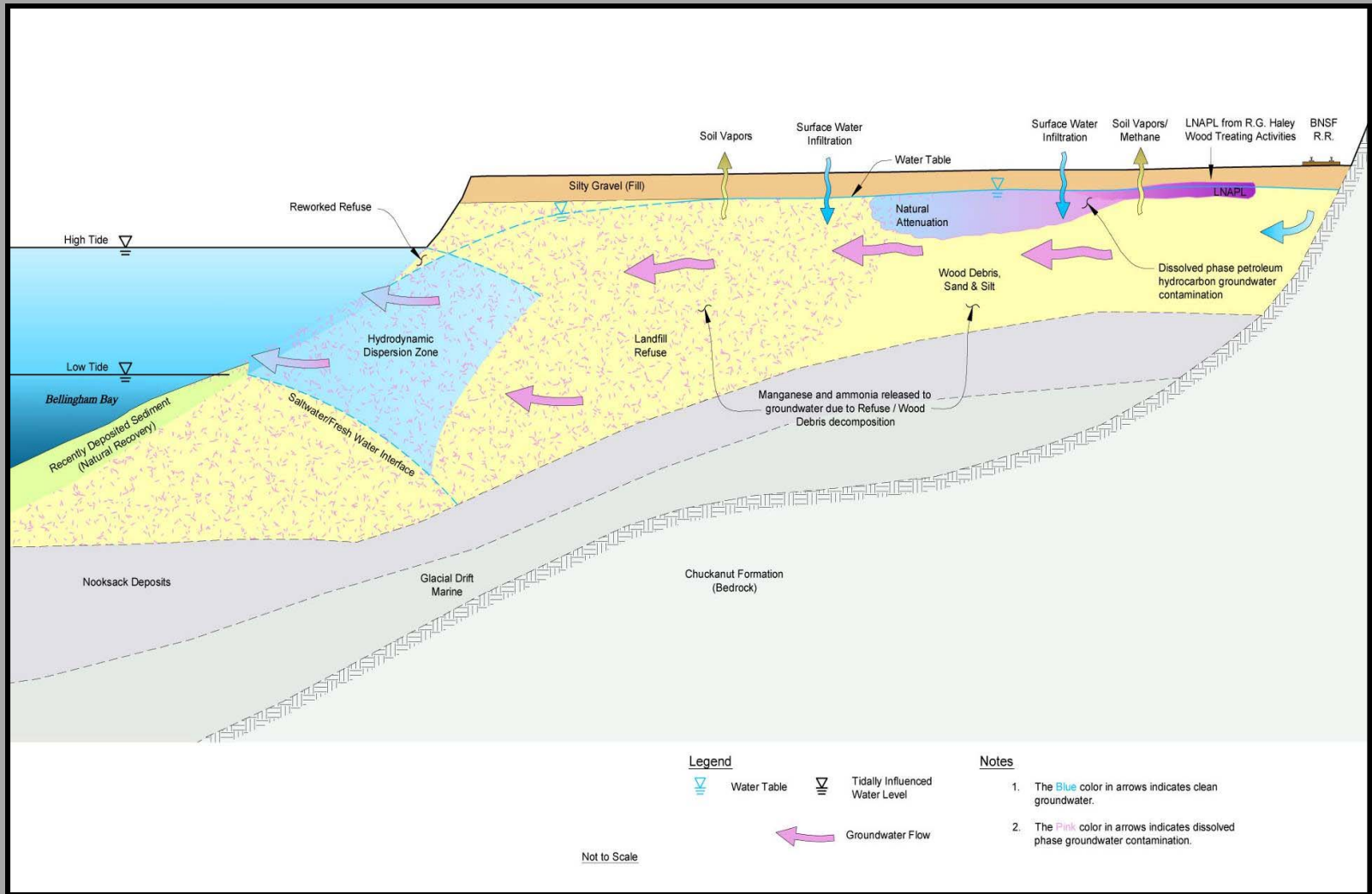


2006

# Environmental Conditions



# Site Conceptual Model



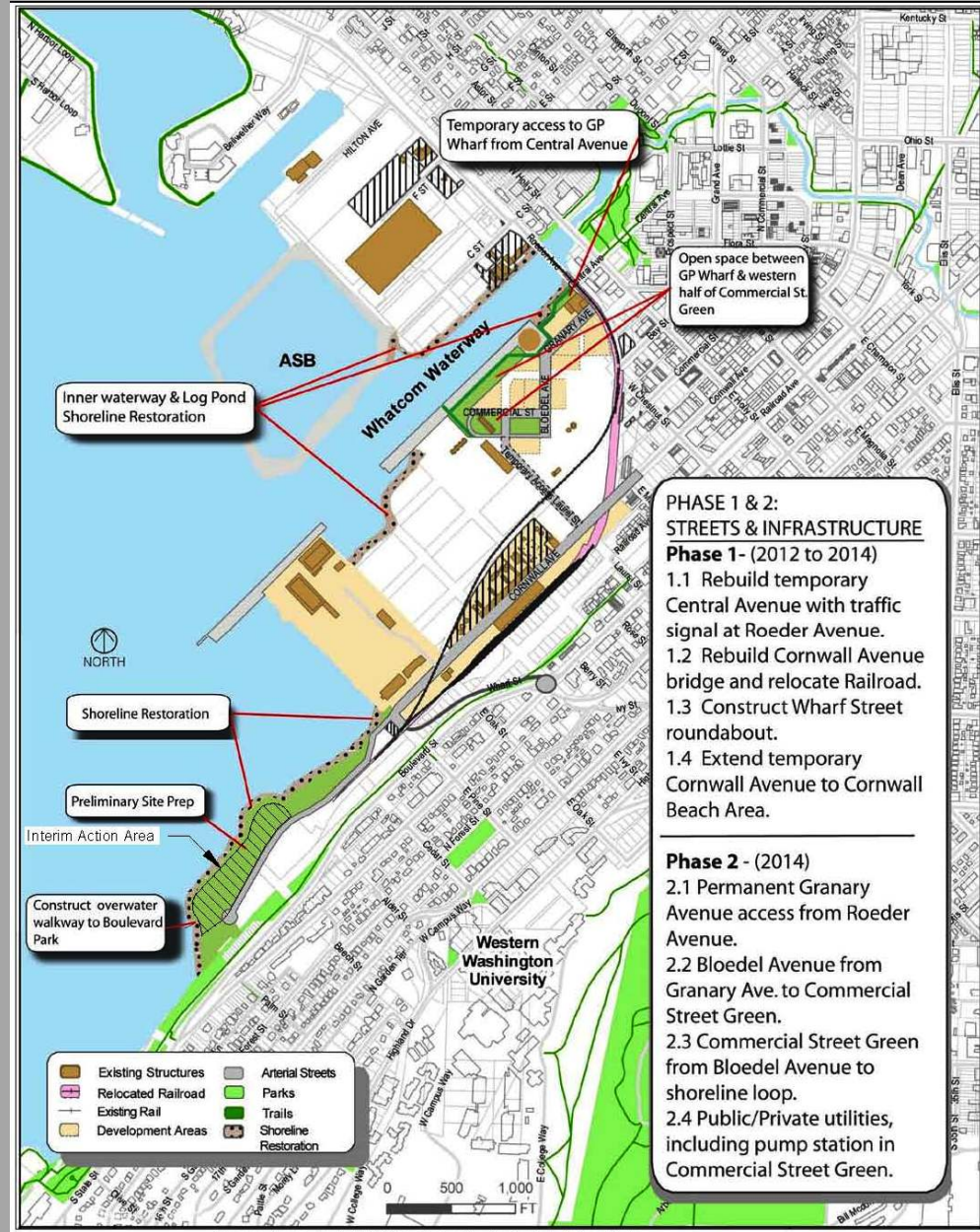
# Proposed Interim Action



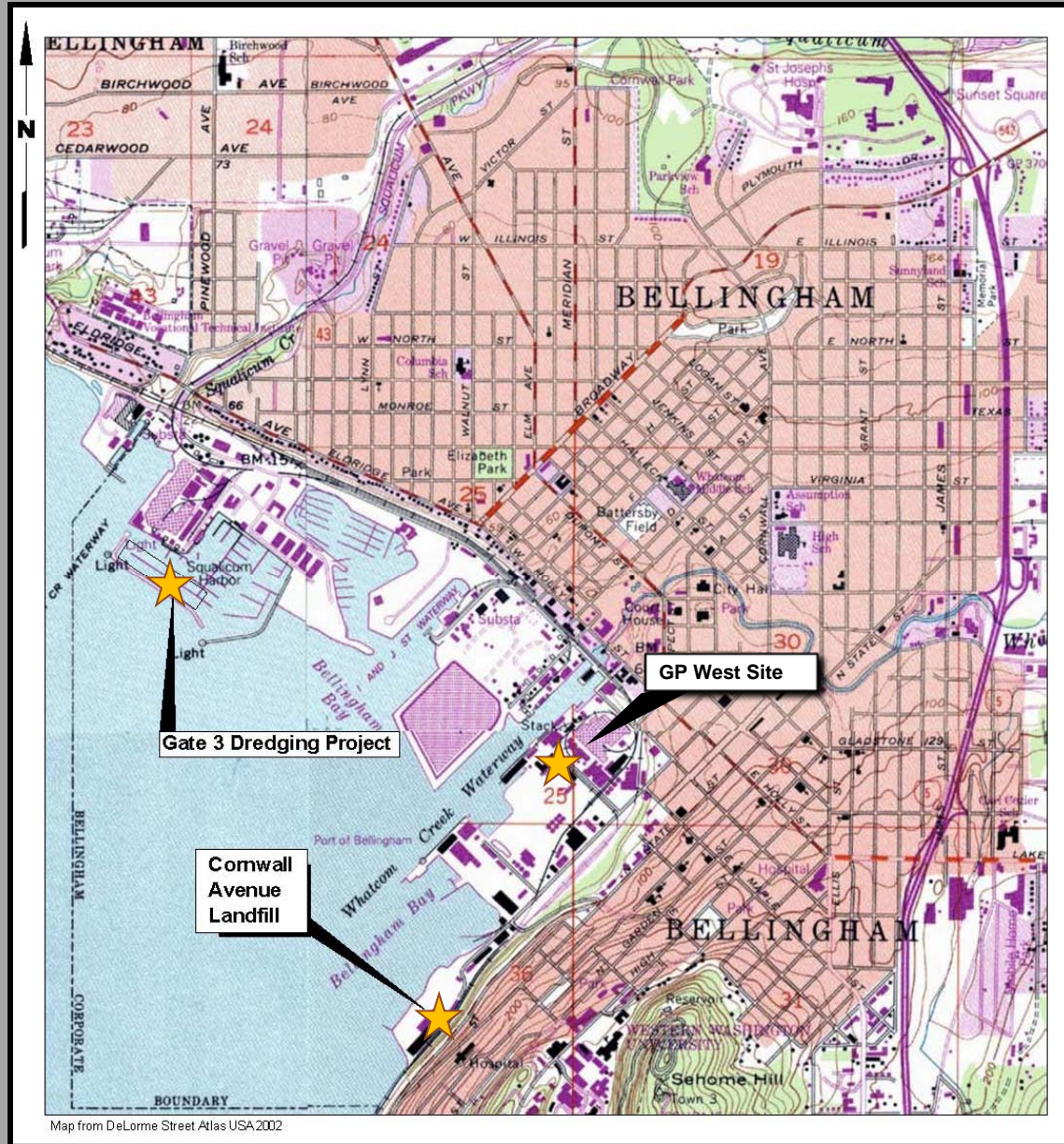
*Supports Community Vision*

*Consistent with Land-use*

*Compatible with Overwater Walkway*



# Proposed Interim Action





# Proposed Interim Action

Beneficial reuse of up to 40,800 cubic yards of material from Gate 3 as component of low permeable cap on landfill.

- Cap approximately 3.5 acres of landfill
- *Reduce stormwater infiltration for >50% of the Site.*
- *Regrading and contouring completed with final cleanup action.*

## Landfill Gas Collection System

### *Beneficial Reuse*

*Kick Start First Phase of Cleanup*

*Eliminates ≈ 1,500 Truck Trips*

*Compatible with Planned Land Use*

*Consistent with Sea Level Rise*



# Proposed Interim Action

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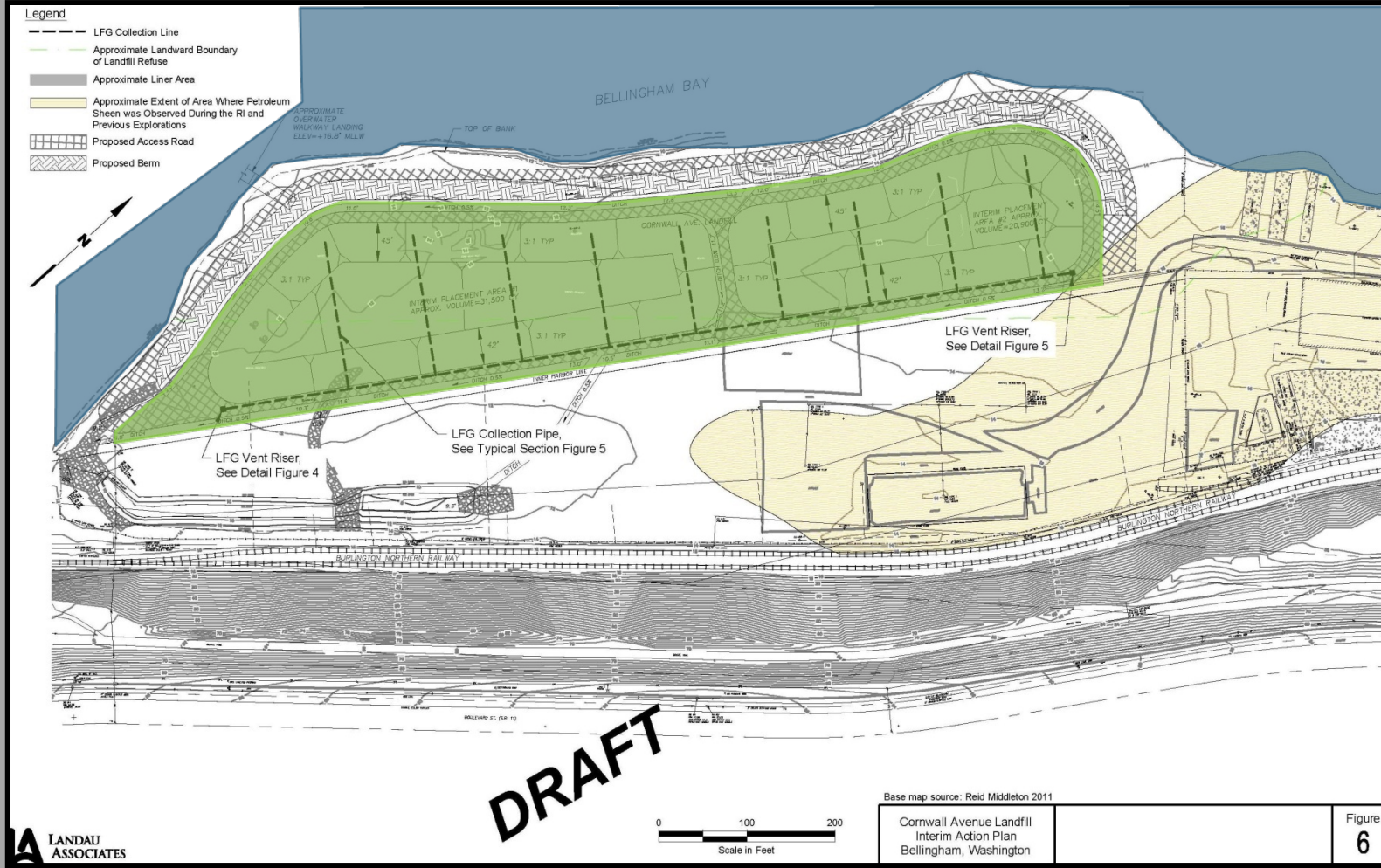
1. **Transport and off-load dredged material at former GP Mill property;**
2. **Add Portland cement to material for easier handling, transport and placement;**
3. **Install landfill gas collection system at Cornwall Landfill and improve existing storm water system;**
4. **Transport and place material in contained Interim Placement Areas;**
5. **Cover Interim Placement Areas with plastic sheeting to prevent erosion and improve storm water quality;**
6. **Compliance Monitoring and RI/FS Finalization**



# Proposed Interim Action



# Proposed Interim Action



# State Evaluation

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- ✓ Consistency with MTCA criteria;
- ✓ Sufficiency of available technical information;
- ✓ Public Participation.



# Next Steps

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- Proposed Agreed Order Amendment
  - 30 day public comment ends **July 6**
  - Ecology response to comments
- Project Construction  
(**Sept. 2011 through February 2012**)
- Incorporate Interim Action into Final RI/FS (**2012**)
- SEPA Determination (MDNS) Available for review and comment through **July 6**





# Ecology Wants Your Comments

- **Document Availability**
  - Ecology's Web Site  
<http://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=220>
  - Document Repositories
    - **Bellingham Library - Main Branch**
    - **Ecology's Bellingham Field Office - Fairhaven**
    - **Ecology's Northwest Regional Office – Bellevue**
- **Submit Comments by July 6, 2011**
  - Ecology will prepare response to comments after public comment period

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