



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Budd Inlet Sediment Investigation Olympia, Washington

Prepared by

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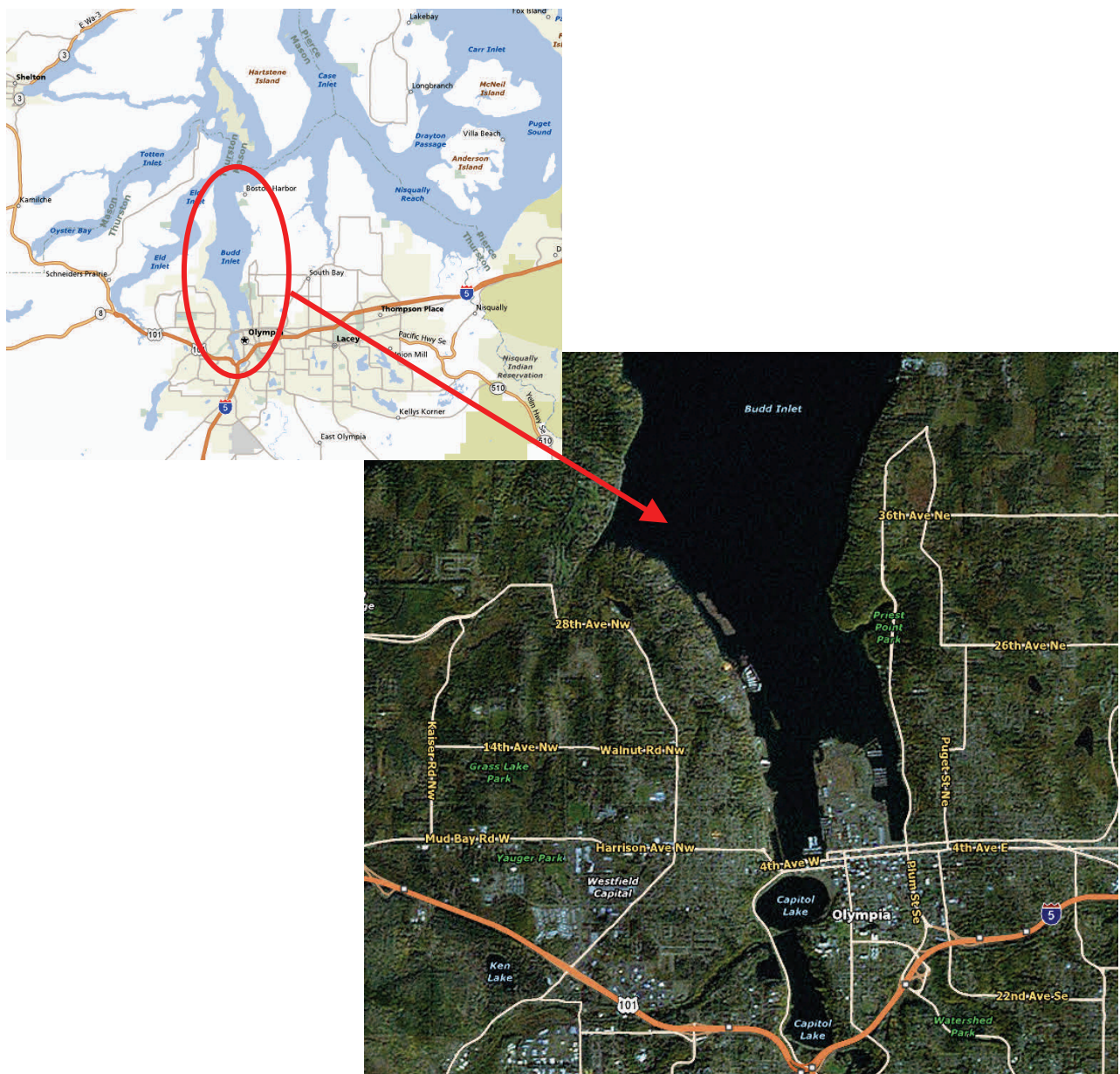
INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of Budd Inlet sediments. This plan outlines and describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identifies opportunities for the community to become involved.

SITE LOCATION

The Budd Inlet sediments site is located in Olympia, Washington in the southeastern arm of Puget Sound (see Figure 1). Sampling and cleanup activities will occur in various locations throughout Budd Inlet.

Figure 1. Budd Inlet Sediments Site Location



SITE BACKGROUND

Decades of industrial, municipal, and naturally occurring pollution have damaged the quality and condition of Puget Sound. In May 2007, Governor Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature approved the Puget Sound Initiative to restore the health of the Sound by 2020. The goal of the Toxics Cleanup Program is to accelerate cleanups within a half mile of the shoreline and in the water. As part of this effort, seven embayments were chosen as priority cleanup areas. Early actions taken in these embayments will contribute significantly towards efforts to restore the Sound. Budd Inlet is one of the seven priority embayments.

In April 2007, Ecology began investigations to determine the extent and possible sources of dioxin contamination in Budd Inlet. As part of this process, Ecology reviewed historical sediment data and prepared a summary of historical data and a sampling and analysis plan for sediment characterization. A Final Data Report detailing results of sampling and analysis efforts to date was released in June 2008.

In December 2008, Ecology and the Port of Olympia (port) entered into an Agreed Order. The order required the port to complete an interim action to dredge (remove) some contaminated sediments from portions of two of the port's shipping berths and evaluate the effectiveness of dredge methods.

The dredge was conducted from January - February 2009. The port removed about 9,515 cubic yards of contaminated sediments. The port disposed of them at a Waste Management landfill in Oregon. The port completed post-dredge monitoring in 2011. Post-dredge monitoring reports are available on Ecology's Toxics Cleanup website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2245>.

Ecology funded sediment sampling near the shores of Priest Point Park in Budd Inlet in the fall of 2010. This work followed up on State Department of Health (DOH) recommendations based on Ecology's 2007 sediment investigation. This study found dioxin levels of 0.091 to 4.8 parts per trillion (ppt), lower than the baywide average of 19.1 ppt for Budd Inlet.

Ecology will follow up on other recommendations from the 2007 study if funding becomes available.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Ecology and the port are amending the 2008 Agreed Order. The Agreed Order Amendment is a legal agreement requiring the port to investigate contamination and plan for cleanup in a study area (see Figure 2). Under the Agreed Order Amendment, the port will now:

- Study the nature, extent, and possible sources of contamination in the study area.
- Submit a report with the investigation results.
- Based on the investigation and information from the 2009 dredge, evaluate possible cleanup actions in the study area.
- Develop an interim action (partial cleanup) plan for cleaning up contaminated sediments in all or part of the study area.

Ecology will review and consider all public comments received. If appropriate, changes will be made to the Agreed Order Amendment. If there are no major changes, Ecology will sign the agreement and the port will begin work.

Ecology will put all future cleanup plans, including the draft interim action plan, and the legal agreement for it, out for public comment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the cleanup process for this site. This section of the plan addresses how Ecology will keep the public informed about site activity and provide opportunity for comment and involvement. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purpose and a description of when and how they will be used in this site cleanup.

Formal Public Comment Period

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required under WAC 173-340-600 at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. See Figure 2 on page 7 for an outline of cleanup process and information about comment periods.

During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Verbal comments are taken if a public hearing is held. After comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a responsiveness summary. Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions to a document or decision based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft document(s) will be finalized.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology may also offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. A public meeting will also be scheduled if 10 or more people request one.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment. Ecology has established the following repositories for this site:

- Washington State Department of Ecology, Southwest Regional Office, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.
- Timberland Olympia Library, 3133 8th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Phone: (360) 352-0595.

Site information will also be posted on Ecology's website:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=6914>

Site Register

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly Site Register to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other activities. To receive the Site Register in electronic or hard copy format, contact Seth Preston at (360) 407-6848 or by e-mail at Seth.Preston@ecy.wa.gov. It is also available on Ecology's website at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html

Mailing list

Ecology has compiled a list of interested parties and organizations and residents living in proximity to the cleanup site. This list will be used to disseminate information via mail (fact sheets, site updates, public notices). If you wish to be added to the mail list, please contact Diana Smith at 360-407-6255 or Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail out fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Budd Inlet site to inform them of public meetings and comment periods as well as important site activities. Ecology may also mail an update about the progress of site activities.

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology may place ads in the local paper to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for this site. *The Olympian* will be used to publish information about this site.

Plan Update

This public participation plan may be updated as the cleanup proceeds. If an update is necessary and constitutes a substantial change in the plan, it will be announced via site register and the website.

Public Participation Grants

As part of the Model Toxics Control Act, Ecology developed a public participation grant program to promote public participation during cleanups. Public participation grants provide funding to community groups to help involve the public in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. The grants also help develop and carry out programs that promote the state's solid or hazardous waste management priorities.

For cleanup sites, non-profit groups or groups of three or more unrelated individuals can apply for grants to fund outreach and education efforts for the community that is impacted by the cleanup. Past projects have helped people understand the cleanup and how to comment on cleanup proposals during public comment periods. Grant funds may be used to pay for technical experts who help people understand cleanup issues. They can also be used to hold meetings, workshops and other events that help to inform people. In addition, printing and distribution of reports, brochures and other materials may be covered.

For more information about this grant program, visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>.

Translation Service

Ecology will provide translation services to any resident who requests them. This service can include written material, live translation during public meetings or telephone inquiries. Please contact Meg Bommarito, Public Involvement Coordinator at (360) 407-6255 or mbom461@ecy.wa.gov for a translated copy of this or any other documents related to this site.

Points of Contact

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Budd Inlet site, please contact the following:

James DeMay, Site Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6316
Email: James.DeMay@ecy.wa.gov

Diana Smith, Public Involvement Coordinator
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Phone: (360) 407-6255
Email: Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov

Figure 3. Steps in the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Process



GLOSSARY

Agreed Order: A legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct work toward a cleanup.

Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release, or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health and/or the environment. The term "cleanup" is often used broadly to describe various response actions or phases of remedial responses such as the remedial investigation/feasibility study.

Cleanup Action Plan (CAP): A document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at sites for the cleanup. The cleanup action plan is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Contaminant: Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some aquifers, ground water occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents such as a public school, city hall, or library.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): Legislation passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to identify, investigate, and clean up facilities where hazardous substances have been released. It defines the role of Ecology and encourages public involvement in the decision making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Potentially Liable Person: Any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires these PLPs, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up sites.

Public Notice: At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

Responsiveness Summary: A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is especially valuable during the Cleanup Action Plan phase at a site when it highlights community concerns.

Risk: The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

Sediments: Settled particles located at the bottom of a lake, river or in wetlands. Sediment(s) also includes settled particulate matter exposed by human activity (e.g., dredging) to the biologically active aquatic zone or to the water column.

Toxicity: The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.