



**WASHINGTON STATE  
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM  
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT**  
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July 19, 2010

Elliott Bay Seawall Scoping Comments  
c/o Tetra Tech, Inc.  
1420 Fifth Ave, Suite 550  
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Responsible Official:

The Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District (PFD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Elliott Bay Seawall Replacement Project (Seawall Project). As you may know, the PFD is the public entity that developed and owns the ballpark known as Safeco Field. The PFD is responsible for overseeing this public asset and for ensuring that the public's investment in the ballpark is not compromised.

While we recognize that the work areas for the Seawall Project are not located adjacent to Safeco Field, we remain concerned about potential impacts from the project on our facilities, our fans, and our tenant, the Seattle Mariners. Accordingly, we would like to make the following comments about the scope of the environmental review:

First, we are pleased that a broad list of environmental resources has been identified for study in the EIS. Without appropriate environmental review, careful project design, and appropriate mitigation measures, the Seawall Project could have significant adverse impacts on our facilities, baseball fans, and other users of the ballpark. We support an EIS that evaluates the full range of environmental resources.

Second, the PFD is very concerned about the traffic and transportation impacts that construction of the Seawall Project may have on access to and from the ballpark. We understand that some traffic lane or roadway closures may be required as part of the project, including some closures for extended periods. These closures would require traffic detours and lane re-routing that could affect traffic and transit access to and from Safeco Field. Because construction of this project will take many years to complete, and because construction impacts may be significant if not appropriately

mitigated, we urge SDOT and its project partners to evaluate carefully construction impacts and appropriate mitigation measures (including route alternatives) in a separate section of the EIS.

Similarly, traffic circulation, vehicle access, and pedestrian access are vital to the continued operation and success of Safeco Field. We understand from the public scoping meeting and agency handouts that the EIS will likely examine peak traffic impacts as part of the transportation analysis. We also ask that "event traffic" conditions be considered as part of the transportation analysis to ensure that "worst case" traffic impacts are evaluated in the EIS.

Third, the PFD is concerned about pedestrian and fan safety and the impact of the Seawall Project on pedestrian access to and from the ballpark. Hundreds of baseball fans access Safeco Field on game days via the Washington State Ferry System's Colman dock. Maintaining safe pedestrian access from the ferry terminal to Safeco Field through the seawall construction work area will be vital to minimizing project impacts. We ask that pedestrian access and safety be separately analyzed as part of the transportation section of the EIS.

Fourth, we are concerned about the cumulative impacts resulting from the construction of this and many other public and private projects at the same time in the Central Waterfront and South Downtown areas. We urged you to include a well-developed discussion of cumulative impacts in the EIS. Public projects likely to occur at the same time include the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project (including South End, Central Waterfront, and North Portal improvements), the City's South Downtown rezoning, and other SDOT and WSDOT projects in the vicinity. Private projects may include the redevelopment of the North Lot of Qwest Field, the redevelopment of the Home Plate Parking Lot at First Avenue S. and S. Atlantic Street, and a host of other projects in the Pioneer Square, International District and SODO areas.

A cumulative impacts analysis should thoughtfully consider the timing of all of these projects and the opportunity for imposing some common mitigation measures that reduce otherwise potentially significant impacts (e.g., from construction truck/haul traffic). Absent careful analysis and appropriate mitigation, these cumulative impacts could be significant.

Finally, we would like to renew our commitment to work with SDOT and its project partners regarding mitigation planning for implementing this major project. As a spectator sports facility and pedestrian venue, the continued success of Safeco Field turns in large part on our baseball fans' and patrons' ability to access our facility. We understand that facility access may be affected during Seawall Project construction, but we believe that if we work together on mitigation planning, the impacts of construction can be reduced. We look forward to seeing a detailed analysis of potential mitigation measures in the draft EIS, and we will provide comments and suggestions to you throughout the environmental review process.

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We also note that our tenant, the Seattle Mariners, has submitted a separate comment letter. The PFD has reviewed that comment letter and joins in the concerns and issues raised by the team.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment, and we look forward to working with the City of Seattle and the consultant team as this important project proceeds. If you have any questions, please give our Executive Director, Kevin Callan, a call at (206) 664-3076 or (206) 767-7800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale R. Sperling", written over a horizontal line.

Dale R. Sperling, Board Chair

Cc: PFD Board Members  
Kevin Callan, Executive Director  
Tom Backer, Legal Counsel  
Bart Waldman, Seattle Mariners  
Susan Ranf, Seattle Mariners