



City of Seattle
Seattle Public Utilities

March 11, 2013

TO: Recipients of the 52nd Ave S Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Reduction Project and Mapes Creek Restoration Project SEPA DNS/Checklist

FROM: Betty Meyer, SEPA Responsible Official

SUBJECT: Addendum to the 52nd Ave S Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Reduction Project and Mapes Creek Restoration Project SEPA Environmental Checklist

PURPOSE OF THIS ADDENDUM

In 2012, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) prepared a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Checklist that analyzed the environmental impacts of the proposed 52nd Ave S Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Reduction Project and Mapes Creek Restoration Project. As lead agency, SPU issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) for the project on February 16, 2012.

Since then, SPU has continued the project design process, including coordinating with other City departments and project stakeholders. These efforts have led SPU to alter some of the features of the project. SPU has prepared this addendum to assess how the design revisions affect the analyses included in the 2012 Environmental Checklist. As lead agency, SPU has reviewed the findings and concluded that the design revisions do not substantially change the analyses of impacts contained in the 2012 Environmental Checklist and will not result in any significant environmental impacts.

This addendum has been prepared in accordance with the authority provided in SMC 25.05.600 and in accordance with the procedures described in SMC 25.05.625.

UPDATED PROJECT INFORMATION

Public Art

At SPU's request and with SPU Percent for Art funding, the City of Seattle Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs led a process to select an artist to design and install permanent, site-specific art as part of this project. A panel of artists, Rainier Beach community members, Seattle Parks and Recreation staff, and SPU staff selected an artist who is designing a wood and steel sculpture that will be installed in Beer Sheva Park in coordination with the Mapes Creek Restoration Project. The sculpture will be attached to the headwall structure installed at the beginning of the new creek channel. The sculpture is expected to provide visual interest and draw people to the park and is not expected to impact fish habitat or the hydrology of Mapes Creek.

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Walking Path Revisions

In response to comments from Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), SPU will increase the width of the 600-foot long paved walking path along 52nd Avenue S from 6 to 10 feet to meet current City standards. This will provide additional opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle travel and will provide increased pedestrian and bicycle access to Beer Sheva Park.

To provide better pedestrian access, a new 280-foot long, 6-foot wide ADA-compliant pedestrian path will be added to Beer Sheva Park along the north side of the existing parking lot. In addition, existing gravel paths disturbed by the project will be restored to be ADA-compliant. The path width will increase from 5 to 6 feet. Currently, pedestrians entering the park from Seward Park Avenue South walk on lawn or through the adjacent parking lot. The park does not currently have ADA-compliant paths except next to the comfort station. The new paths will provide safe, ADA-compliant pedestrian access from Seward Park Avenue to the comfort station, to the new pedestrian footbridge crossing the proposed creek channel and to the new art sculpture. These paths will improve access to the park and its recreation opportunities.

The existing impervious area is approximately 150,000 square feet. These walking path modifications will increase the amount of impervious surface at the project site by approximately 4,000 square feet, or 2.7%. The additional concrete and other materials are estimated to have additional embodied greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of about 200 MTCO_{2e}.

Earthwork Revisions

Based on further design of the new lower Mapes Creek channel, the channel will now be approximately 10 to 15 feet wide, 450 feet long, and 1.5 feet deep, instead of approximately 8 to 10 feet wide, 375 feet long and 3 feet deep as identified in the 2012 SEPA checklist. This change reduces the estimated excavation quantity from 5,900 to 3,890 cubic yards and increases the estimated backfill quantity from 6,010 to 6,360 cubic yards. The additional 350 cubic yards of fill will be imported material. In addition, the shallower channel depth will reduce the amount of fill (less than 5 cubic yards) that will need to be placed below Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) where the channel mouth connects to Lake Washington. SPU would still complete the work as described in the 2012 Environmental Checklist (*i.e.*, most construction work would occur “in the dry” and measures such as turbidity curtains would be used for construction work along Lake Washington). Work below the OHWM would still take place only during the in-water work window (“fish window”) designated by the WDFW, to minimize possible harm to local fish species.

As noted in the 2012 SEPA checklist, the lawn area north of the proposed creek channel (see Figure 1) is low lying and often wet, making it unusable for park users. As part of the Mapes Creek Restoration Project, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department and SPU will grade the wet lawn area to improve drainage by a combination of excavation (approximately 500 cubic yards) and filling (approximately 1,000 cubic yards). On-site excavated soil and topsoil will be reused. Approximately 500 cubic yards of fill material will be imported to complete the grading work. The grading work will increase the usable lawn area and increase recreational opportunities for park users.

The channel design and park grading revisions will decrease the overall amount of material that is excavated and must be removed from the site by approximately 2,010 cubic yards and will increase the amount of imported fill that must be hauled to the site by about 850 cubic yards. The revisions are estimated to reduce GHG emissions by 66 MTCO_{2e}, from 230 to 164 MTCO_{2e}. Because the channel and lawn areas have been disturbed and modified in historic modern times, no known archaeological, cultural, or historic resources are expected to be affected by the project. However, should evidence of cultural artifacts or human remains, either historic or prehistoric, be

encountered during excavation, work in that immediate area would be suspended and the find would be examined and documented by a professional archaeologist. Decisions regarding appropriate mitigation and further action would be made at that time.

No Longer Included

The following items are no longer included in the design of this project:

1. Flume and motor operated gate
2. Relocation of existing water main in Seward Park Avenue South

The deletion of these two items will decrease GHG by reducing truck trips associated with removal of excavation material, deliveries of backfill, and delivery of pipe and the flume and gate components to the site. Elimination of these elements from the projects is expected to reduce GHG emissions by less than 2 MTCO_{2e}.

Additional Technical Reports

The project team has developed some additional technical reports to help with design and decisions related to project changes. These include:

1. 52nd Avenue S Conveyance/CSO and Lower Mapes Creek Restoration Geotechnical Report
2. 52nd Avenue S Conveyance/CSO Infiltration Memorandum
3. 52nd Avenue S CSO & Lower Mapes Creek Restoration Project Basis of Design
4. Lower Mapes Creek Restoration Project Wetland Delineation Report
5. Exemption from City of Seattle Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) Provisions (SMC Chapter 25.09) for the following ECAs: Wetlands, Riparian Corridor, Peat Settlement Prone Area, and Liquefaction-prone Area

Please submit any comments no later than close of business March 26, 2013, to:

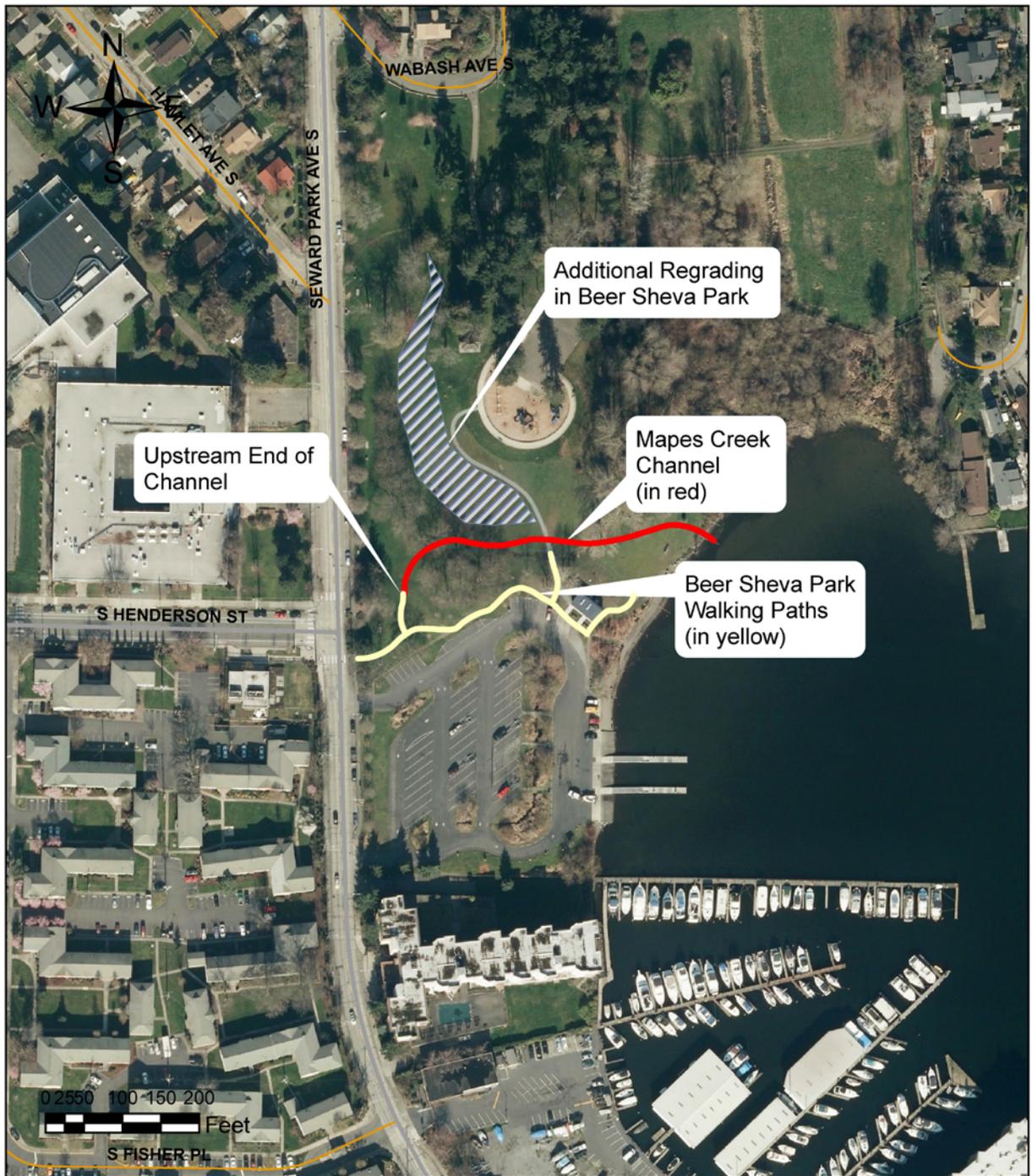
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SEPA Environmental Checklist

SEPA Addendum
52nd Avenue S CSO/
Mapes Creek Restoration

February 2013

Figure 1