



**City of Seattle**  
Seattle Public Utilities

May 30, 2013

**TO:** Recipients of the Meadowbrook Pond Dredging and Improvements Project SEPA  
DNS/Checklist

**FROM:** Betty Meyer, SEPA Responsible Official

**SUBJECT:** Addendum to the Meadowbrook Pond Dredging and Improvements Project SEPA  
Determination of Non-significance

**PURPOSE OF THIS ADDENDUM**

In 2012, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) prepared a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Checklist that analyzed environmental impacts of the proposed Meadowbrook Pond Dredging and Improvements Project. As lead agency, SPU issued a Determination of Non-significance (DNS) for that project on March 8, 2012.

In February 2013, SPU staff discovered that approximately 15 linear feet of Thornton Creek stream bank had failed immediately upstream of the existing High Flow Bypass Inlet and Trash Rack at Meadowbrook Pond, sloughing 20 to 30 cubic yards of previously compacted soil and rock into the creek (Photo 1). Although the bank failure does not pose an apparent immediate threat to public safety or downstream property, the sloughed material should be removed and the bank restored to prevent further erosion during future storms. In addition, the bank must be restored in order to construct the SPU maintenance vehicle access improvements planned as part of the Meadowbrook Dredging and Improvements Project. Those improvements require a stable bank to accommodate the access road and vehicular traffic.

SPU has subsequently identified a bank repair (Figures 1, 2, and 3). This repair would require bypassing flow away from the affected reach of Thornton Creek for approximately 2 to 3 weeks. To minimize the number of Creek bypasses, SPU is proposing to conduct the bank repair at the same time (July and August 2013) that the affected reach of Thornton Creek is dewatered to construct some elements of the Meadowbrook Pond Dredging and Improvements Project. SPU would add the bank repair to the current scope of work of the contractor constructing that project.

SPU has prepared this Addendum to assess how the proposed bank repair affects the analyses included in the 2012 Environmental Checklist. As lead agency, SPU has reviewed the findings and concluded that addition of the bank repair to the Meadowbrook Pond Dredging and Improvements Project does not substantially change the analyses of impacts contained in the 2012 Environmental Checklist and will not result in any significant environmental impacts.

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This Addendum has been prepared in accordance with the authority provided in Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.05.600 and in accordance with the procedures described in SMC 25.05.625.

## **UPDATED PROJECT INFORMATION**

### **Bank Repair**

The bank repair would use an excavator to remove approximately 20 to 30 cubic yards of sloughed soil and rock from Thornton Creek and the adjacent bank. The bank would then be rebuilt using 4-man (36 inch by 48 inch) rocks keyed 18 inches into the streambed. The top of these base rocks would be at the same elevation as the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Thornton Creek in this reach. The next two layers would be comprised of 3-man (24 inch by 36 inch) rocks. Soil lifts (native soils mixed with compost) would be used between the rock layers and planted with a total of approximately 25 shrubs and approximately 25 vine maples or willows. Specific plant species to be used would be determined in the field during construction. All rocks and soil would be installed using an excavator.

Approximately 20 to 30 cubic yards of rock and backfill soil material would be excavated and exported from the project location and the same amount imported to make the bank repair. The repair would thus increase the overall amount of material that is potentially excavated/removed from the site by approximately 20 to 30 yards (from 20,300 cubic yards to 20,330 cubic yards) and would increase the amount of imported soil and rock that must be hauled to the site by about 20 to 30 cubic yards (from 430 cubic yards to 460 cubic yards). Construction of the bank repair is estimated to create additional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of less than 1 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>.

The footprint of the repaired bank would be the same as the original bank, and the post-repair hydraulics of Thornton Creek, Meadowbrook Pond, and the High Flow Bypass Pipeline are expected to be the same as the hydraulics prior to bank failure. Because the previous bank was compacted soil and rock, no additional impervious surfaces would be created.

Less than 20 cubic yards of rock and soil would be placed below the OHWM of Thornton Creek but within the same footprint as the previously intact stream bank. The work would still be conducted as described in the 2012 Environmental Checklist (*i.e.*, work would occur “in the dry” and erosion and sediment control measures would be deployed as required). To avoid and minimize possible harm to fish, all work below OHWMs would still take place during the approved in-water construction window (“fish window”) designated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Washington.

Because the failed bank and adjacent 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.

### **Additional Technical Reports**

No additional technical reports have been prepared related to this bank repair.

Please submit any comments no later than close of business June 14, 2013, to:

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Signature: Betty Meyer

Issue Date: May 30, 2013



Photo 1. Failed bank, looking upstream. The High Flow Bypass Inlet and Trash Rack are shown at right.



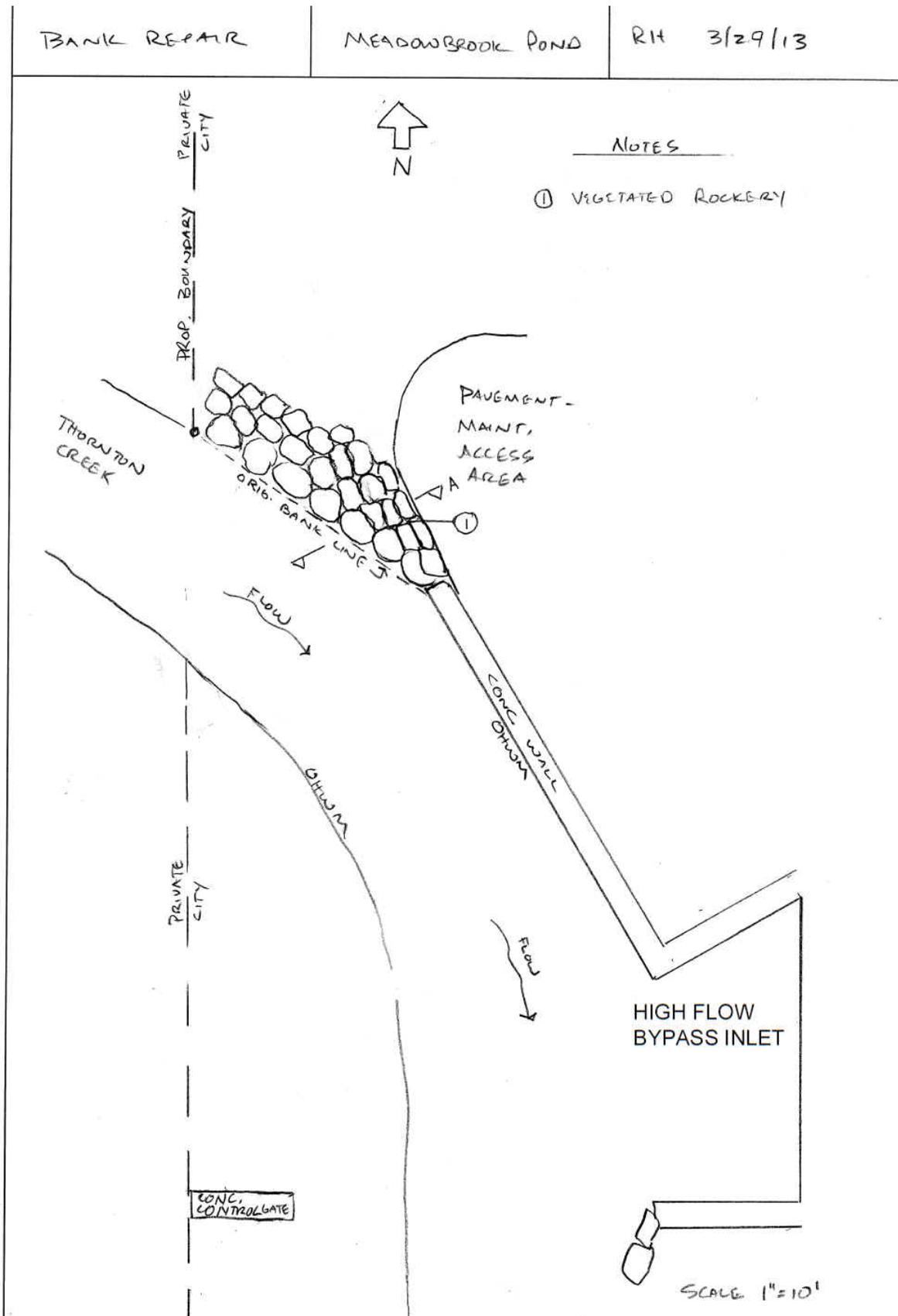


Figure 2. Plan view of proposed bank repair.

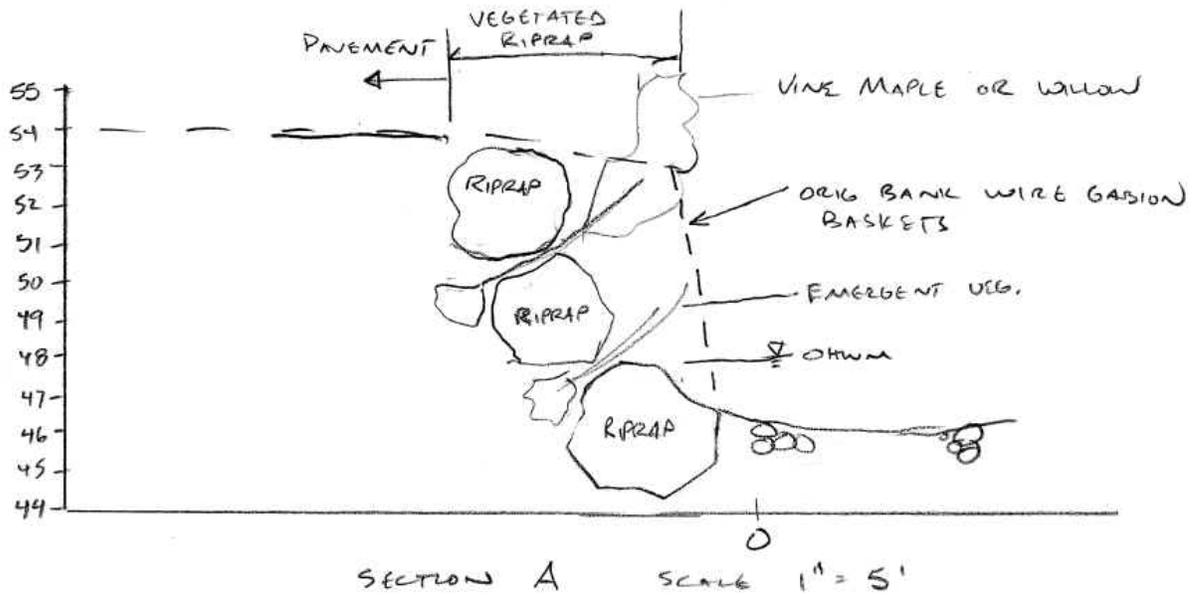


Figure 3. Section of proposed bank repair.