

**Beaver Dam Management
SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

Description of Proposal

Beavers have recently constructed dams immediately upstream of the pedestrian footbridge over Longfellow Creek, in the High Point neighborhood of West Seattle in the City of Seattle and dams in SPU's Meadowbrook Pond Stormwater Detention and Flood Control Facility in the Meadowbrook neighborhood of the City of Seattle. The dams may lead to localized flooding of nearby residential properties during the rainy season. This proposal would deploy beaver dam management interventions at the dams at both sites. Specifically, the proposed work would install four pond levelers by notching the dams and then installing exclusion fences. The fencing would extend 16-feet upstream from the top of the dam. Notching assists in preventing beavers from detecting stream flow through the dam and the fencing prevents them from effectively plugging the notch. These interventions are intended to control water levels and flows in Longfellow and Thornton creeks and are preferred alternatives to relocating the beavers or removing or breaching an established beaver dam that maintains hydrology of a nearby wetland or pond. The proposed design provides unimpeded fish passage while preventing beavers from constructing effective dams at the pedestrian bridge at the Longfellow Creek site and in Meadowbrook Pond at the Thornton Creek site.

The Project includes the following major work elements:

1. Creating a notch in the beaver dam
2. Installation of metal t-posts and welded-wire fencing with a mesh size of 4 inches by 6 inches to create a box in the notch of the beaver dam.
3. Extend the wire fencing box 16-feet upstream from the beaver dam.

Proponent

Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Location of Proposal

The Longfellow Creek site is in the City of Seattle street right-of-way for SW Graham St near 2512 SW Graham St in the High Point neighborhood of West Seattle (T24N, R03E, S24). Work may also occur on parcels 3438501370 and 3438501360. The first dam is located at latitude 47.546462, longitude -122.364286. The second dam is located 150 feet downstream of the first dam (47.546878, -122.3644265).

The Thornton Creeksite at Meadowbrook Pond is on SPU-owned parcel 2726049129 at 3600 NE 105th St in the Meadowbrook neighborhood of the City of Seattle (T26N, R04E, S27) (47.705080, -122.287960).

Lead Agency

Seattle Public Utilities, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed

environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the issuance date below.

A copy of the environmental checklist is available online at <http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/construction-impacts>.

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by June 3, 2021 and must be sent by email to:

Kevin Buckley, SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Public Utilities
kevin.buckley@seattle.gov

Signature: _____
Kevin Buckley

Issue Date: May 20, 2021

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by an \$85 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2021. Please see the Office of the Hearing Examiner web site for Temporary Operating Rules During COVID-19: <http://www.seattle.gov/hearing-examiner>