STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775 • Olympia, WA 98504-7775 • 360-407-6300

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issuance: 8/10/2026

Lead Agency: Department of Ecology, Toxics Cleanup Program, Southwest Region Office

Agency Contact: Val Chu
Site Manager for Tru-Grit Abrasives Inc
valerie.chu@ecy.wa.gov
(564) 669-0298

Description of Proposal: The Port of Tacoma is completing an Interim Action at the Tru-Grit MTCA cleanup site. The Interim Action is proposed for implementation during the 2026/2027 in-water work window (July 15, 2026, through February 15, 2027) to allow completion in advance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Federal Navigation Channel Deepening Project in the Blair Waterway, which is anticipated to begin in 2028 and will deepen the channel to -57 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) with a 2-foot overdredge (final elevation of -59 feet MLLW). Construction of the Interim Action is expected to take approximately three months and is currently targeted for December 2026 through February 2027. The proposed work includes mechanical dredging to remove contaminated sediments at the Tru-Grit site, transport of dredged material by barge to Parcel 86 at 3401 Taylor Way, Tacoma, Washington, for transloading and, as needed, dewatering and stabilization, and subsequent truck transport to a permitted off-site Subtitle D landfill for upland disposal. The work will include confirmation sampling to verify removal of contaminated sediments, with contingency dredging conducted if warranted by monitoring results.

Location of Proposal: The Site is located on the northeastern side of the Blair Waterway, with the upland address at 1110 East Alexander Avenue, Tacoma, Washington. The Site includes areas of contaminated marine sediment along the shoreline and nearshore of the Tru-Grit and Graymont, Inc. facility to the east, as well as within a portion of side slopes of the proposed federal navigation channel in the Blair Waterway.

Applicant: Port of Tacoma

Applicant Contact: Scott Hooton
Environmental Programs Project Manager
Port of Tacoma
PO Box 1837
Tacoma, Washington 98401
253-383-9428
shooton@portoftacoma.com

Determination:

Ecology has determined that this proposal will 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). We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist and the Draft Interim Action Plan.

These documents are available at:

Tacoma Public Library, Main Branch 1102 Tacoma Avenue Tacoma, WA 98402	Ecology Lacey Office (by appointment) 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503

The documents are also available at: **https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/1294**

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

Sediment Cleanup Action

- The Port of Tacoma is completing an Interim Action at the Tru-Grit MTCA cleanup site within designated Areas A and B.
- The Interim Action is proposed for implementation during the 2026/2027 in-water work window, from July 15, 2026, through February 15, 2027.
- This schedule would allow the Interim Action to be completed before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Federal Navigation Channel Deepening Project in the Blair Waterway.
- After the Interim Action is complete, Areas A and B will have achieved cleanup levels through excavation or dredging of contaminated sediment and placement of a residual management cover to reduce remaining sediment contamination.

- Imported fill material necessary to complete the Project will be clean and a 6-inch residual management cover will be put into place to ensure protection of remaining contamination at the site. Other contingency actions will be completed to ensure protectiveness criteria and performance standards according to the Compliance Monitoring and Contingency Response Plan
- On April 29, 2025, the Port of Tacoma issued a SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance for maintenance dredging under the Port's Comprehensive Mitigated Maintenance and Repair programmatic permit (NWS-2024-446-WRD).
- In-water cleanup actions will be performed in accordance with Ecology approvals and permit conditions. Compliance with surface water quality (e.g., turbidity) criteria will be verified through monitoring as specified by permit conditions.
- The Ecology cleanup project manager will provide oversight during project construction.
- Best management practices will be used to reduce or mitigate impacts associated with minimizing sediment loss and turbidity generation during dredging including no seafloor leveling, avoiding overfilling of dredge bucket, slowing the velocity of the clamshell bucket when necessary. Water quality monitoring with the above BMPs will include placement of a silt curtain and daily inspections.
- Per the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340 Adopted Rule dated August 23, 2023, Inadvertent Discovery Plans (IDPs) are now required for all remedial actions. An IDP will be prepared per the WAC-173-340-815 3.b.ii and followed during all ground-disturbing activities during construction. Additionally, Ecology-led consultation with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and potentially affected Indian tribes must occur prior to all remedial actions to assess any potential effects these actions may have on cultural resources. Based on consultations, a cultural resources plan, such as a survey or monitoring plan may be required. Project remedial actions must comply with applicable state and federal laws outlined in WAC 173-340-815 Cultural resource protection.

Comment period:

This DNS is issued under WAC **197-11-340**(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 30 days from the date of issuance.

The comment period for this DNS corresponds with the comment period on the SEPA Environmental Checklist, the Draft Interim Action Plan, and the Public Participation Plan. All comments received between August 10, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to September 10, 11:59 p.m. will be considered.

Please submit written comments via:

Online (preferred): https://go.ecology.wa.gov/comment1294

Or by mail or email: Valerie Chu
Site Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
valerie.chu@ecy.wa.gov

Responsible Official:

Marian L. Abbett, PE
Section Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program
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X Marian L. Abbett
Responsible Official

Signature Date: 8/10/2026

SEPA[1] Environmental Checklist

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal**, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in "Part B: Environmental Elements" that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

[1] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance

A.Background

Find help answering background questions[2]

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

   Port of Tacoma Tru-Grit Site Interim Action Plan (the Project)

2. **Name of applicant:**

   Port of Tacoma (Port)

3. **Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

   Address: One Sitcum Plaza Tacoma, WA 98421

   Phone: (253) 383-5841

   Contact Person: Scott Hooton, Port Manager for Environmental Programs

4. **Date checklist prepared:**

   August 2026

5. **Agency requesting checklist:**

   Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

6. **Proposed timing of schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

   Construction of the Interim Action is proposed for implementation during the 2026/2027 fish window (July 15, 2026, to February 15, 2027) in advance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Federal Navigation Channel (FNC) Deepening Project. Construction is estimated to take 3 months and is targeted to occur between December 2026 and February 2027.

7. **Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

   The USACE FNC Deepening project of the Blair Waterway to -57 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) plus a 2-foot overdredge (final elevation to -59 feet MLLW) is projected to begin in 2028.

   On April 29, 2025, the Port of Tacoma issued a SEPA determination of nonsignificance (DNS) for maintenance dredging conducted under the Port's Comprehensive Mitigated Maintenance and Repair (CMMP) programmatic permit (NWS-2024-446-WRD).

   The contaminated sediments at Tru-Grit will be removed by mechanical dredging and will be disposed of at a permitted upland Subtitle D landfill site. After dredging, the material will be transported by barge to Parcel 86, which will be used as the transload location. This existing paved facility will be used to transload and process (de-water/stabilize) sediment that is unsuitable for open-water disposal. Parcel 86 is located at 3401 Taylor Way, Tacoma,

[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background

Washington, 98421. Once dewatered and stabilized sufficiently, the sediment will be transported via truck to an existing permitted off-site landfill for upland disposal.

The dredging includes sediment testing to confirm contaminated materials are removed. The current Project includes potential contingency dredging, which will be performed if necessary, based on the results from monitoring.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Environmental information that has been prepared for the Project Site (but not for the purpose of this Project) is as follows:

- State Environmental Policy Act, Maintenance Dredging. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology. Prepared by the Port of Tacoma, April 2025.
- Sampling and Quality Assurance Project Plan, Tru-Grit Site. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology (on behalf of the Port of Tacoma). Prepared by Anchor QEA, July 2024.
- Sampling and Quality Assurance Project Plan Addendum #1, Tru-Grit Site. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology (on behalf of the Port of Tacoma). Prepared by Anchor QEA, March 2025.
- Sampling and Quality Assurance Project Plan Addendum #2, Tru-Grit Site. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology (on behalf of the Port of Tacoma). Prepared by Anchor QEA, August 2025.
- Agency Review Draft Feasibility Study Tru-Grit Facility Tacoma, Washington. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology (on behalf of CanAm Materials, Inc.). Prepared by Landau Associates, December 2019.
- Remedial Investigation Report Tru-Grit Abrasives, Inc. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology (on behalf of CanAm Materials, Inc.). Prepared by Landau Associates, December 2021.

The following documents are being prepared as part of the Project and would be completed prior to the completion of the Project:

- Interim Action Plan, Tru-Grit Site. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology (on behalf of the Port of Tacoma). Prepared by Anchor QEA, July 2026.
- Sediment Characterization Report. Prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology (on behalf of the Port of Tacoma). Prepared by Anchor QEA, June 2026.
- Compliance Monitoring and Contingency Response Plan. July 2026.
- Water Quality Monitoring Plan. July 2026.

Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

There are no pending applications for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the properties covered in this SEPA checklist. Waterway areas adjacent to the property are part of the separate USACE FNC Deepening Project. The Tru-Grit Interim Action will remove accumulated contaminated sediment and provide a final cleanup for those lower slope areas of the Tru-Grit site that might otherwise be affected by the USACE FNC Deepening Project (e.g., through sediment sloughing).

9. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

The Interim Action will remove accumulated contaminated sediments that have deposited within the lower slope areas of the site. The Project will be performed consistent with the requirements of the Port's CMMP programmatic permits listed below.

- USACE Permit No. NWS-2024-446-WRD
- National Marine Fisheries Service/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Concurrence
- Ecology Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Order No. 23740, Corps No. NWS-2024-446)
- Ecology Coastal Zone Management Act (Aquatics ID No. 143975, Corps No. NWS-2024-446)

The Port is required to secure an individual Hydraulic Project Approval from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a shoreline use permit from the City of Tacoma, and will conduct work consistent with all requirements.

The proposed sampling that will be conducted as part of the Interim Action would be covered by existing programmatic authorizations held by the Port.

The removal of accumulated contaminated sediments from the Lower Slope of the Tru-Grit site is being conducted to remove potential encumbrances to future deepening of the FNC. The work is an Interim Action, as it is a partial cleanup of the Tru-Grit site, and is considered an incidental remedial action under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-204-540(3)(c), meaning it will not be performed under an Agreed Order with Ecology.

10. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

USACE is currently planning to deepen the FNC in the Blair Waterway to -57 feet MLLW plus a 2-foot overdredge (final elevation to -59 feet MLLW; USACE FNC Deepening Project). The sampling described in the *Sampling and Quality Assurance Project Plan* (SQAPP; Anchor QEA 2024) and SQAPP addenda (Anchor QEA 2025a, 2025b) for the Tru-Grit site are intended to delineate the extent of Site-associated contaminated sediments that could potentially be impacted (i.e., disturbed by sloughing) by the USACE FNC Deepening Project. Consistent with WAC 173-204-540(3)(c), the Port plans to implement an Interim Action in advance of

the USACE FNC Deepening Project; that Interim Action will remove Site-associated contaminated sediments from the lower slope of the Tru-Grit site (Lower Slope) divided into Areas A and B that could potentially be destabilized by the USACE FNC Deepening Project. Area A is expected to have 9,062 cubic yards (CY) dredged and Area B is expected to have 3,637 CY dredged as the maximum allowable overdredge.

The Interim Action is expected to provide a final cleanup for the Lower Slope area. Additional actions may be required in the future to address contaminated sediment located in the upper slope of the Tru-Grit site (Upper Slope). Sediments located in the Upper Slope area are outside the influence of the USACE FNC Deepening Project.

11. **Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

    The Tru-Grit site is located at 1110 East Alexander Avenue in the Tacoma tideflats within the parcels 2275200292 (primary parcel), 2275200321, 2275200322, and 03212741000 and the FNC within Blair waterway (Figure 1). The in-water portion involves the FNC and part of the 2275200292 and 3212741000 parcels. The primary parcel is situated in Section 34 Township 21 Range 03 Quarter 11.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

Find help answering earth questions[3]

a. **General description of the site:**

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

b. **What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**

    Slope 2:1

c. **What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.**

    Lower Slope cores were composed of primarily sand (average 60%) and silt (average of 27%) with minor components of clay (average of 1.4%) and gravel (average of 1.4%). Sands were primarily medium grain.

[3] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No known indications or history of naturally unstable soils

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Please refer to the response to Question A.11, which provides additional detail regarding the purpose, locations, and approximate extents of the proposed dredging.

Following dredging, clean sand will be placed within the dredged areas as residuals management cover material, consistent with the requirements of the Interim Action Plan. Additional slope backfill material will also be placed in the dredged areas. Prior to placement of the slope backfill material, the source of the backfill material and analytical testing results will be provided to Ecology.

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is not anticipated, as no clearing, grading, or upland construction activities are proposed other than transloading of dredged material. The transload location (Parcel 86) is a fully paved site with existing stormwater management facilities.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Project activities would occur in water. The Project does not involve the addition of any impervious surfaces. The site conditions would remain unchanged in terms of impervious surface coverage following completion of the Project.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

The Project would not disturb upland soil. To minimize and control potential erosion during dredging activities, best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented as described below in response to Question 6.c.4.

2. Air

Find help answering air questions[4]

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The primary emissions associated with the Project are related to construction equipment, support vessels (e.g., tugs, skiffs), and other equipment used during dredging activities, including trucks. Emissions of this kind are typical for an industrial area, such as a working port. The emissions would be temporary in nature because the dredging activities are limited to a short-term project duration. The anticipated increase

[4] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air

in emissions during dredging would best be described as negligible. No significant ongoing emissions are anticipated, as the Project does not involve permanent equipment or facilities that produce air emissions.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

There are no known off-site sources of emissions or odors that would affect the Project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The contractor would be required to maintain all equipment in good working order to minimize emissions. The Port would also require contractors to minimize unnecessary idling during operations. Emissions associated with the Project would be temporary and limited in nature and are not expected to significantly affect air quality.

3. Water

Find help answering water questions[5]

a. Surface:

Find help answering surface water questions[6]

1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes, the Project would require work in the Blair Waterway berth areas in Commencement Bay.

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. The work is described in the drawings in the Interim Action Plan. The Project will remove accumulated contaminated sediments that are present in the Lower Slope area of the Tru-Grit site.

3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

The Project would involve the removal of an estimated volume of 12,500 CY as shown in Figure 1.

Following dredging, clean sand will be placed within the dredged areas as residuals management cover material, consistent with the requirements of the Interim Action

[5] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water
[6] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water

Plan. Additional slope backfill material will also be placed in the dredged areas. Prior to placement of the slope backfill material, the source of the backfill material and analytical testing results will be provided to Ecology.

4. **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

   The Project would not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5. **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

   Yes

6. **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

   All contaminated sediments removed by dredging will be disposed at an approved upland location permitted/licensed to receive the materials following the previously described process of transloading of said materials.

b. Ground:

Find help answering ground water questions[7]

1. **Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

   The Project would not include groundwater withdrawal for drinking or other purposes.

2. **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals…; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

   The Project would not include discharge of waste material into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

1. **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

[7] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater

Dredging and material placement activities will be performed consistent with the requirements of the site-specific Water Quality Monitoring Plan.

The paved transload facility (Parcel 86) has existing stormwater collection and treatment facilities. Any stormwater at the onshore transload and material handling areas would be managed per site-specific stormwater pollution prevention measures.

2. **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

   See response to c.1 above.

3. **Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

   The Project would not alter or affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

The Project includes application of BMPs to minimize potential for surface water impacts. Dredging and material placement activities will be performed consistent with the requirements of the site-specific Water Quality Monitoring Plan, including application of additional BMPs as needed to meet water quality protection requirements.

Water (stormwater and accumulated waters) from the sediment transloading operation will be managed using the existing paved areas of Parcel 86 and associated water management facilities.

4. Plants

Find help answering plants questions

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

☐ **deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**

☐ **evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**

☐ **shrubs**

☐ **grass**

☐ **pasture**

☐ **crop or grain**

☐ **orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**

☐ **wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**

☐ **water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**

☐ **other types of vegetation**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

No vegetation

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

None

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

No known noxious or invasive aquatic vegetation present. Several invasive plant species are present in the adjacent upland areas, including Scot's broom, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan blackberry, butterfly bush, common tansy, reed canary grass, Canada thistle, and bull thistle.

5. Animals

Find help answering animal questions[8]

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- **Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:**
- **Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:**
- **Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:**

The industrial nature of the area limits wildlife habitat within and around the sites. Terrestrial wildlife that may be present near the project areas is limited to species typically observed in the Tacoma urban environment, such as various songbirds, gulls, crows and ravens, as well as rats and raccoons.

Aquatic (marine) habitat located in the vicinity of the proposed maintenance dredging project is limited due to the industrial nature of the area. Fish and wildlife species that may be present in the Puget Sound may including Chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon; bull and sea-run cutthroat trout; marine mammals; birds; crustaceans; and bivalves.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The proposed work is not expected to have any long-term impacts on threatened or endangered species. The following Endangered Species Act-listed species may be found in the Puget Sound:

• Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) – Threatened

• Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) (Puget Sound) – Threatened

[8] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals

• Southern resident killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) (Southern Resident distinct population segment [DPS]) – Endangered
• Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (Puget Sound DPS) – Threatened

The following Endangered Species Act-listed species can be found in Puget Sound, but are not known to be on or near the Project site:
• Bocaccio rockfish (*Sebastes paucispinis*) – Endangered
• Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) -— Threatened
• Streaked Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*) – Threatened (Pierce County)
• Yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) – Threatened

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes. The site is part of the Pacific flyway for migrating birds. Puget Sound is utilized by adult and juvenile salmonids for migration.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

All work will occur during the authorized WDFW and USACE work window.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

Find help answering energy and natural resource questions[9]

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None. The completed Project will not change energy use.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.

Equipment will not be permitted to idle.

7. Environmental health

Health Find help with answering environmental health questions[10]

[9] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou
[10] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

Sediments will be handled per the contractor's Health and Safety Plan. Sediments will be disposed of using an existing permitted off-site landfill facility.

Equipment has the potential to spill fuel, oil, or other hazardous material into the water. The selected contractor will be responsible for having a Spill Plan and spill containment kits on hand.

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Sediments at the Tru-Grit site within the Blair Waterway, listed as Commencement Bay (Inner), have been classified by the Washington State Department of Ecology as Waters of Concern (Category 2) for sediment bioassays; Category 2 for benzene, tetrachloroethylene, and trichloroethylene in water; and Category 5 for arsenic in sediment.

The presence of contamination within the Tru-Grit site is described in the Interim Action Plan and in the Sediment Characterization Report. The Interim Action will remove sediments containing site-associated contaminants from the Lower Slope of the Tru-Grit site, including arsenic, copper, zinc, PCBs, tributyltin, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs). The Interim Action will also remove sediments containing regional contaminants from the Lower Slope of the Tru-Grit site, including dioxin/furans and sporadically detected contaminants (i.e., 4,4'-DDT and 1,2-dichlorobenzene).

2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

There are no known on-site or off-site hazardous chemicals/conditions that have the potential to affect project development and design, other than those discussed in the Interim Action Plan. Known or potential in-water utilities are being located and confirmed as part of remedial design. The dredging and material placement activities will not impact upland conditions at or adjacent to the Tru-Grit site. Sediment transloading will be conducted within the existing paved Parcel 86 property.

3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Fuels and lubricants will be needed for equipment during dredging.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

In the event of exposure to hazardous chemicals or conditions, HAZMAT and/or medical services may be required.

5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

The dredge contractor will be required to have a Spill Response Plan, spill kits, and follow a site-specific Health and Safety Plan. Sediment transloading will use spill plates to prevent loss of sediment to surface waters. Water (stormwater and accumulated waters) from the sediment transloading operation will be managed using the existing paved areas of Parcel 86 and associated water management facilities.

b. Noise

1. **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

   The area is an active industrial port with a variety of equipment, traffic, and operations that produce background noises. These noises are not expected to affect the Project.

2. **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?**

   Short-term: Dredging equipment and tug noise will typically be generated during daylight hours.
   Long-term: No change.

3. **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

   None. The Project is not expected to produce noise levels above the existing background level industrial area noises.

8. Land and shoreline use

Find help answering land and shoreline use questions[11]

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The properties are currently navigational waterways, used for the transportation of vessels carrying goods for import, export, and domestic uses. Adjacent properties are primarily industrial or commercial sites.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

No.

[11] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use

1. **Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

   Not applicable. There are no surrounding working farm or forest land operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures within the Lower Slope areas of the Tru-Grit site, with the exception of one pile-supported navigation marker. Sediment dredging and material placement activities are being designed to protect this existing structure.

There are existing docks and associated marine structures in the Upper Slope areas of the Tru-Grit site; however, these will not be disturbed by the implementation of the Interim Action.

The sediment transloading will utilize the existing facilities located at Parcel 86 that were designed to accommodate loading and unloading from marine vessels.

The site is located within a working waterway. Nearby structures within the same waterway include marginal wharves, which include fendering systems to aid in moorage and protect the wharves, container cranes for the loading and unloading of containerized goods, pilings that support the wharves, electric service to power the cranes and service moored vessels, and water utilities to service the wharves, moored vessels, and to provide fire suppression.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Shoreline 13 Marine Waters of the State and S-10 Port Industrial surrounded by Port Maritime and Industrial District.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Shoreline 13 Marine Waters of the State and S-10 Port Industrial surrounded by Port Maritime and Industrial District.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

High Intensity.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

No critical areas have been mapped within or adjacent to the site. In the greater vicinity, critical areas include critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCAs), flood hazard areas, geologically hazardous areas, stream corridors, and wetlands. FWHCAs include migratory corridors.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.

Not applicable.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

The proposed Project is required to maintain the existing and projected land uses associated with marine operations in the Blair Waterway.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not applicable.

9. Housing

Find help answering housing questions[12]

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

Find help answering aesthetics questions[13]

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The Project does not propose any new structures.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

[12] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing
[13] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics

11. Light and glare

Find help answering light and glare questions[14]

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The Project is expected to occur mainly during daylight hours and lighting is not expected to exceed ambient levels associated with this active industrial waterway. No long-term lighting will be required. No glare will be produced during or after the completion of the Project.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None—lighting is not expected to exceed ambient levels associated with this active industrial waterway.

12. Recreation

Find help answering recreation questions

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The Project occurs in an active industrial waterway. There are no informal recreational opportunities in the Blair Waterway.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions[15]

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

[14] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare
[15] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p

All Project activities will occur in deep subtidal areas, most of which have been maintained historically to at least -51 feet MLLW or deeper. The proposed Project will not affect buildings, structures, or sites located near the Project sites. The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) WISAARD online database identified no upland properties on the Project site that are eligible for listing in the state register. Two properties within 1 mile of the Project area are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Several additional properties are recorded on Historic Property Inventory forms but have either been determined not eligible or were not evaluated for listing in the NRHP.

Archaeological monitoring was performed as part of site characterization activities following a monitoring and inadvertent discovery plan developed in coordination with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians (PTOI). No cultural or archaeological resources were identified during monitoring.

The Port and PTOI staff will collectively decide this Project's risk of encountering cultural resources and how to mitigate that risk. Measures may include an independent archeological assessment and on-site monitoring during construction, if warranted.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Unknown; however, the maintenance dredging area consists of waterway previously excavated to deep subtidal elevations that were never exposed when humans were present.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

The DAHP WISAARD online database was used to assess the presence of potential cultural and historic resources on or near the Project site.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

The Project is unlikely to affect cultural or historic resources. The Project will follow state recommendations for Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains on Non-Federal and Non-Tribal Land in the State of Washington (Revised Code of Washington 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055).

14. Transportation

Find help with answering transportation questions[16]

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The Project will access the site via the water and does not propose accessing the site using the existing street system. The closest public highways that serve the site are WA-509 and I-5. The east side of the Blair Waterway can be accessed via Alexander Avenue and 54th street.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Pierce Transit Route 500 has several stops on Pacific Highway East to the southeast of the Blair Waterway, which is approximately 2 miles from the Project site.

c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Yes, the Project will occur in the immediate vicinity of many marine shipping terminals.

e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

None. The quantity of vehicular trips is not expected to be affected by the proposed Project.

f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

15. Public services

Find help answering public service questions[17]

[16] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation
[17] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services

a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

No.

b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

None. The proposed Project is not expected to affect public services.

16. Utilities

Find help answering utilities questions[18]

a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:**

There are no utilities located in the Project location (Lower Slope of the Tru-Grit site).

Existing utilities are available at the transload location (Parcl 86), including electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, and sanitary sewer.

b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

None.

C.Signature

Find help about who should sign[19]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

X Scott Hooton

Type name of signee: Scott T Hooton

Position and agency/organization: Port of Tacoma

Date submitted: 8/6/2026

[18] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities

[19] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature

D.Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet[20]

Do not use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. **How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

   Not likely.

   - **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

2. **How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?**

   Not likely.

   - **Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

3. **How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

   Not likely.

   - **Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

4. **How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?**

   Not likely.

   - **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

5. **How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

   Not likely.

[20] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

6. **How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

   Not likely.

   - **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

7. **Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.**

   Not applicable.