

Elliott Bay  **Seawall**  
Project

# Draft Environmental Impact Statement

November 2012



City of Seattle  
Department of Transportation  
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3900  
Seattle, WA 98124



# Elliott Bay Seawall Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AM	morning (with reference to peak-hour traffic)
APE	Area of Potential Effects
bgs	below the ground surface
BMP	best management practice
BNSF	BNSF Railway
B&O	business and occupation
BP	before present
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
City	City of Seattle
CO <sub>2</sub> e	carbon dioxide equivalents
COC	chemical of concern
CSL	cleanup screening level
CSO	combined sewer overflow
CSCP	construction stormwater control plan
DAHP	Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
dB <sub>RMS</sub>	decibel root mean squared
DNR	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTE	full-time equivalent
GHG	greenhouse gas
IMPLAN	IMPact Analysis for PLANning
LOS	level of service
LPS	light-penetrating surface
Metro	King County Metro
Mg	metric tons
MMBTU	million British thermal units
MTCA	Model Toxics Control Act
NAVD 88	North American Vertical Datum of 1988
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PM	afternoon (with reference to peak-hour traffic)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	fine particulate matter (diameter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers)
PM <sub>10</sub>	inhalable particulate matter (diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers)

PPV	peak particle velocity
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RFFA	reasonably foreseeable future action
RSJI	Race and Social Justice Initiative
SDOT	Seattle Department of Transportation
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SMC	Seattle Municipal Code
SMS	Washington State Sediment Management Standards
SODO	South of Downtown
SQS	Sediment Quality Standards
SQS criteria	Sediment Quality Standards chemical screening criteria
SR	State Route
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TMDL	total maximum daily load
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VISSIM	Visual Simulation Model
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

# Elliott Bay Seawall Project

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

### FACT SHEET

**Project Name:** Elliott Bay Seawall Project

**Project Description:**

The Elliott Bay Seawall Project proposes to reconstruct or replace the Elliott Bay Seawall between S. Washington Street and Broad Street in downtown Seattle. The new seawall would be designed to reduce the risks of coastal storm and seismic damages and to protect public safety, critical infrastructure, and associated economic activities along Seattle's downtown waterfront. Additionally, the project would improve the degraded ecosystem functions and processes of the Elliott Bay nearshore in the vicinity of the existing seawall. The seawall has been damaged by tidal and storm activity, as well as seismic events, including the 2001 Nisqually earthquake.

**Proponent:**

City of Seattle Department of Transportation  
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3900  
P. O. Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

**SEPA Lead Agency and Responsible Official:**

City of Seattle Department of Transportation  
Peter Hahn, Director

**Comment Period:** The comment period will begin on the date the Notice of Availability is published in the State SEPA Register. Notice is anticipated to be published on November 13, 2012, and the 30-day comment period will conclude on December 13, 2012.

**Review Comments and Contact Information:**

All written comments should be sent to:

Elliott Bay Seawall Project – Draft EIS Comments  
c/o Mark Mazzola, Environmental Manager  
Seattle Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Comments can be sent by e-mail to: [seawallDEIS@seattle.gov](mailto:seawallDEIS@seattle.gov)

Comments can be provided online at: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/seawall.htm>

**Public Open House:**

A public open house to provide project-related information and receive comments from the public and interested parties on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be held on December 5, 2012, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Bell Harbor Conference Center's Maritime Events Center, 2211 Alaskan Way, Seattle. A court reporter will be available to receive oral testimony. A brief presentation will be made at 5:15 and 6:15 p.m.

**Document Availability:**

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available on-line at <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/seawall.htm>.

Printed copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and related appendices are available at the downtown Seattle Public Library and City Neighborhood Service Centers. Printed copies are also available for purchase by emailing [seawallDEIS@seattle.gov](mailto:seawallDEIS@seattle.gov) or calling 206-618-8584.

Printed copies of the Executive Summary and CDs of the full document (including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and all technical appendices) are available at no cost. Prices for printed volumes are:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement	\$50.00
Technical Appendices	\$25.00

**Permits, Approvals, and Consultations:**

- Aquatic Lands Use Approval (Washington State Department of Natural Resources)
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Washington State Department of Ecology)
- Clean Water Act Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit (Washington State Department of Ecology)
- Clean Water Act Section 404 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Determination (Washington State Department of Ecology)
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency [NOAA] Fisheries and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Hydraulic Project Approval (Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife)
- Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit or Authorization (King County)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation (NOAA Fisheries)
- Major Public Projects Construction Noise Variance (City of Seattle)
- Marine Mammal Protect Act Incidental Harassment Authorization or Letter of Authorization (NOAA Fisheries)
- National Historic Preservation Act 106 Consultation (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in coordination with Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation)
- NPDES Individual Construction Stormwater Permit (Washington State Department of Ecology)
- Pioneer Square Historic District Approval (City of Seattle)



- Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (City of Seattle)
- Street Use Permit (City of Seattle)
- US Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

**Authors and Principal Contributors:**

The List of Preparers can be found at the end of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**Date of Issue of Draft Environmental Impact Statement:**

November 13, 2012

**Subsequent Environmental Review:**

At the conclusion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period, the lead agency will review and respond to all comments. A Final Environmental Impact Statement, containing all of the comments and responses as well as updates to the environmental review, will be published in March 2013.

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**Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI Statement to the Public**

The City of Seattle Department of Transportation hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the department to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, nation origin, disability, or age, be excluded from the participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the department receives federal financial assistance. Persons wishing information may call the City of Seattle Office of Civil Rights at (206) 684-4500.

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