

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

Description of proposal: The Elliott Bay Seawall extends for a distance of approximately 7,166 feet along Seattle's waterfront, between Washington Street to the south and Broad Street to the north. The proposed action would involve an extensive structural rebuild or replacement of the seawall in order to reduce damage resulting from storms, erosion and earthquakes. A number of seawall replacement alternatives are being considered including the no action alternative. Several structural, non-structural and construction technique options will be considered including soil improvement, secant piles, and buttress fill, among others; more than one option may be included in the preferred alternative. Additionally, in conjunction with any of the structural options, the seawall alignment will be considered; examining where the seawall face can be reconstructed in the existing alignment or if it can be pulled back landward. Similarly, habitat restoration and recreational access options will be considered with any of the structural options. Public input is specifically invited regarding the reasonableness of the build alternatives and whether any additional alternatives are appropriate for consideration.

Proponent(s): City of Seattle Department of Transportation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Location of proposal: Alaskan Way between S. Washington Street and Broad Street in downtown Seattle.

Lead agency: City of Seattle Department of Transportation

EIS Required: The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). The environmental review process will be comprehensive and will satisfy the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) through preparation of a joint NEPA/SEPA EIS with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS: air quality; cultural, historic and archaeological resources; energy; geology and soils; habitat, vegetation, fish and wildlife; hazardous materials; land use; parks and recreation; visual quality; noise and vibration; public services and utilities; social; economic; environmental justice; transportation; water resources and water quality; and construction.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The methods and deadline for giving us your comments are:

A scoping meeting will be held at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center, 2211 Alaskan Way, Seattle, Washington on Wednesday, June 16, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. A court reporter will be available for public testimony. Comments may also be submitted in writing to: Elliott Bay Seawall EIS Scoping Comments, c/o Tetra Tech, Inc., 1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98101. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to Seawall@seattle.gov. Comments should be submitted by Monday, July 19, 2010.

Responsible official: Peter Hahn

Position/title: Director, Seattle Department of Transportation

Phone: 206-684-5000

Address: P.O Box 34996, Seattle, Washington, 98124-4996

Date: May 27, 2010 _____ Signature _____



You may appeal this determination of significance. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Please contact the Office of Hearing Examiner, <http://www.seattle.gov/examiner>, or call (206) 684-0521 for information on procedures for SEPA appeals. Appeals must be filed by 5 pm, July 19, 2010.