



May 25, 2011

Ms. Gail Terzi
US Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District
Regulatory Branch CENWS OD RG
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Seattle, WA 98124-3755

RE: SR 18 180th SE to Maple Valley (MP 12.57 to MP 16.55) (Kendal 2 and Wetland KA) Mitigation Site USACE IP 1999-4-00171

This memorandum informs regulatory agencies of the continued achievement of final year standards for two mitigation sites. These sites, Kendal 2 and Wetland KA, are the result of a permit deviation associated with the SR 18 180th to Maple Valley (MP 12.57 to MP 16.55) project. Both sites are in Year 8 of 10 for the monitoring year 2011. Below is a summary of site development as a result of an informal site visit in June, 2010.

SR 18 Kendal 2 Mitigation Site

The Kendal 2 mitigation site has continued to meet the final year performance standards. As stated in the 2010 wetland delineation report, a delineation demonstrates that there is adequate established wetland present exceeding the required acreage.

Weed control has proven effective with an estimated cover of reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) to be less than five percent. The remaining reed canarygrass is located primarily on the north and east edges of the site near the creek.

Native woody cover across the site continues to be very high, an estimated 95 percent. The buffer has three canopy layers with black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*) reaching thirty-five meters tall. The forested and scrub-shrub wetland have two different canopy layers with cover made up of at least six different species. The Pacific willow (*Salix lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*) in this community reaches approximately 12 meters tall.

Intended functions are supported by the dense and diverse vegetation community. Overall, this site is easily meeting the performance standards.

SR Wetland KA Mitigation Site

The Wetland KA mitigation site was created to reestablish vegetation that was removed during an unintended permit deviation. This site has continued to meet the final year performance standards. A delineation confirmed adequate wetland acreage is present, achieving the intended area of the restored wetland.

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King County-listed Class A, B-designate, and County-selected priority noxious weed species were not observed on site and cover of reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) remains below five percent. Although it remains scattered throughout the site, native species have established, keeping the reed canarygrass to a minimum.

The cover of native woody species in the wetland continues to exceed the final standard. Cover is estimated at approximately 70 percent with at least eight different facultative or wetter species present. Plantings and volunteer species range in height from one to four meters tall.

Achievement of the final year standards for several consecutive years indicates that this wetland has been successfully restored from the unintended clearing that occurred on it initially.

For questions about this report or the mitigation site please contact me at 360-570-6640 or by email at bush@wsdot.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Tony Bush
Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Program