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March 25, 2011

Mr. Doug Dobkins
King County
Department of Development and
Environmental Services
Land Use Services Section
900 Oakesdale Avenue Southwest
Renton, WA 98055-1219

RE: SR 202 Improvement Project: SR 520 to Sahalee Way NE Wetland
Mitigation Site #1 (Turple)
King County Grading/Clearing Permit L03CG002

Mr. Dobkins:

The Washington State Department of Transportation completed qualitative monitoring of the SR 202 Sahalee Way (Turple) mitigation site on June 6, 2010, to address Year-3 (2011) performance standards. Monitoring activities included an assessment of wetland hydrology, vegetation observations, and photo documentation. This Year-2 report is being issued for compliance with the reporting requirements of the King County Grading/Clearing Permit L03CG002.

General Site Information			
USACE IP Number	200400024		
Mitigation Location	At the intersection of SR 202 and 196th Ave NE, King County		
LLID Number	1220787476548		
Construction Date	2007-2008		
Monitoring Period	2009-2018		
Year of Monitoring	2 of 10		
Type of Impact	Wetland		Buffer
Area of Project Impact	Permanent	Indirect	Permanent
	1.5 acres	0.15 acre	4.0 acres
Type of Mitigation	Wetland Establishment	Wetland Enhancement	Buffer Enhancement
Area of Mitigation¹	2.64 acres	0.80 acres	2.31 acres

¹ Additional mitigation for this project is provided by the SR 202 Sahalee Way (Site#2: Sahalee Way) Mitigation Site which is reported on separately. See the final page of this letter for a summary of the mitigation areas on both of the sites associated with this project.

Summary of Monitoring Results and Management Activities

Performance Standards (Year-3)	2010 Results	Management Activities
Wetland hydrology present	Not present in all intended areas	
Four plants per 100 square feet in scrub-shrub and forested wetland communities and buffer communities.	PFO and PSS 10 plants/100ft ² Buffer 6 plants/100ft ²	Removed 2 beaver dams in Evans Creek and installed 300 willow live stakes to mitigate for beaver damage. Installed 110 additional trees and shrubs.
Less than 20% cover of King County listed Class A weeds and other selected invasive species	Qualitatively estimated at 2% cover	Ongoing weed control
Habitat structures shown on the plan are in place	Present	

How is the Site Developing?

In general, this site shows vigorous growth and the development expected of a Year-2 site. The density of native woody species has exceeded the performance standard for both the forested and scrub-shrub wetland communities and the buffer. Invasive cover is low across the site and a diverse plant community is beginning to develop in the wetland. The site is on track to exceed all Year-3 performance standards. It appears that native woody cover is exceeding Year-5 performance standards and potentially exceeding Year-7 performance standards.

Results for Performance Standard 1

(Wetland hydrology present):

Wetland hydrology was not present in all of the intended areas. On the first of three visits conducted in March and April one out of eight sample points failed to meet the performance criteria for wetland hydrology. However the sample point showed standing water at thirteen inches and saturation up to six and a half inches. It should also be noted that time between the second and third visit in which the sample point exhibited wetland hydrology was twenty-eight days. On all other visits the sample points were saturated to the surface or had standing water within twelve inches of the surface.

Results for Performance Standard 2a

(Density of 4 plants per 100 square feet in the wetland):

The density of native woody species is qualitatively estimated at 10 plants per 100 square feet. Overall, the forested and scrub-shrub areas appear to be healthy and vigorous. Willows (*Salix* spp.), black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*) are the dominant species reaching average heights of two to three meters.

Results for Performance Standard 2b
(Density of 4 plants per 100 square feet in the buffer):

The density of native woody species is qualitatively estimated at 6 plants per 100 square feet (Photo 1). This exceeds the performance standard for Year-3. Overall the woody species appear healthy and vigorous. However, the southeast corner of the buffer, which was replanted with willows (*Salix* spp.) has a much reduced stem density.



Photo 1 – Woody density in the buffer.

Results for Performance Standard 3
(Less than 20% cover of King County listed Class A weeds):

Cover of non-native invasive species in the wetland is estimated at two percent, meeting the performance standard for Year-3. The region will continue weed control through 2011.

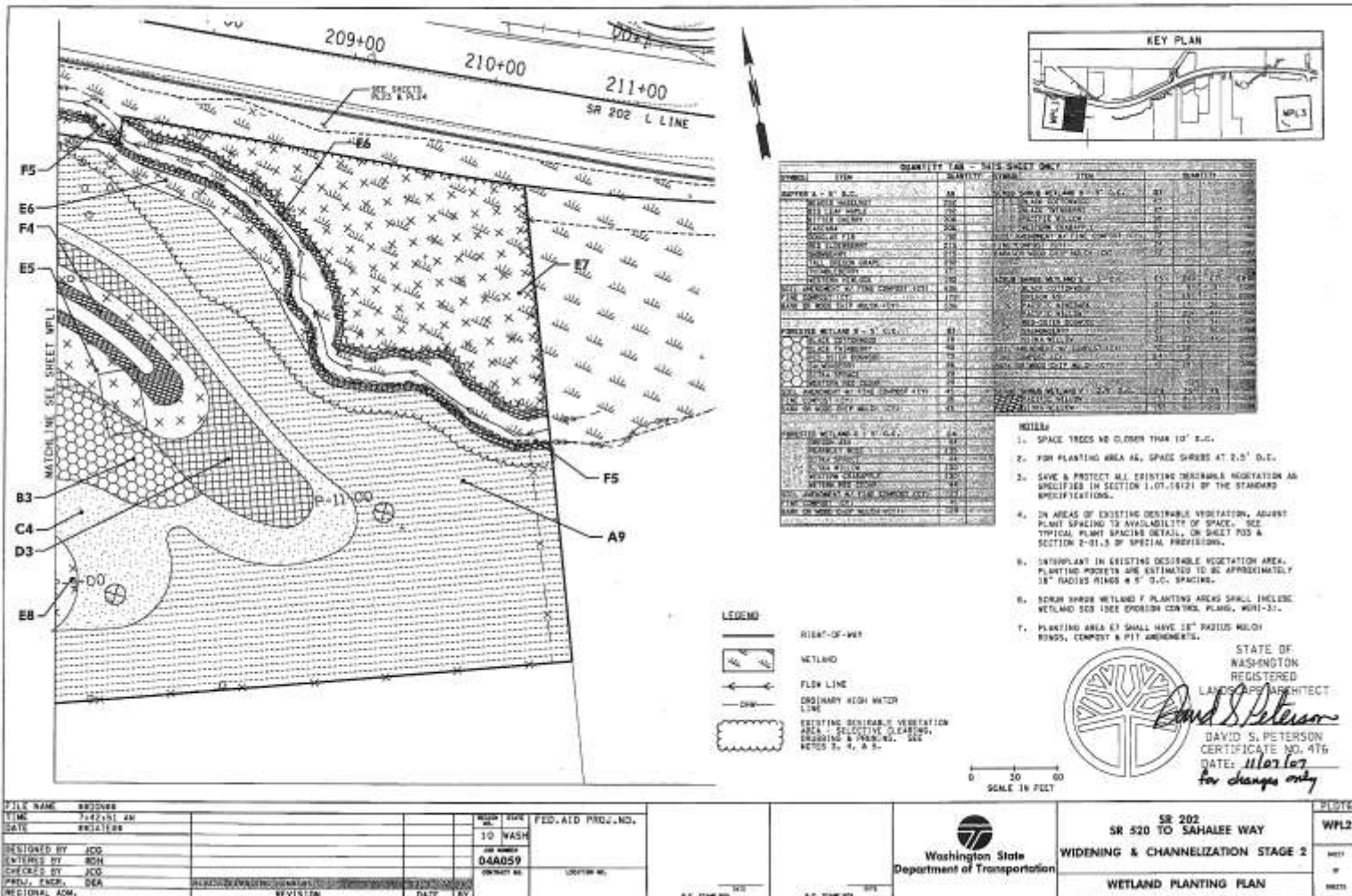
Results for Performance Standard 4
(Habitat structures shown on the plan are in place):

All habitat structures were installed as shown on the plans and remain in place. The performance measure has been met.

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

Sincerely,

Tony Bush
Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Program



Project Impacts and Mitigation Summary²

Table 1 – Project Permanent Impacts

Wetland Impacts (acres)		Buffer Impacts (acres)
Direct	Indirect	Direct
1.47	0.15	4.00

Table 2 – Project Mitigation by Site

Mitigation Site	Wetland Establishment (acres)	Wetland Enhancement (acres)	Buffer Enhancement (acres)
Turtle (Site #1)	2.64	0.80	2.31
Happy Valley (Site #2)	5.43	1.72	5.76
Project Mitigation Totals	8.07	2.52	8.07

² Acreage numbers were taken from WSDOT (2005) Final Wetland and Stream Mitigation Plan SR 202 Improvement Project: SR 520 to Sahalee Way NE and WSDOE Water Quality Certificate # 2474. USACE permit # 200400024 lists the impacts as 1.5 acre of fill to wetlands and other waters.