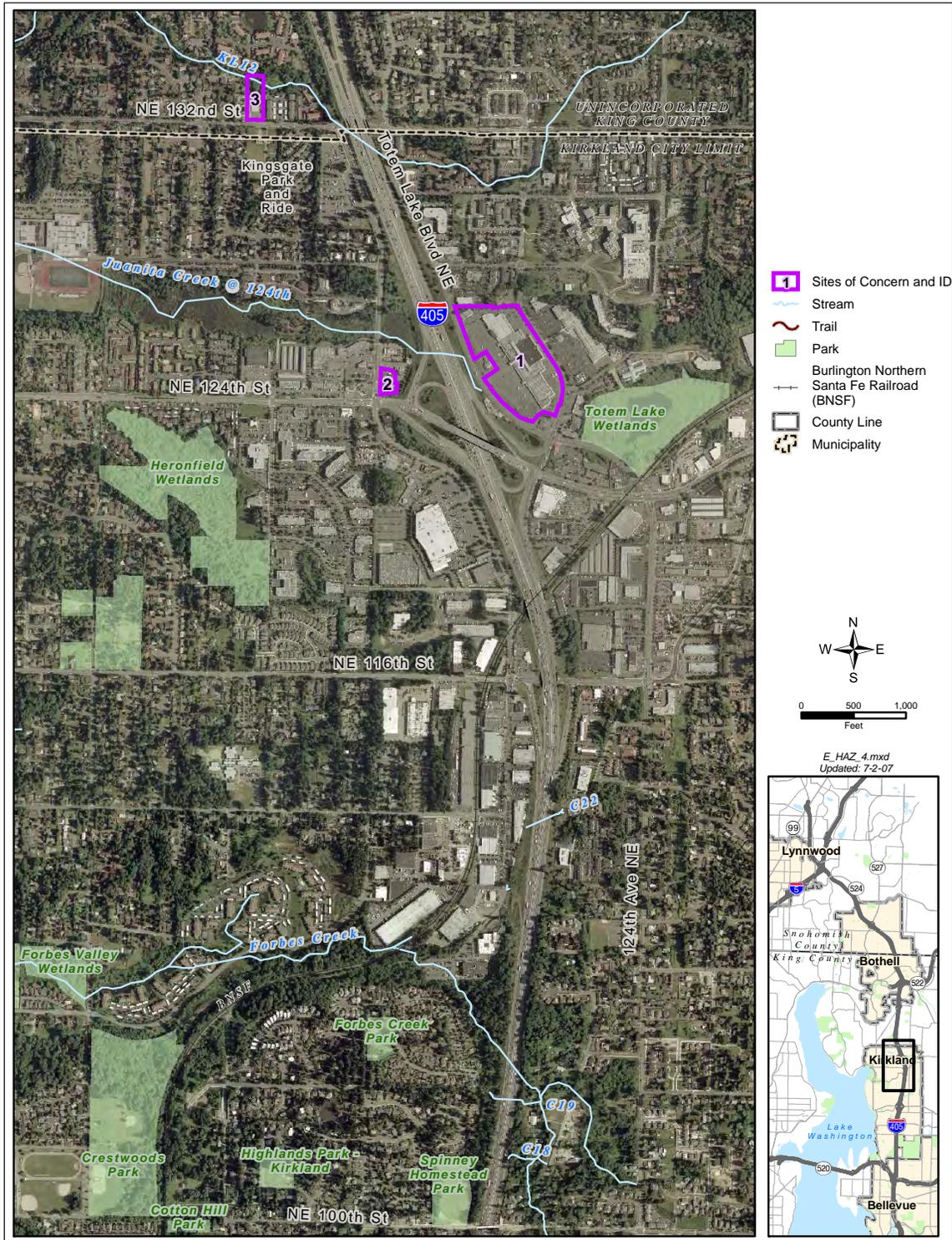


Exhibit 7: Project overview with reasonably predictable sites - sheet 1 of 2



Which properties are likely to be substantially contaminated?

Substantially contaminated sites are typically large or have large volumes of contaminated materials, have a long history of industrial or commercial use, and the contaminants are persistent, difficult or expensive to manage. A considerable amount of environmental data may be available for substantially contaminated sites; however, the cost liability associated with these sites can be prohibitive.

No substantially contaminated sites were identified in the study area.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS

How will the project affect hazardous materials?

Build Alternatives

The proposed footprint for both build alternatives is the same, with the difference between the two alternatives being operational. Hazardous materials effects within the study area are primarily associated with acquisition of property for the project and construction on hazardous material sites.

For both alternatives, WSDOT will comply with all applicable environmental rules and regulations and the I-405 Programmatic Commitments during construction and operation of the project. Based on WSDOT's commitment in following these compliance measures, effects from hazardous materials will be few, if any. However, despite measures to manage risks associated with hazardous materials, accidents could occur or unknown contaminants could be encountered.

In addition to project construction effects, an overall beneficial effect to the area will result from the potential cleanup of hazardous materials during construction by WSDOT.

No Build Alternative

No effects from hazardous materials associated with the No Build Alternative³ were identified in this report.

Will project construction affect hazardous materials?

The hazardous materials contamination that could potentially be encountered at the sites of concern identified in Exhibit 5 during project construction includes primarily petroleum-contaminated soil and groundwater. Contaminants that have been released to the environment could be further exposed by ground-disturbing or dewatering activities during project construction. Other contaminants, such as metals and volatile and semivolatile organic compounds are also associated with petroleum. There is a low risk that human health and the environment could potentially be affected through direct contact with contaminated soil and groundwater if contamination is not managed properly in accordance with existing regulations. However, WSDOT will follow all appropriate local, state and federal rules and regulations to properly mitigate the effects of hazardous materials.

³ A portion of the northbound lanes was previously evaluated for the presence of hazardous materials under the Kirkland Nickel Project. This information is incorporated into the baseline conditions section of this report.

Underground storage tanks

Underground storage tanks (USTs) or leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) and/or their associated piping have been identified within and adjacent to the study area. These tanks or associated piping may be encountered at the sites of concern identified in Exhibit 5 during excavation activities. Further information regarding contaminants associated with site-specific USTs or LUSTs are described in the Baseline Conditions section of this report. Unidentified or abandoned tanks may also exist in the study area. Hazardous materials or substances could be released, which would have an effect on human health and the environment if the tanks or piping are disturbed during excavation.

Utilities

The construction of new utility trenches could provide preferential pathways for hazardous materials identified in the project area. Above-ground transformers associated with electrical utilities might contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The release of PCBs during the removal of transformers would have an adverse effect on human health and the environment.

Hazardous material sites

The regulatory database search indicated that sites within and adjacent to the study area have either completed a cleanup or that they are currently being cleaned up. Please see Appendix B for the complete regulatory database search for additional details. It is possible that hazardous materials may be encountered on and/or nearby these sites during construction. In such a case, possible environmental effects include the following:

- Potential release of contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater, and air emissions (including dust and volatile organic compounds) during construction.
- Potential alteration of contaminated groundwater plume(s) and generation of contaminated water during dewatering activities.

Construction hazards

A consequence typically encountered during project construction will be the unavoidable release of hazardous substances. For example, hydraulic hoses needed on heavy equipment operation may drip hydraulic oil while in use.

These are hazards on all construction projects, but they are particularly acute for construction over water or where stormwater runs to nearby lakes and rivers. See the Measures to Avoid or Minimize Effects section for additional details regarding measures to avoid or minimize effects.

Asbestos-containing materials/lead-based paint

It is anticipated that structures will need to be demolished for this project. Release of asbestos-containing materials or lead-based paint during the removal of structures could have an effect on human health and the environment. See the Measures to Avoid or Minimize Effects section for additional details regarding measures to avoid or minimize effects.

What are the indirect effects of the project on hazardous materials?

There are no indirect effects of the project on hazardous materials.