2022-2026 Action Agenda Update Programmatic SEPA Checklist DRAFT

May 16, 2022

Puget Sound Partnership
PO Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-0900

PUGETSOUND PARTNERSHIP

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SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

2022-2026 Action Agenda for Puget Sound (2022-2026 Action Agenda Update)

2. Name of applicant:

Puget Sound Partnership

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Puget Sound Partnership
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4. Date checklist prepared:

April 29, 2022

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Puget Sound Partnership

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update is scheduled for adoption in early June 2022. Implementation of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update would follow adoption and would be ongoing. The Action Agenda identifies key opportunities for 2022-2026 and does not propose timing or a sequential order for action implementation. The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update also identifies ongoing actions and programs that may be occurring now and would continue into the future. Implementation of the actions would primarily be by other entities such as city and county governments, tribes, and state agencies. Some actions would be subject to additional environmental review by the entities responsible for their implementation, and others would require legislative action before implementation.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

The Action Agenda is a dynamic document. The Action Agenda is designed to be changed and adapted over time as knowledge of the Puget Sound ecosystem and its recovery advances. The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update builds upon the framework, strategies, and actions of the 2008 Action Agenda and subsequent updates, and the framework has evolved since previous Action Agenda Updates. As noted above, some actions would be subject to additional environmental review by the entities responsible for their implementation, and others require legislative action before implementation. From 2008 to 2018, Action Agenda Updates took place every two years, and moving forward the Action Agenda will be updated every

four years, as required by state law. The next Action Agenda update is expected in 2026 and will be subject to its own SEPA environmental review.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

A wide range of environmental information has been prepared over many years relating to Puget Sound recovery. Substantial environmental information has been prepared by the Partnership's predecessor agencies, including the Puget Sound Action Team and the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority. Additional information has been developed by the agencies responsible for salmon recovery plans, water quality cleanup plans, and other local and regional initiatives. Much of this information was reviewed by the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) during the development of the 2008 Action Agenda. One of the goals of the Partnership was to review this largely fragmented, piecemeal body of information and develop an approach to the Puget Sound ecosystem as a whole.

As noted above, the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update builds upon the 2008 Action Agenda and the 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 Action Agenda Updates. The Action Agenda sets specific recovery strategies, indicators of success, key actions, and establishes vital signs and their indicators. Monitoring and reporting provide scientific findings that allow adaptation and improved planning and implementation of recovery actions over time. This approach relies upon the production of timely environmental information to guide the adaptation of the Action Agenda.

The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update has incorporated and relied upon the following sources of environmental information.

- Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program[1]
- 2014 Puget Sound Pressure Assessment[2]
- 2021 State of the Sound[3]
- Puget Sound Vital Signs online tool[4]
- Puget Sound Indicators[5]
- Implementation Strategies[6]
- Regional Chapter Salmon Recovery Plan, in-progress
- Puget Sound Action Agenda Tracker[7]
- Science Work Plan 2020-2024[8]
- Tribal Habitat Strategy
- Orca Task Force recommendations
- Local Integrating Organizations' ecosystem recovery plans

1 Puget Sound Partnership. Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP). http://www.psp.wa.gov/evaluating-PSEMP.php
2 Puget Sound Partnership. Puget Sound Pressure Assessment. http://www.psp.wa.gov/science-puget-sound-pressures-assessment.php
3 Puget Sound Partnership. State of the Sound Report. https://stateofthesound.wa.gov/
4 Puget Sound Partnership. Puget Sign Vital Signs. https://vitalsigns.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/
5 Puget Sound Partnership. Puget Sound Indicators. https://pspwa.app.box.com/s/o23f9meiyo2qeyn8777r8ownzj79k0zc
6 Puget Sound Partnership. Implementation Strategies. https://www.psp.wa.gov/implementation-strategies.php
7 Puget Sound Partnership. Action Agenda Tracker. https://www.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/
8 Puget Sound Partnership. Science Work Plan. https://www.psp.wa.gov/science-workplan.php

In addition, SEPA environmental review documentation was prepared for the 2008 Action Agenda, and 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 Action Agenda Updates.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update is a planning document that identifies ongoing programs and identifies strategies and actions needed to restore Puget Sound. Most of the ongoing programs identified in the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update are sponsored by an entity other than the Partnership. Ongoing programs are required to undergo appropriate environmental review by their sponsors prior to implementation. Actions identified in the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update would be required to undergo project-specific environmental review before implementation, as appropriate. The project-specific environmental review would be led by the entity responsible for the action.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

In accordance with the enabling legislation, the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update must be approved and adopted by the Partnership's Leadership Council. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is then required to approve the Puget Sound Action Agenda as the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan as part of the National Estuary Program in order for actions to be eligible for National Estuary Program funding. No other governmental approvals or permits are needed to adopt the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update. The EPA conducts a Tribal Consultation on the Action Agenda Update as part of the approval process.

Individual approvals or permits would be required to implement some projects identified in the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update, and legislative action would be required for others. Additional environmental review by appropriate agencies would be required before some elements of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update can be implemented, including (in some cases) review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.

Overview of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update

The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update outlines the regional strategies and specific actions needed to achieve a healthy Puget Sound ecosystem. The 2016 Action Agenda Update builds upon the 2008 Action Agenda and subsequent updates in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018.

Each action agenda and update has been subject to its own environmental review pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

- A Programmatic SEPA checklist was prepared for the 2008 Action Agenda and a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) was issued on November 6, 2008. The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) adopted and published the 2008 Action Agenda on December 1, 2008.
- A Programmatic SEPA checklist was prepared for the 2012 Action Agenda Update and a DNS was issued on April 5, 2012. The Partnership adopted the 2012 Action Agenda Update on August 9, 2012 (Resolution 2012-05) and published it August 28, 2012.
- A SEPA addendum was prepared for the 2014 Action Agenda Update and issued on May 22, 2014. The Partnership adopted the 2014 Action Agenda Update (Resolution 2014-07) on May 30, 2014.

- A Programmatic SEPA checklist was prepared for the 2016 Action Agenda Update and a DNS was issued on March 31, 2016. The Puget Sound Partnership adopted and published the 2016 Action Agenda in June 2016.
- A SEPA addendum was prepared for the 2018 Action Agenda Update and issued on November 27, 2018. The Partnership adopted and published the 2018 Action Agenda in June 2018.

In 2007, Washington State passed legislation to create the Partnership (RCW 90.71) and defined six recovery goals for Puget Sound:

- Healthy human population: Healthy people are supported by a healthy Puget Sound.
- Human quality of life: Our quality of life is sustained by a healthy Puget Sound.
- Species and food web: Puget Sound species and the web of life thrive.
- Protect and restore habitat: Puget Sound habitat is protected and restored.
- Water quantity: Puget Sound rivers and streams flow at levels that can support people, fish, and wildlife.
- Water quality: Puget Sound marine and fresh waters are clean.

To achieve these six recovery goals, the legislature charged the Partnership with adopting and implementing an Action Agenda for Puget Sound. The Action Agenda is the region's shared vision and provides a roadmap for Puget Sound recovery. The Action Agenda outlines the regional strategies and specific actions needed to protect and restore Puget Sound to achieve the Recovery Targets. The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update is incorporated by reference into this checklist, and copies can be obtained from:

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The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update identifies the strategies and actions necessary to protect and restore Puget Sound. The document establishes key opportunities for and among recovery activities to inform a systematic approach for coordinating federal, state, local, tribal, and private resources in support of the goals and strategies. Actions identified in the 2022-2026 Action Agenda are informed by science and focus on what would provide the most meaningful improvements for Puget Sound. The Partnership works with its partners to systematically monitor and report on the status and success of the Action Agenda. The 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update further advances and refines the priorities, strategies, and actions described in the 2008 Action Agenda and the 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 Action Agenda Updates.

The strategic framework for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update consists of the following elements:

- **Vital Signs:** Vital Signs guide the assessment of progress toward Puget Sound recovery goals and reflect important ecosystem elements that are highly valued for protection and restoration. The 23 Vital Signs are organized into five themes: Healthy Human Population, Vibrant Human Quality of Life, Thriving Species and Food Web, Functioning Habitat, and Healthy Water Quality.
- **Puget Sound Indicators:** Indicators are specific measures used to assess the status and trends for each Vital Sign.
- **Vital Sign Indicator targets:** Targets are long-term goals, representing highly valued elements of the Puget Sound Ecosystem. Targets include the number of southern resident killer whales, toxics in aquatic life, eelgrass site status, shellfish beds, and swimming beaches.

- **Desired outcomes:** Desired outcomes are the intended ecosystem improvements resulting from implementation of the strategies and actions outlined in the Action Agenda. Desired outcomes include five overarching categories and several multi-benefit outcomes. The overarching categories are: protect and restore habitat and habitat-forming processes, protect and improve water quality, protect the food web and imperiled species, prevent the worst effects of climate change, and ensure human wellbeing.

- **Strategies:** Strategies are the high-level approaches to address pressures on the Puget Sound ecosystem, achieve recovery targets, and advance progress toward desired outcomes. The Action Agenda includes 26 strategies. The strategies in the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update have evolved from prior versions of the Action Agenda.

- **Actions and commitments:** Actions reflect specific activities to implement each overarching strategy. Some strategies include program targets, which are commitments to work to achieve particular results during the four years of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda.

The Partnership has organized the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update into two components: the Comprehensive Plan and the Implementation Plan.

- The *Comprehensive Plan* provides the roadmap for long-term Puget Sound recovery by outlining overarching strategies for successful recovery and protection and introducing the approaches by which issues and activities are prioritized, progress is evaluated, and strategies and actions are adapted over time.

- The *Implementation Plan* outlines the strategies and actions that have been identified and prioritized for implementation within the plan's 4-year timeframe that support the recovery goals and strategies identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

Each strategy includes a connection to the associated Vital Signs, a description of indicators of success, and a suite of actions and key opportunities. Actions are discrete, measurable activities and initiatives that contribute to achieving recovery targets, and key opportunities are activities that can reasonably begin or achieve specific milestones within the next four years. Actions may be proposed by anyone in the Puget Sound region. They are required to be consistent with the Strategic Initiatives included in the Implementation Plan and local recovery plans developed by the local integrating organizations. City and county governments, tribes, and state agencies are the primary collaborating partners of the actions.

In addition to key opportunities to implement an action, each strategy also includes key opportunities in the 4-year period to integrate human wellbeing considerations and climate change responses into the strategy.

Overview of Actions and Framework for SEPA Review

This programmatic SEPA evaluation describes the potential impacts associated with implementing the actions identified in the Implementation Plan of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update (hereafter referred to as the Action Agenda).

The types of activity that would result from each action can be categorized into at least one of 15 activity types. These activity types are described below and form the basis for the evaluation of the actions in this SEPA checklist.

1. **Ecosystem management and restoration.** These are actions directed at restoring sites, habitats, ecological processes and the wider environment, reducing or removing a stress, and maintaining and improving intact ecosystems. This category includes actions involved in directly managing the restoration, or stewardship of habitats, including program implementation. Examples include:

a. Stormwater drainage improvement and retrofit projects.

b. Construction of low-impact development stormwater treatment facilities.

c. Habitat restoration projects such as estuary restoration, shoreline and riparian restoration, invasive species removal.

d. Contaminated site cleanup.

e. Fish passage barrier removal projects, such as culvert replacement, levee setback, and dam removal.

f. Floodplain restoration projects and shoreline armor removal projects.

g. Water quality projects.

h. Freshwater availability projects.

i. Climate adaptation projects.

j. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

2. **Species management and restoration.** These are actions focused on managing or restoring species by directly addressing species populations. This category includes actions that involve on-the-ground projects to recover populations as well as harvest and hatchery programs.

3. **Awareness-raising (education).** These are actions that involve outreach and communication activities designed to make people aware of key issues and best practices through informal education.

4. **Livelihood, cultural, economic, and other incentives.** These are actions focused on developing and providing livelihood, cultural, economic, social, and other incentives to help people overcome barriers (financial, technical, social) and change behavior to support recovery efforts. These actions target individuals, institutions, or groups.

5. **Law enforcement and compliance.** These are actions that support monitoring and enforcing compliance with laws, policies and regulations, and standards and codes at all levels of government. This category is about implementing and enforcing laws and regulations and increasing capacity to enforce compliance.

6. **Ecosystem protection.** These are actions that identify, establish, or expand legally protected areas and ecological processes. This category includes actions designed to directly protect the ecosystem through parks, reserves, easements (on public land or private property), or other similar means. These actions are primarily on-the-ground or capital projects to protect sites and processes, including property acquisition for the purpose of protection.

7. **Recovery design and planning.** These are actions focused on the development or revision of species, habitat, resource management, or pressure reduction plans. These actions include feasibility studies, plan design and development, and funding planning.

8. **Law, policy, and regulations.** These are actions to develop, change, influence, and help implement formal legislation, regulations, and voluntary standards. This category covers strategies and actions aimed at using government powers at all levels to protect and manage species, habitats, and natural resources.

9. **Research.** These are actions focused on filling research needs. These actions include pilot programs. These actions are typically one-time efforts rather than repeated or ongoing studies (see monitoring and evaluation for those types of actions).

10. **Monitoring and evaluation.** These are actions focused on development or implementation of monitoring and evaluation efforts, including status and trends, effectiveness, and implementation monitoring. These are typically ongoing or repeated processes rather than one-time efforts (see research for those types of actions).

11. **Formal education and technical capacity building.** These are actions designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of specific individuals or groups through formal education, informal professional education, or a structured training program.

12. **Institutional infrastructure and development.** These are actions to build the infrastructure and institutional capacity to conduct better conservation, restoration, or protection. This category includes actions to finance activities or programs related to ecosystem recovery, as well as actions that facilitate decision-making, coordination, organization, and communication among groups and agencies and performance management and evaluation actions.

13. **Recovery funding.** These are actions to fund, plan funding, or prioritize funding for any element of Puget Sound recovery.

14. **Working lands.** These are actions to support the long-term viability and sustainability of agricultural lands and working forests, including reduction of conversion pressure, increased use of best management practices to reduce pollutants and runoff from working lands and support of natural resource sector jobs.

15. **Increase human wellbeing, equity, and collaboration in Puget Sound recovery.** These are actions that increase human wellbeing, improve networks for collaboration and information sharing, ensure that tribal nations' sovereignty and treaty rights are honored, and identify and remove barriers resulting in the exclusion of people from recovery planning and implementation.

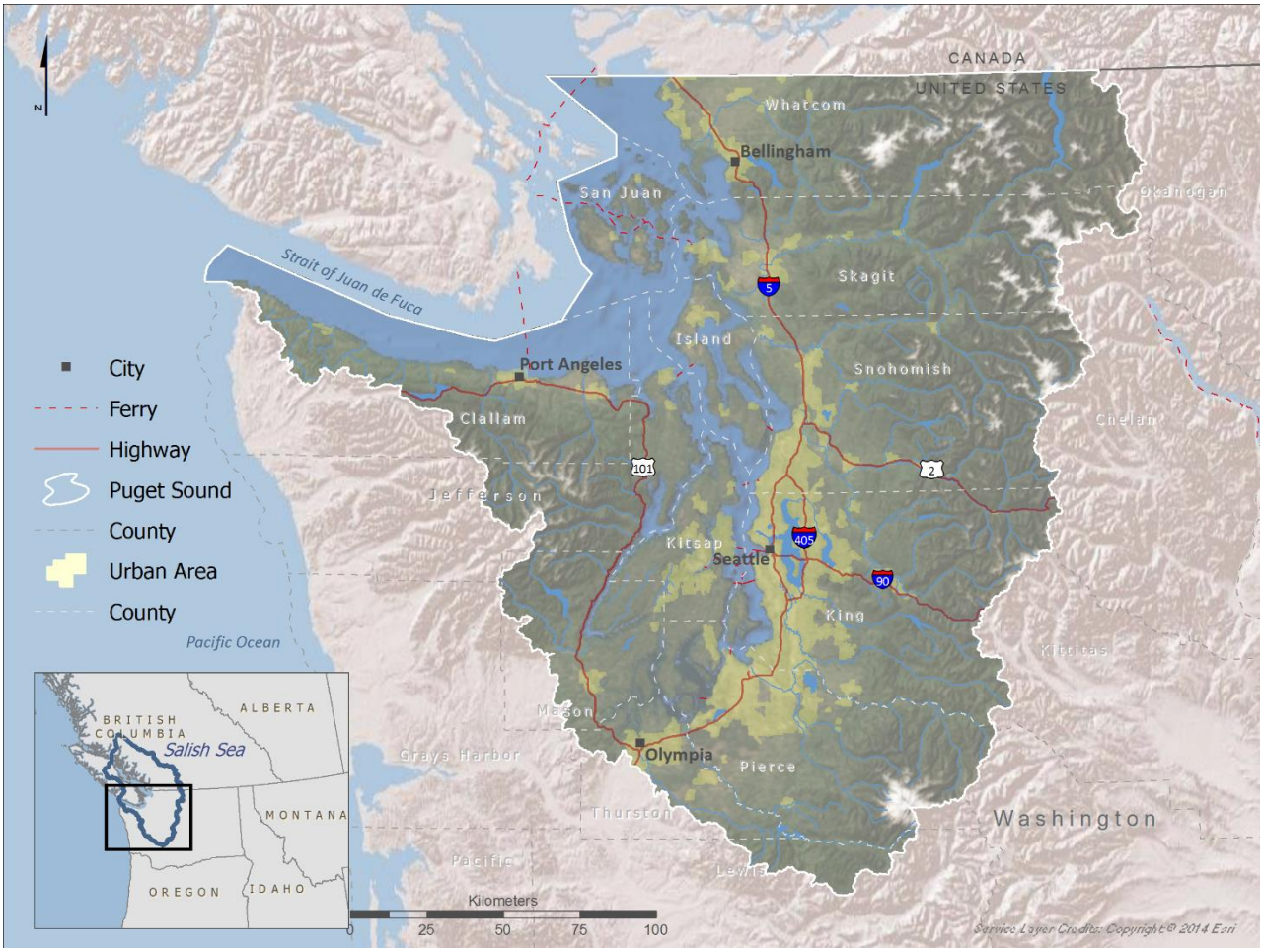
Discussion of how the actions and key opportunities could affect specific elements of the environment is included below in Section B of this checklist.

Some of the actions, such as those related to ecosystem and species management and recovery, may involve work in sensitive areas, such as river or stream channels, shorelines, estuaries, nearshore areas, or wetlands. All projects would comply with applicable federal, state, and local permit requirements. Some of the near-term actions would require appropriate SEPA and/or NEPA review conducted by the implementing entity. Discussion of project-level impacts associated with specific actions is not included in this programmatic SEPA checklist.

12. Location of the proposal.

Figure 1 shows the boundaries of the Puget Sound ecosystem covered by the Action Agenda. The Action Agenda covers all of the marine waters of Puget Sound, its surrounding uplands and watersheds draining into Puget Sound. It covers 12 counties, more than 100 cities, and over 14 watersheds. This area is referred to as the Action Agenda area in this checklist.

Figure 1. Puget Sound Region – Action Agenda Area



B. Environmental Elements

The general implications of all of the actions being considered by the Partnership in the Action Agenda are described above in Section A.11, and below in Section D. In this section, which separately reviews each element of the environment, only those actions with a potential to cause impacts are discussed.

The general types of protection or restoration mechanisms represented by the actions, summarized in Section A.11, above, would affect various elements of the environment in different ways. For example, the regulatory actions are intended to strengthen, modify, or accelerate existing regulatory programs that protect the environment. In the sections that follow, the proposed actions are reviewed and, where relevant, potential environmental impacts are disclosed. Only those actions that are relevant to a section are discussed.

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other ____

The broad area affected by the Action Agenda includes all of Puget Sound and the surrounding uplands (Figure 1). The Action Agenda area includes 19 watershed resource inventory areas (WRIAs).

The terrain of this area was heavily shaped by the Vashon glaciation (15,000 to 20,000 BP) when large volumes of sediment were deposited during the advance and retreat of the glaciers. The glacial landscape has since been modified by stream and river erosion and deposition, coastal processes, and hillslope mass wasting along the steeper slopes bounding streams and the coastline. The major rivers of the Cascade and Olympic mountain ranges carried sediment to their lower reaches, building alluvial valleys and deltas.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Topography in the Action Agenda area varies from mountainous terrain in the upper portions of the watersheds to shallow estuaries and deep marine waters.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soil types in the Action Agenda area, according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service soil surveys, cover a wide range of unsorted glacial till, from clays to sands to gravels and can be very localized. Glacial deposits in Puget Sound lowlands from the last glaciation include dense glacial till, glacial outwash (sand and gravel), and glacial lake sediment (silt and clay). Other soil types are alluvium (of floodplains), residual bedrock in the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges, and volcanic ash. Agricultural soils and prime farmlands are located within portions of the Action Agenda area. Some of these agricultural lands may be of long-term commercial significance. As one of the strategies of the Action Agenda is to preserve working farms, it is unlikely that the Action Agenda would result in the removal of these soils.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Unstable soils are common along bluffs and steep slopes throughout the Action Agenda area due to the presence of glacial till deposited over glacial outwash during the last ice age. Landslides are common after winter storm events as these glacial layers become unstable. Coastal feeder bluffs are the primary source of sediment for most Puget Sound beaches.

Most of the Puget Sound region is seismically active, and many of the jurisdictions in the area have designated seismic hazard zones.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

As noted in Section A.11 of this checklist, actions include a variety of activities. Some of the key opportunities would involve construction activities that would result in filling, excavation and/or grading.

The types of projects that would involve fill or grading could include:

- Stormwater drainage improvement and retrofit projects.
- Construction of stormwater treatment facilities.
- Habitat restoration projects, such as estuary restoration, streambank and riparian restoration, invasive species removal.
- Contaminated site cleanup.

Many of these types of projects would involve construction in or near existing water bodies, wetlands, or other sensitive areas.

For these activities, if project-specific environmental analysis has not been completed, it would be prepared by the project sponsor during the application and review for federal, state, and local permits. Clearing and grading activities would only be allowed with approved permits.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

The Action Agenda recommends actions intended to both reduce human-caused erosion, for example by reducing overall clearing and grading, and promote natural erosion.

Erosion may be associated with actions that require clearing or grading, such as those project types described above under Question B.1e. Project sponsors would address erosion control on a project–specific basis through local development regulations, including the use of best management practices. In general, actions included in the Action Agenda are intended to reduce the potential for impacts on receiving waters, including potential impacts associated with erosion and sedimentation. For example, retrofits of existing stormwater facilities, or implementation of new stormwater development facilities, would result in reduced stormwater volumes with an accompanying reduced potential for erosion.

Erosion may also be associated with wetland and/or estuary restoration projects that require grading. Restoration projects and appropriate best management practices would be established on a project-specific basis through local development regulations to limit erosion

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

In general, the Action Agenda recommends actions to reduce impervious areas and preserve high-quality habitat. However, the Action Agenda also includes actions that may prioritize or accelerate construction projects proposed by implementing partners. Some of these construction projects could result in new impervious areas.

The types of projects that could result in impervious surfaces generally include infrastructure projects, such as stormwater treatment facilities or road improvement projects, such as those that include culverts for fish passage. Potential increases in impervious areas would be evaluated as part of a project-specific environmental review. The majority of the types of projects proposed for prioritization under the Action Agenda would not result in increases in impervious surfaces; instead, they would aim to reduce impervious areas. Projects that propose stormwater retrofitting would result in impervious areas being converted to pervious area. Projects that involve acquisition are intended to prevent conversion of high-value habitat areas, and as such, would reduce or eliminate increases in impervious surfaces for those areas acquired for conservation purpose

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

The Action Agenda includes actions that would reduce or control erosion and other impacts on earth. For example, the Action Agenda supports the use of incentive programs aimed at protecting high-quality habitat and restoring priority habitat. These programs would help reduce erosion and sedimentation associated with development activity in sensitive areas. The Action Agenda also recommends acquisition of high-value habitat vulnerable to conversion or loss. Acquiring sensitive resource areas would prevent construction in these areas, including areas prone to erosion and sedimentation. Furthermore, the Action Agenda includes actions that would construct low-impact development stormwater treatment facilities and stormwater retrofit projects. These actions are meant to reduce overall stormwater flows, with accompanying reduction in erosion.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Overall, the Action Agenda would have minimal effects on air emissions. Some proposed actions, such as construction activities, would result in temporary air emissions during implementation. The Action Agenda supports the implementation of climate change preparation and adaptation strategies, which would include reducing emissions overall, including greenhouse gas emissions. Actions included in the Action Agenda are largely intended to anticipate the effects of climate change and integrate opportunities to build resilience. The Action Agenda also supports development and implementation of plans and control strategies to reduce toxic releases into the Puget Sound from air emissions.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

There are currently many sources of odors and emissions in the Action Agenda area. Emissions result from vehicle use, machinery, and burning of fuel for a variety of uses. A substantial amount of pollution that is deposited in the Puget Sound region comes from coal-fired plants and other sources outside of the region. In general, implementation of the Action Agenda would not be affected by these emissions. Global carbon dioxide emissions contribute to ocean acidification, which has been identified as a cross-cutting issue that affects multiple aspects of the Puget Sound recovery.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The Action Agenda includes a strategy to advance and support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the indicator of success would be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions statewide or regionwide. Actions include developing and implementing plans, regulations, and incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, especially primary emitting sources. Primary emitting sources includes land use and transportation, electricity, residential/commercial/industrial building, and heating. It also includes actions intended to reduce the level of development intensity in high-value habitat areas, potentially reducing future emissions associated with development in those areas. For any actions that could increase emissions during construction or implementation, project-specific environmental review would be conducted during the application and review for federal, state, and local permits.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The Action Agenda area contains a large saltwater estuary, Puget Sound, which receives freshwater from the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges. The area contains multiple estuaries, flooded glacial valleys and rivers, as well as hundreds of lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, 17 major rivers drain into Puget Sound.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Implementing the Action Agenda would involve work within 200 feet of surface waters. Most of the actions are intended to reduce or regulate construction activities within and adjacent to surface waters; however,

some of the near-term actions would result in work adjacent to surface waters. In particular, ecosystem management and restoration projects may involve work adjacent to or within surface waters.

The types of projects that would involve in-water work and work along shorelines could include:

- Floodplain restoration projects and shoreline armor removal projects.
- Stormwater drainage improvement and retrofit projects.
- Shoreline armoring removal projects.
- Habitat restoration projects that involve stream and/or estuary restoration and floodplain restoration activities.

For these activities, project-specific environmental review would be conducted as appropriate during the application and review for federal, state, and local permits. In-water work would only be allowed with approved permits and within the required work windows.

3) **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

The Action Agenda includes actions to protect surface water and wetland processes, structures, and functions. The Action Agenda would generally result in reduced potential for fill or dredging in surface waters or wetlands. In general, the education, incentives, law enforcement and compliance, and ecosystem protection actions would reduce the potential for fill and dredge.

Some of the ecosystem management and restoration actions, however, could require work in surface waters or wetlands. The types of projects that could result in fill and dredge activities in or near surface waters or wetlands include:

- Habitat enhancement projects that involve wetland, stream and/or estuary restoration (e.g., fish barrier removals, kelp and eelgrass restoration, and wetland creation and restoration).
- Barrier removal projects, such as dam removals, and/or culvert replacements.

For these activities, project-specific environmental review would be conducted during the application and review for federal, state, and local permits. For those projects that have not undergone project specific SEPA review, SEPA compliance would be conducted as appropriate.

4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

The Action Agenda includes actions intended to reduce surface water withdrawals. One of the goals for the Action Agenda is related to ensuring that Puget Sound rivers and streams have sufficient water quantity to support people, fish, and wildlife. The Action Agenda is also aligned with the Final ESA Recovery Plan for Puget Sound Chinook Salmon. Certain ecosystem management and restoration actions may require surface water withdrawals or diversions. These would generally include floodplain reconnection and other restoration projects intended to benefit surface water resources.

For these activities, project-specific environmental review would be prepared during the application and review for federal, state, and local permits. For those projects that have not undergone SEPA review, SEPA compliance would be conducted as appropriate.

5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

The Action Agenda includes actions that could result in work within a 100-year floodplain. Some types of capital projects would occur within the 100-year floodplain, such as stream, estuary and wetland restoration, levee setback projects, or floodplain reconnection projects. These projects are intended to improve floodplain conditions and provide new and restored fish and wildlife habitat.

Other individual infrastructure projects, such as stormwater retrofits, could occur within 100-year floodplains and would be subject to the appropriate federal, state, and local permit review.

6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

The Action Agenda includes actions that prevent pollutants from being introduced into the Puget Sound ecosystem. The majority of actions are meant to reduce discharges and remove pollutant pathways. Certain ecosystem management and restoration actions may address discharges of waste materials to surface waters, such as:

- Stormwater drainage improvement and retrofit projects.
- Construction of low-impact development stormwater treatment facilities.
- Contaminated site cleanup.

These activities would reduce pollutant loading into surface waters. Project-specific environmental review would be conducted as appropriate during the application and review processes for federal, state, and local permits.

b. Ground Water:

1) **Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known**.

The Action Agenda supports actions that reduce groundwater withdrawals and protect critical areas important to groundwater supply. No specific actions would require groundwater withdrawal for drinking water or other purposes. Projects to offset the impacts from permit-exempt wells could include managed aquifer recharge projects, which would include infiltration of surface water into groundwater. Potential impacts as a result of these projects would be assessed in a future environmental review as part of the application for federal, state, and local permits.

2) **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

The Action Agenda includes actions intended to reduce waste material discharge from septic tanks and other sources. These actions generally focus on education, law enforcement and compliance, and incentive programs to encourage maintenance of septic systems. These actions would generally reduce the volume of waste material discharged to the ground.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Surface water runoff (including stormwater) has been identified as the primary transporter of pollution throughout Puget Sound, as described in the *Water Quality Topic Forum Discussion Paper.*[9] Stormwater is now managed using a hybrid set of conventional surface water management controls, coupled with the expansion of low impact development and natural infrastructure tactics.

A goal of the Action Agenda is to improve water quality and addressing the problems created by surface water runoff is a key step to achieving that goal. The actions would have a beneficial impact on water runoff by improving stormwater management practices and regulations, reducing impervious surfaces, and funding habitat acquisition and restoration projects.

2) **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

One of the recovery goals for Puget Sound is related to water quality. The Action Agenda includes actions that would prevent waste materials and other pollutants from being introduced to the Puget Sound ecosystem.

3) **Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

The Action Agenda includes several actions that would alter surface water drainage patterns and stormwater runoff in the area. These actions include stormwater management opportunities, stormwater retrofit opportunities (e.g., replacing conventional stormwater conveyance systems with bioretention facilities, such as rain gardens), and habitat enhancement and restoration opportunities. Potential impacts on drainage patterns as a result of these opportunities would be assessed in a future environmental review as part of the application for federal, state, and local permits.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

The Action Agenda contains actions to improve water quality and mitigate existing impacts on surface water, groundwater, stormwater, and drainage patterns. These actions generally include pollutant source controls, surface water management (including stormwater), and incentives and education. Impacts on water resources would also be reduced by the implementation, enforcement, or expansion of existing regulations, acceleration of watershed-based plans and programs, and increased use of low impact development techniques. Actions to increase best management practices for working lands would reduce runoff and nutrients into water.

[9] Puget Sound Partnership. 2008. *Discussion Paper, Water Quality Topic Forum.* Olympia, Washington. July 11, 2008. Available: http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/ACTION_AGENDA_2008/TopicPapers/07-11_08WQualityPaper.pdf

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

__X__deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
__X__evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
__X__shrubs
__X__grass
__X__pasture
__X__crop or grain
__X__ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
__X__ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
__X__water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
__X__other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Some of the proposed actions would involve vegetation removal as a secondary activity, such as capital projects or habitat enhancement projects. However, the Action Agenda in general recommends a variety of actions that would strengthen the protection of vegetation, remove invasive plant species, and aim to restore and enhance native plant communities. The types of actions that would involve vegetation removal would generally include:

- Low-impact development stormwater management projects.
- Habitat enhancement and habitat restoration projects (e.g., invasive species removal, levee setbacks, fish barrier removals, dam removals).

For these activities, project-specific environmental review would be prepared during the application and review for federal, state, and local permits. Replacement of removed vegetation would typically be an element of these types of projects.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Puget Sound is home to a wide diversity of plant species that depend upon marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments. Threatened and endangered species include golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta)*, water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), and Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *kincaidii*). The *Washington State Threatened and Endangered Species List*[10] characterizes threatened and endangered species as of 2019.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

The Action Agenda recommends a variety of actions that would preserve or enhance vegetation. For example, incentive strategies promoting the purchase of development rights to preserve working forests at immediate risk of conversion would protect upland habitats. In most cases, this would benefit riparian and aquatic vegetation. The Action Agenda also includes actions that incentivize the protection and restoration of shoreline areas and critical habitat, and ecosystem protection actions that include acquisition of floodplain and wetland areas. This would preserve vegetation on the affected sites.

[10] Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. State Listed Species. 2019. https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-06/threatened%20and%20endangered%20species%20list.pdf

Some ecosystem management and restoration actions would involve vegetation enhancement. These would include habitat enhancement and habitat restoration projects (e.g., levee setbacks, fish barrier removals, dam removals, and wetland and estuary restoration). Project-specific environmental review would be prepared during the application and review for federal, state, and local permits.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

The Action Agenda area includes a wide variety of vegetation, including noxious weeds and invasive species. In Puget Sound, there are several invasive species that threaten native ecosystems, such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.), knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.), Scot's broom (*Cystisus scoparius*), and brown seaweed (*Sargassum muticum*).

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

Puget Sound is home to a wide diversity of animal species that depend upon marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments. This includes species native to Puget Sound freshwater and saltwater habitats and many nonnative species. For example, Puget Sound's waters support numerous residential and migratory marine species, including over 100 species of seabirds, 200 species of fish, 26 marine mammal species, and numerous invertebrates and microbes.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

As of 2022, 40 Puget Sound species are on the state endangered and threatened species lists. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife also lists 6 species as sensitive.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Puget Sound is known to be a migratory route for a large number of marine species, including fish, marine mammals, and marine and upland birds. It is also within the Pacific Flyway, which is a flight corridor for migrating waterfowl, migratory songbirds, and other birds. The Pacific Flyway extends from Alaska to Mexico and South America.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The Action Agenda recommends a variety of actions to preserve or enhance wildlife and protect existing high-quality habitat in marine, marine nearshore, estuarine, freshwater riparian and upland areas. Many of the actions include priority recommendations developed as part of recent or on-going recovery plans and restoration projects (e.g., salmon recovery plans). The types of actions range from habitat restoration projects to regulatory revisions that allow the purchase of development rights, to preservation of working forests at immediate risk of conversion. Actions that require project-specific environmental review of impacts would be subject to additional review before federal, state, and local permits are issued.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

In 2016, over 700 invasive species were evaluated in Washington state, and as of 2009, the Puget Sound Partnership documented 12 invertebrate marine/estuarine invasive species known to occur or established in Puget Sound.[11] Other invasive species, such as European green crabs have been documented as of 2016.[12]

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The Action Agenda recommends actions that are intended to help conserve natural resources and energy overall. Some of the near-term actions would require additional energy, but the majority of the tools and tactics would not require substantial increases in energy usage. It is expected that the actions would require project-specific environmental review prior to implementation as appropriate.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Implementation of the Action Agenda would not affect the potential use of solar energy by properties in the study area.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The Action Agenda recommends actions that could enhance energy conservation and promote long-term sustainable development. The types of actions include acquisition of property for green space and development of low-impact development stormwater facilities.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

A wide array of environmental health risks currently exist in the Puget Sound region. These risks include:

- Toxics in fish, shellfish and other biota.
- Pathogens in fish and shellfish.
- Biotoxins in fish and shellfish.
- Adequacy of food supply (fish and shellfish).
- Toxic air emissions and deposition.
- Toxics and pathogens in surface water (including runoff), groundwater, and marine water.
- Toxics in soils, sediment and dust, in localized and broader areas.
- Hazardous waste site soils and sediments.

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[11] Essinger, Ann. 2009. *Marine Invasive Species Identification Guide.* Puget Sound Marine Invasive Species Volunteer Monitoring Program. Publication No. PSP09-02. Bow, Washington. Available: http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/ANS/MISM_Online.pdf

[12] Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Invasive Species. https://wdfw.wa.gov/get-involved/educational-resources/invasive-species#plants

- Pathogens and toxics in biosolids.

A purpose of the Action Agenda is to improve water quality in Puget Sound and its tributaries. The Action Agenda includes actions to prevent, reduce, and control pollution and contaminants entering Puget Sound. Improving water, soil and sediment quality would restore ecosystem processes, food supplies (fish and shellfish) and reduce the threats to human health. The actions would not introduce any new environmental health hazards.

1) **Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

There are numerous sites throughout the Action Agenda area with known or potential contamination, including sites with historical industrial contamination.

2) **Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

The actions involving construction activity, such as the ecosystem management and restoration actions, could be affected by existing hazardous chemicals or conditions on their respective project area or in the vicinity. It is expected that actions requiring construction activities would require project-specific environmental review prior to implementation. Potential impacts due to hazardous chemicals or conditions would be assessed during the project-specific environmental review.

3) **Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

Actions involving construction activities, such as the ecosystem management and restoration actions, would likely involve the routine transport, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials such as fuels, solvents, paints, oils, concrete-curing compounds, and grease. Such activities would be subject to project-specific permitting. Hazardous materials likely to be transported, used, stored, and disposed of during construction would be materials typical of construction projects and would generally be used and handled in relatively small quantities.

4) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

The Action Agenda would not require special emergency services as a result of its adoption. The Action Agenda does recommend support for expanded oil spill prevention and response measures, which is a form of emergency response.

5) **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

The Action Agenda recommends several actions to address environmental health hazards. These actions include:

- Efforts to manage and control pollution from on-site sewage systems.
- Implementation and promotion of improvements in oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response programs, policies, or capabilities.
- An evaluation of marine traffic risk to improve marine safety and oil spill risk reduction measures.
- Incentives and education to increase awareness and reduce the use of toxic chemicals.
- Reduce human exposure to harmful air and water pollution.

b. Noise

1) **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

A wide range of noise sources are associated with urban land uses, industrial production, and transportation in the Puget Sound region. The Action Agenda includes regulations, plans and programs, incentives, acquisitions, capital projects, funding, education, and research and monitoring actions to protect and restore Puget Sound. These activities would generally not be affected by ambient noise.

2) **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

Certain actions, such as stormwater retrofitting projects (e.g., replacing conventional stormwater conveyance systems with bioretention facilities), would generate noise during construction. Some habitat enhancement and habitat restoration projects (e.g., levee setbacks, fish barrier removals, dam removals) would also generate noise during construction. These projects would comply with applicable noise regulations and their noise impacts would be temporary. These projects would be subject to project-specific environmental review as part of their application for federal, state, and local permits.

3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

Noise-generating activities would comply with applicable state and local regulations and noise ordinances.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The Action Agenda area encompasses a wide variety of land use types including urban development; suburban, rural, and resource uses; and protected parks, open spaces, wilderness areas, sanctuaries, and wildlife refuges. Major urban centers include Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, Tacoma, Edmonds, Everett, Bellingham, Olympia, Bremerton, and others. Outside of these urban areas, rural residential, forestry, and agriculture are the dominant land uses.

Puget Sound's freshwater and saltwater shorelines are used for myriad water-dependent, water-related and water-enjoyment uses. Industrial uses dominate the shoreline areas in Elliott Bay (the Lower Duwamish Waterway), Commencement Bay, and Sinclair Inlet. The majority of the remaining shoreline areas are platted and developed for residential use. Other common shoreline uses are marinas, waterfront resorts, shellfish farms, hatcheries, and waterfront/marine parks.

Many of the actions would affect current land uses within the Action Agenda area. For example, ecosystem restoration and management projects would develop new or modified land uses and incentives could change the behavior of property owners with respect to land use decisions.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Agricultural land uses are located in the Action Agenda area. In particular, agricultural uses are scattered throughout the Puget Sound lowlands and are dominant in Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Additional pockets of agricultural land occur in Island and San Juan Counties, on the Quimper Peninsula, and in almost all of the major river valleys in the region. The region's agricultural lands produce pasture, hay, dairy products, berries, and a variety of other crops. Approximately 60% to 65% of the Puget Sound ecosystem is

forested land. A substantial amount of this area is being actively managed for timber production (non-national park/wilderness areas.[13]

A strategy of the Action Agenda is to protect and improve economically viable working forests and working farms. Future project-specific environmental review would evaluate the potential for specific actions to convert working agricultural or forest lands to other uses.

1) **Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:**

As noted above, a strategy of the Action Agenda is to retain economically viable working forests and working farms. The strategy would affect working farms and forest land with actions to prevent, reduce, and control surface runoff from agricultural land and working forests. These strategies would include actions to ensure federal forest managers meet or exceed state standards for road maintenance and abandonment on federal lands.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

As noted above, the Action Agenda area encompasses a wide variety of land use types and associated structures.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

As the Action Agenda is implemented, many different types of structures could be demolished to make way for more environmentally friendly infrastructure and technologies. Roads and transportation infrastructure could be demolished to accommodate stormwater retrofits. As ecosystem restoration projects are implemented, shoreline bulkheads, overwater structures, culverts, levees, and other structures may be removed to restore habitats and recover ecosystem processes. All demolition projects would be subject to project-specific environmental review and applicable permit requirements.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

A wide range of zoning classifications occur in the Action Agenda area. Zoning designations vary widely by jurisdiction based on the existing and expected land use.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

A wide range of comprehensive plan designations occur in the Action Agenda area. Comprehensive plan designations vary widely by jurisdiction based on the existing and expected land use.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Shoreline designations vary widely by jurisdiction and by individual shoreline reach. There is a range of designations in the Action Agenda area including Natural, Conservancy, Rural, Urban and High Intensity. Local jurisdictions within the Action Agenda area are in the process of updating Shoreline Master Programs and shoreline designations to comply with the State's 2003 shoreline guidelines (WAC 173-26).

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Critical areas are found throughout the Action Agenda area. Freshwater wetlands are common throughout the area, especially in the less developed lowland areas and in river valleys. Saltwater marshes line the marine shore and major estuaries occur at the mouths of large streams such as the Skagit, Snohomish,

[13] Puget Sound Partnership. 2014. *The 2014/2015 Action Agenda for Puget Sound*. Olympia, Washington. Available: http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/2014_action_agenda/Final%202014%20action%20agenda%20update/2014-2015_Action_Agenda_for_Puget_Sound.pdf

Nisqually, Dosewallips, and Stillaguamish Rivers. Critical aquifer recharge areas occur in locations with permeable geologic deposits including large portions of Whatcom County and areas near the King/Snohomish County line. Geologically hazardous areas, including landslide hazard areas and erosion hazard areas, occur throughout the Action Agenda area. Many of the major river valleys are erosion hazard areas because of their potential for channel migration. In addition, a sizeable percentage of the high bluffs on the marine shore are classified as landslide and/or erosion hazard areas. Frequently flooded areas occur along nearly every stream and river corridor.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

As of 2022, approximately 5.3 million people resided in the Action Agenda area. According to the State Office of Financial Management, the population is expected to grow to 5.7 million residents by 2030.[14]

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

The actions are not expected to result in displacement of residents or workers.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

No displacements are anticipated.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Because the Action Agenda identifies actions that would protect and restore the Puget Sound ecosystem, it is generally compatible with comprehensive plans and Shoreline Master Programs prepared pursuant to the state Growth Management Act and Shoreline Management Act. However, the Action Agenda may result in changes to land uses and plans to achieve greater environmental benefit and ecosystem protection. The Action Agenda recommends strengthening Shoreline Master Program provisions regarding armoring and overwater structures to further minimize adverse effects on nearshore resources, as required by the Shoreline Management Act. Some comprehensive plans and land use policies relating to stormwater management, floodplain management, and critical area protection would likely also be modified and strengthened. This would include providing incentives to landowners who engage in desired stewardship practices and promoting transfer of development rights options to achieve land use and environmental goals. Changes to comprehensive plans and Shoreline Master Programs would be subject to separate environmental review under SEPA.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The Action Agenda seeks to retain economically viable working farms and forests. It also seeks to encourage compact regional growth patterns and accommodate development within urban growth areas. Therefore, the strategies and actions in the Action Agenda would promote agricultural and forest practices that are protective of the environment while also maintaining commercial viability of agriculture and forest uses.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

The Action Agenda would not provide any housing units.

[14] Puget Sound Institute. *Puget Sound Fact Book, 2015 Special Edition for the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound*. University of Washington, Tacoma. Version 3.0. Tacoma, Washington. Available: https://www.eopugetsound.org/sites/default/files/features/resources/PugetSoundFactbook_v3.0.pdf

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

The Action Agenda would not eliminate existing housing units.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

The Action Agenda would not result in impacts on housing.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No specific structures are proposed. Certain actions may result in the development of new structures. Potential aesthetic impacts of these structures would be assessed in a future project-specific environmental review, as appropriate.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

The Action Agenda supports preserving the aesthetic value of the Puget Sound region. Some of the types of actions recommended in the Action Agenda could alter local views. For example, large and small restoration projects or stormwater retrofits would result in changes to the existing landscape. In most cases, these changes would be considered positive. Potential impacts on views as a result of these projects would be assessed in a future project-specific environmental review, as appropriate.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Projects that could result in alteration of views would be subject to project-specific environmental review as part of the application for local, state, and federal permits, as appropriate. Overall, the Action Agenda is anticipated to preserve aesthetic attributes.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The Action Agenda generally does not include the types of projects that would generate light and glare.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

The Action Agenda is not expected to result in light or glare impacts that would be a safety hazard or interfere with views.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Off-site sources of light and glare are present throughout the area. The Action Agenda would generally not be affected by off-site light and glare.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.

No measures are necessary.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

A wide range of recreational opportunities are present in the Action Agenda area, such as boating, fishing, shellfish harvest, hunting, birdwatching and hiking.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

The Action Agenda has a strategy for outdoor recreation which includes actions that are intended to preserve recreational opportunities in the Action Agenda area. If none of the actions are carried forward, there could be a reduction of recreational uses, such as continued loss of fishing, whale watching, shell fishing, and birdwatching opportunities.

Some actions, such as ecosystem management and restoration actions, would require construction, which could affect recreational uses if such uses are located near the construction area. Potential impacts on recreational uses would be assessed in future project-specific environmental review, as appropriate.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

In general, the Action Agenda is expected to increase recreational opportunities by enhancing water quality, preserving unique areas, and restoring degraded ecosystems. The outdoor recreation strategy includes an action that would foster increased recreation opportunities within natural environments.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

There are many known cultural and historic resources throughout the Action Agenda area.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Areas of historic, archaeological, and cultural importance are known to exist throughout the Action Agenda area. Puget Sound shorelines, river/stream shorelines, and the areas where these shorelines intersect are particularly important.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Site-specific investigations would occur as part of a future project-specific environmental review for any project that could affect historic, archaeological, and cultural resources. All activities would be coordinated with affected tribes and appropriate state and federal permitting agencies. These investigations would use appropriate methods, which could include archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, and other methods.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to historic or cultural resources would be developed in consultation with the affected tribes and appropriate state and federal permitting agencies, as appropriate, following completion of any future project-specific environmental review. The Action Agenda has a strategy for cultural practices and local foods which includes actions that would improve appropriate access opportunities for culturally significant foods and resources.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The Action Agenda area has a wide range of transportation systems, including surface roadways, rail lines, airports, and marine transportation.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The Action Agenda area is served by several public transit entities, which provide bus, train, plane, and ferry transportation service.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Actions that involve construction, such as the ecosystem management and restoration actions, could affect available parking. Potential impacts on parking would be assessed as part of a future project-specific environmental review, as appropriate.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The Action Agenda would not directly affect roadways, but it contains recommendations that could require modifications to roadways, such as storm drainage retrofits. Actions that would result in improvements to existing roads and streets would be subject to future project-specific environmental review.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Some actions would involve construction, which could use water or rail transportation to deliver construction materials. These actions could also result in the development of new or modified facilities nearby water, rail, or air transportation. Potential impacts on transportation would be assessed as part of a future project-specific environmental review, as appropriate.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Certain actions would generate vehicle trips during construction and, potentially, during operation. Potential impacts on transportation would be assessed as part of a future project-specific environmental review, as appropriate.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

The Action Agenda is not expected to interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

The Action Agenda includes actions that encourage compact regional growth patterns and create dense, mixed-use, transit-oriented communities. These actions would reduce and control transportation impacts that may occur due to future population growth. Measures to reduce or control the transportation impacts

of a specific action would be developed as part of the future project-specific environmental review, as appropriate.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The agencies, governments, and tribes responsible for evaluating and implementing the Action Agenda would likely experience demands on their staff and financial resources. For example, strengthening of oil spill response programs could affect fire departments, potentially requiring an increase in training and/or staff.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Actions in the Action Agenda are not expected to reduce or control direct impacts on public services.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

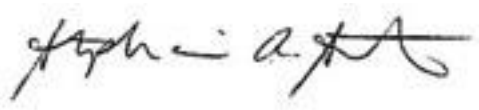
A comprehensive range of utilities is available throughout the Puget Sound region.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

One proposed action in the Action Agenda would expand centralized sewer systems in areas where conditions are not suitable for onsite sewage systems. If this action is implemented or if any other actions require new utility service, such requirements would be developed and assessed as part of a future project-specific environmental review and application for federal, state, and local permits, as appropriate.

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.



Signature:

Name of signee _____Stephanie A. Suter_____

Position and Agency/Organization __Planning Program Director, Puget Sound Partnership__

Date Submitted: ___5/16/2022___

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Implementation of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update is intended to reduce overall discharges to water and air, and reduce the production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances to the environment. As described in the Action Agenda, the Partnership has been directed to implement priority strategies to restore Puget Sound to a healthy condition. Strategies are the high-level approaches to address pressures on the Puget Sound ecosystem and achieve recovery targets. The strategies have been developed to define the full range of actions and key opportunities required to meet the Puget Sound recovery goals. Compared to existing conditions, implementation of the Action Agenda would reduce water discharges; air emissions; and the production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances. Implementation would not affect the overall production of noise within the Action Agenda area.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Implementation of the Action Agenda would not result in increased water discharge, air emissions, or release of hazardous substances. Implementation of the strategies and actions of the Action Agenda would help to reduce impacts.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The Action Agenda includes a number of actions intended to protect existing high-quality habitat in marine, marine nearshore, estuarine, freshwater, riparian, and upland areas. It also includes actions intended to restore habitats such that they better support ecosystem integrity and resilience. Most of these actions reflect years of collaborative work among scientists, policy leaders, and other key partners to identify high-priority actions for ecosystem protection and recovery, such as priority projects identified in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.

Implementation of some of the actions involves construction work that could have short-term impacts on plants, animals, and their habitats (for example, construction of stormwater system retrofits, in-water restoration projects, outfall repairs or replacements, and other construction projects). However, long-term impacts on plants, animals, fish and marine life are expected to be beneficial.

If the Action Agenda is not implemented, protection and/or restoration of habitat would revert to the fragmented and piecemeal approach used prior to the 2008 Action Agenda. This may result in some locally effective results, but Sound-wide progress would be difficult to achieve and measure. As regional human population growth continues, it is expected that pollutant loads would increase and habitat conversion would continue, resulting in increased threats to plants and animals in the Action Agenda area.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

All of the actions outlined in the Action Agenda are intended to conserve plants, animals, fish and marine life.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The actions included in the Action Agenda are intended to help conserve energy and natural resources in the area. The actions are generally not energy intensive. Some of the capital project actions, such as upgrades and modernization of wastewater treatment facilities, could result in increased energy usage associated with enhanced treatment processes and disinfection. These increases would be negligible in the context of the energy usage of the entire Action Agenda area.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

The Action Agenda includes actions designed to promote long-term sustainable development, which is intended to provide overall lower levels of energy and natural resource consumption. For example, the Action Agenda includes recommendations to support development in urban growth areas and redevelopment in cities that are compact, livable, and transit- and pedestrian-oriented. The actions are intended to encourage development that results in energy and natural resource conservation and discourage development in areas with sensitive natural resources. The Partnership's support of these efforts would help to encourage energy and natural resource conservation throughout the Action Agenda area.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The Action Agenda includes actions intended to protect or restore high-quality habitat areas, threatened or endangered species habitat, wetlands, and floodplains. It includes actions to strengthen or accelerate existing protections as well as new actions intended to further existing efforts. The actions also include measures to retain economically viable working farms. The Partnership has worked closely with the tribes to ensure that tribal priorities are included.

The Action Agenda intends to provide a comprehensive, systemwide approach to managing sensitive areas, including farmlands, forests, floodplains, cultural, and natural resources. If the Action Agenda is not implemented, the Action Agenda area would revert to the piecemeal approach to resource management used prior to the 2008 Action Agenda. This fragmented approach could have localized benefits, but it is not expected to achieve the effectiveness of a systemwide management approach.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

As noted above, a primary objective of the Action Agenda is to protect natural resources and avoid continuation of existing impacts on wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, and floodplains. The actions outlined in the Action Agenda provide a comprehensive series of actions to protect sensitive resources as well as restore those high-value resources that are degraded or damaged.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The Action Agenda would affect land and shoreline use by strengthening shoreline and land use regulations, developing new or modified land uses, supporting updates to local Shoreline Master Programs, and providing incentives to modify the behavior of property owners with respect to land use decisions. Actions resulting in strengthened regulatory requirements that restrict potential for development may be viewed as a reduction in individual property rights by some property owners. Implementation of these actions would require continued coordination with local agencies and with property owners.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

The actions are intended to strengthen existing shoreline and land use regulations, resulting in a higher level of protection for sensitive resources. These proposed modifications, while intended to provide positive environmental benefits, may not be perceived as positive impacts by property owners. In some cases, the Action Agenda proposes providing funding to acquire properties, or support for incentive efforts, which provide offsetting benefits to owners of properties with sensitive or unique natural resources. The Partnership may also support local efforts to affect these changes by helping to mobilize funding for outreach, education and technical support as needed.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The actions are not expected to substantially increase demands on transportation. The Action Agenda includes actions that encourage compact regional growth patterns and create dense, mixed-use, transit-oriented communities. These actions would reduce and control transportation impacts that may occur due to future population growth.

The agencies, governments, and tribes responsible for evaluating and implementing the Action Agenda would likely experience demands on their staff and financial resources. This could be considered an increase demand on public services. Some of the demands could be offset by additional funding; however, even with additional funding it is possible that some of the actions would require implementing entities to shift some of their existing priorities and resources. This could result in impacts on some existing programs, shift staff responsibilities, or have other operational implications.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

No measures to reduce or respond to increased demands on transportation or public services and utilities are proposed because no increased demands due to the Action Agenda are anticipated.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The Action Agenda includes several actions intended to strengthen existing regulatory programs, including state shoreline regulations and local Shoreline Master Programs. It also includes a number of actions to improve compliance with rules and regulations.

These actions are not expected to conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. In some cases, this might result in state requirements that are more restrictive than those required by the federal government, or local requirements that are more restrictive than those required by the state. While this would represent a difference in requirements, it would not be a conflict.

If the Action Agenda is not implemented, the existing laws and requirements would continue unchanged and be inconsistently enforced, and the health of Puget Sound would likely continue to degrade. While some regulations might be adequately enforced, a systemwide approach to ecosystem management and regulatory implementation is expected to provide more consistent compliance with regulatory requirements.

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