

**COMMENCEMENT BAY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE
LONG TERM SITE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 23, 2010

As required under Task 2 of the Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustee Long Term Site Stewardship Project, this memorandum reports on the progress of the project for the previous month. This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for violations of CERCLA.

In accordance with Task 2B of the Scope of Work as attached to the Settlement Agreement, the reporting schedule may be modified with the approval of all parties. For greater efficiency and clarity, the City proposes a modification to the submittal schedule and the contents of the quarterly reports. Under the current schedule, the quarterly reports are due on the last Tuesday of the last month in each quarter, and include the narrative for that quarter, but the accounting for the previous quarter. For example, the quarterly report due in March would provide the narrative for January – March but the accounting for October – December. Under the City's proposal, the quarterly accounting provided with each quarterly report would reflect the same timeframe as the quarterly report narrative. The submittal date for quarterly reports would shift one month to allow for compilation of the accounting information. The revised submittal date would be the last Tuesday of the month following the quarterly reporting period. If approved, the following due dates for the 2010 quarterly reports would apply:

- January – March Due: April 27, 2010
- April – June Due: July 27, 2010
- July – September Due: October 26, 2010
- October – December Due: January 25, 2011

Similarly, the Annual Report for the reporting period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 would be changed to October 26, 2010. Monthly progress reports would continue as agreed. The City requests your approval of this new reporting schedule.

I. GENERAL SITE OBSERVATIONS

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT EACH SITE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Per the scope of work, the City coordinated maintenance work with the WCC crew. City staff conducted visits to each site over three days: February 3, 9, and 17. These inspections included photo documentation. Photos will be presented in the next quarterly report. Please note that some of the photo point locations were adjusted to accommodate tidal conditions.

It is spring time! Where established, Indian plum, Oregon grape, willows, and Red flowering currant are starting to peek out from their winter slumber. Specific observations for each site are noted below.

Yowkwala:

- Site visit conducted: February 9, 2010 (COT).
- WCC has been on-site removing invasive species in the back shore areas in anticipation of fall 2010 planting.

**COMMENCEMENT BAY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE
LONG TERM SITE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Skookum Wulge:

- Site visit conducted: February 9, 2010 (COT).
- Invasive species removal, replanting, and beach protection continue to be the main concerns at this site.
- Plants installed on November 7 continue to look good. Silt fence will remain in place until spring/summer 2010 when slopes have stabilized.
- The south half of the site still remains covered with ivy and other invasives. It is anticipated that this portion of the site will be prepped and planted in late summer and fall 2010 (COT).
- Thirty evergreen huckleberry were installed in February along Marine View Drive (WCC).
- Erosion continues along the face of the upland area. More dunegrass was lost to tidal action and additional erosion was noted (see “Problem Areas Identified and Proposed Solutions” section and pictures included with the January ESP Monthly Progress report). COT will be contacting a consultant to conceptualize and estimate large woody debris (LWD) placement with the purpose of minimizing erosion. Once this information is available, COT will discuss this issue further with the Trustees.

Squally Beach:

- Site visit conducted: February 9, 2010 (COT).
- COT plans to continue herbicide injections on the adjacent site to the north in 2010 to manage the threat from knotweed.
- Replanting of the black plastic area is recommended.
- Removal of other invasive species is ongoing and continues to be a primary concern at this site.
- COT will be contacting a consultant to conceptualize and estimate LWD placement with the purpose of minimizing erosion and the accumulation of a large amount of LWD that could be detrimental to the established plant community. Once this information is available, COT will discuss this issue further with the Trustees.
- LWD exclusion fencing is in need of repair – large section and 1 post down.

Mowitch:

- Site visit conducted: February 9, 2010 (COT).
- Invasive species removal is ongoing and continues to be a primary concern at this site – tansy and blackberry.
- WCC has been on-site removing invasive species including blackberry and phragmites.
- COT is planning the removal of the large goose exclusion from the site in February.

**COMMENCEMENT BAY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE
LONG TERM SITE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: February 3, 2010 (COT).
- Blackberry control on east side of trail is an ongoing concern. Cleared areas will need supplemental planting in fall 2010. COT will coordinate this effort with interested parties, City of Fife, and WCC.

Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:

- Site visit conducted: February 9, 2010 and completed February 17, 2010 (COT).
- Invasive species removal is ongoing and continues to be a primary concern – including reed canary grass, curled dock and thistle, blackberry, pampas grass, and St. John's wort.
- Supplemental planting was completed per task list (COT).
- Widgeon predation and associated holes continue to affect the spread of native salt marsh plants, however, not currently threatening the continued existence of the established plant community.

Middle Waterway – Simpson:

- Site visit conducted: February 3, 2010 (COT).
- Widgeon activity noted in salt marsh.
- CHB has indicated that they would like to focus on this site for their Earth Day activities proposed for March 17, 2010. Day of activities may include: public education, native planting, and mulching.

Olympic View – City of Tacoma and DNR Triangle*:

**Please note that in previous reports these were two separate entries. For consistency with other documents, including the inspection forms, they have been combined.*

- Site visit conducted: February 3, 2010 (COT).
- Invasive species removal is ongoing and continues to be a primary concern at this site. Invasive species are primarily concentrated around the perimeter of the site.
- Salt marsh vegetation shows hints of growth and survival.
- Rabbit damage noted particularly on the snowberry.
- Recent high tides have deposited a nice sand layer.
- Erosion continues at the mouth of the project and also near the NRDA sign. Sign will need to be relocated.

**COMMENCEMENT BAY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE
LONG TERM SITE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Tahoma Salt Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: February 3, 2010 (COT).
- Invasive species continue to be a primary concern at this site – including blackberry, vetch, thistle, and tansy.
- Supplemental planting with drought tolerant species on the island is completed.

Swan Creek:

- Site visit conducted: February 3, 2010 (COT).
- Supplemental planting is in process.
- Water level in the creek was high and turbid due to stormwater influence.

II. ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- ESP Coordination Meeting was not held in February.
- Access agreements with the Port of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians remain in the review/draft stage pending finalized Community Assistance agreement.
- COT has begun negotiations with the Commencement Bay Stewardship Partners (CBSP) consisting of Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Friends of the Hylebos, and Cascade Land Conservancy. The last piece to be negotiated and attached to the contract is the scope of work. The COT will meet with CBSP on February 23, 2010, and it is anticipated that the signature process will begin shortly thereafter.
- Garbage sweep completed at all sites.
- Bare root plants were purchased from the Pierce Conservation District's native plant sale, picked up on February 16, 2010, and were placed per the attached spreadsheet.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD

- Next ESP Coordination Meeting to be determined through negotiated schedule.
- Continue to complete Priority 1 tasks as identified in approved 2010 work plan (COT), and address some priority 2 tasks as time permits.
- Continue work toward full execution of the remaining site access agreements (COT).
- COT to complete RFP contract negotiations and begin contract signature process.
- COT to continue to coordinate WCC work. An invasive species seedling sweep focusing mainly on pepperweed will occur this spring.

**COMMENCEMENT BAY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE
LONG TERM SITE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 23, 2010

DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES SUBMITTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- Monthly Progress Report submitted on February 23.

DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD

- Monthly Progress Report due on March 30.

PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- No new areas noted.

Copies submitted as follows:

Jennifer Steger, NOAA (1 via electronic mail, 1 via U.S. Mail)
Gail Siani, NOAA (1 via electronic mail)
Jeanine Riss, Citizens for a Healthy Bay (1 via electronic mail)
Hillary Kleeb, Friends of the Hylebos (1 via electronic mail)
Kira Lynch, EPA (1 via electronic mail)

| | Tahoma Salt Marsh | Landfill Buffer | Celebration Park | Middle Waterway | Swan Creek | Skookum Wulge | No Beach | OVRA/Foss M. | Total PCD order |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|
| Douglas Fir | | | 10 | | 80 | | | | 90 |
| Shore Pine | 10 | | | 20 | | | | | 30 |
| W. Red Cedar | | | 10 | | 20 | | | | 30 |
| Sitka Spruce | 5 | | | | 75 | | | | 80 |
| Hemlock | | | | | 10 | | | | 10 |
| Madrone | | | | | | | 40 | | 40 |
| Cascara | | 15 | 10 | | 10 | | | | 35 |
| H. Willow | | | | 20 | | | | 15 | 35 |
| Vine Maple | 15 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 10 | | | 10 | 75 |
| Rd Flowering Currant | 15 | 20 | | 20 | 70 | | | | 125 |
| Snowberry | | 30 | | | | | | 10 | 40 |
| Ninebark | | | | | 125 | | | | 125 |
| Mock Orange | | | | | 50 | | | | 50 |
| Twinberry | | | | | 70 | | | | 70 |
| Nootka rose | 15 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 70 | | | 10 | 145 |
| Rd Elderberry | | | 20 | | 50 | | | | 70 |
| Bkd Hazelnut | | | | | 10 | | | | 10 |
| Ev. Huckleberry | | | | 15 | 50 | 30 | | 10 | 105 |
| Kinnikinnick | | | | | 340 | | | | 340 |
| Salal | | | | | 180 | | | | 180 |