Addendum F

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." in addition, complete the supplemental sheet for nonproject actions (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.
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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation District #19 Maintenance Dredging

2. Name of applicant:

Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation District #19

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

Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation District #19
Attention: Henry VanderVeen
15673 State Route 536
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Agent: Kim Nelson
11274 Bayview Edison Raod
Mount Vernon, WA. 98273
(360) 661-2110

4. Date checklist prepared

August 7, 2007

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

September 24, 2007 through October 15, 2007.

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

Yes. DID#19 conducts routine maintenance of drainage infrastructure within the jurisdictional boundary of the district. DID#19 is currently working with WDFW and in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative to develop a Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Plan that will address districts future drainage maintenance activities.

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

Watercourse classification for district's watercourses

WDFW SalmonScape Date Base

Skagit County Drainage Infrastructure Inventory

Skagit County Culvert Inventory

Fish Survey Data

WDFW and Swinomish Tribe fish planting records

Historical maps

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.

No

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

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Hydraulic Project Approval – WDFW

Shoreline Exemption – Skagit County

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Drainage and Irrigation District #19 (DID#19) proposes to conduct maintenance dredging in approximately 2.45 miles of channel in the Upper Higgens Slough watershed. Maintenance dredging will occur from culvert 662 in Reach 5 to culvert 650 in Reach 6 (see Figure 6). The channel from culvert 622 and culvert 650 has been identified as a Watercourse With Headwaters. A Managed Watercourses with Headwaters (Color Code: Green) is defined by the Drainage And Fish Initiative MOU as " Watercourses with headwaters that follow and/or replace a historic natural watercourse that has been significantly channelized, relocated, and/or constrained by dikes and that have flow control structures (tide gates, pump stations) at their confluence with marine waters." The headwater

areas of this watercourse type typically supports a reproducing population of salmonids.

Dredging will be completed utilizing a hydraulically operated boom-type excavator. The excavator has a wide, flat-bottomed bucket that will scrape down one side of a watercourse, round out the bottom and come up the opposite side in one continuous motion. The result leaves the ditch with inclined sides and a round bottom feature that minimizes side sloughing and erosion into the bottom of a ditch. All dredged material will be deposited landward of the ditch so that it will not re-enter the channel and will later be moved back into the adjoining field or be hauled away when and where necessary.

The channel to be dredged will be sampled for salmonids prior to dredging. Where salmonids are present, a more intensive effort will be implemented to remove salmonids from the channel prior to dredging.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Skagit County Drainage and Irrigation Improvement District #19, hereafter referred to as DID #19, is located within the Skagit River Delta of Skagit County west of the City of Mount Vernon, east of the City of Anacortes and north of the Town of LaConner (Figure 1).

The jurisdictional boundaries of DID #19 are illustrated in Figure 2. DID #19 is approximately bordered by Padilla Bay and the Swinomish Channel to the west, WDOT Highway 20, Ovenell Road and Peterson Road to the north, Downey Road, Mclean Road and Donnelly Road to the south, and Avon Allen Road, Pulver Road to the east.

Dredging will occur between culvert 662 and 650 (Figure 6).

Sections: 2, 10, 11

Township: 34N Range: 03E

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat

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

3-5%

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 prime farmland.

Aside from scattered commercial, industrial, residential and transportation infrastructure, the area within the jurisdictional boundary of DID#19 is prime agriculture farmland.

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

No

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. None

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

Some erosion could occur as a result of maintenance dredging activities. Erosion of dredged materials will be avoided and minimized through implementation of the Best Management Practices. The district's maintenance dredging will be conducted in a manner consistent BMPs associated with the Drainage Maintenance Agreements and Plans for the other 11 districts in the Skagit Delta. DID#19 is currently working with WDFW in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative to develop a Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Management Plan for the district.

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

Only existing drainage infrastructure will be maintained. *No new impervious surfaces will result from maintenance activities.*

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

Erosion and impact to the earth will be avoided and minimized through implementation of the Best Management Practices. The district's maintenance dredging will be conducted in a manner consistent BMPs associated with the Drainage Maintenance Agreements and Plans for the other 11 districts in the Skagit Delta. DID#19 is currently working with WDFW in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative to develop a Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Management Plan for the district.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Normal emissions associated with operation of gas or diesel powered equipment.

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

No

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

N/A

3. Water

a. Surface:

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.

Yes. Upper Higgens Slough in within the project area.

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.

Yes. The District will conduct maintenance dredging in or adjacent to (within 200 feet) of approximately 2.5 miles of the Upper Higgens Slough watercourse (Figure 6). The district's maintenance dredging will be conducted in a manner

consistent BMPs associated with the Drainage Maintenance Agreements and Plans for the other 11 districts in the Skagit Delta. DID#19 is currently working with WDFW in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative to develop a Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Management Plan for the district.

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 amount of material that will be removed from the watercourse will exceed 50 cubic yards. Dredge spoils will be wasted landward from the top of the channel banks. Dredge spoils will not be placed in wetlands as a result of drainage maintenance activities.

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

No. The proposed maintenance dredging will occur during a period of low flow.

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

Yes, see Figure 1 and 6.

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.

No

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

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.

No

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.

Drainage within the district will be maintained through the routine drainage infrastructure maintenance activities. .

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

No

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

The district's maintenance dredging will be conducted in a manner consistent BMPs associated with the Drainage Maintenance Agreements and Plans for the other 11 districts in the Skagit Delta. DID#19 is currently working with WDFW in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative to develop a Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Management Plan for the district.

4. Plants

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

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ☐ shrubs
- ☐ grass
- ☐X pasture
- ☐X crop or grain
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

☐ X other types of vegetation - reed cannery grass

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

Vegetation growing in the watercourse channels, predominantly reed cannery grass, will be removed through the maintenance dredging activity.

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

Unknown

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

None proposed.

5. Animals

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

☐X birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

☐X mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

☐ X fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

Hatchery adult Chinook salmon have been observed in the watershed on one occasion. Observed Chinook were fin clipped and tagged. Spawning habitat in district is not typical of Chinook spawning habitat. The watershed does not support a reproducing population of Chinook salmon.

Bull Trout have not been observe in the district's watercourses.

Bald eagles are common in the Skagit River Delta and Samish River Delta and would be expected to be present within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district.

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

Yes. Big Indian Slough and Upper Higgens Slough is a migratory route for adult coho salmon migrating from Padilla Bay to the limited spawning habitat that is present in the upper reaches of the watershed. Big Indian Slough and Upper Higgens Slough is also a migratory route for juvenile coho migrating from the watershed to Padilla Bay.

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

The district's maintenance dredging will be conducted in a manner consistent BMPs associated with the Drainage Maintenance Agreements and Plans for the other 11 districts in the Skagit Delta. DID#19 is currently working with WDFW in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative to develop a Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Management Plan for the district.

No enhancements proposed.

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.

b. N/A

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

N/A

d. 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:

N/A

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.

No

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Assistance from Skagit County Emergency Services may be required during flood events.

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

N/A

b. Noise

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

Routine operation of motorized equipment used to conduct maintenance dredging activity.

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.

Daytime noise associated with operation of motorized equipment used to conduct maintenance dredging activity.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: None

8. Land and Shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

With the exception of residential housing, hobby farms, scattered commercial businesses and transportation related infrastructure, commercial agriculture is the only land use within the jurisdictional boundaries of DID #19.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Yes. The majority of the proposed project site is used for agriculture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Drainage infrastructure includes culverts and bridges.

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

No

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

unknown

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

unknown

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

unknown

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Unknown

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

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project? N/A

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

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

9. Housing

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

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

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

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? N/A

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

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

11. **Light and glare**

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

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

c. What existing off–site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? N/A

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: N/A

12. Recreation

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

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

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

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. Unknown

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. Unknown

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

Historic, archaeological, scientific, and culturally important sites will not be disturbed by the proposed channel maintenance dredging activity.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. N/A

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? N/A

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? N/A

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). N/A

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

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. N/A

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: N/A

15. Public services

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

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

16. Utilities

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

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. N/A

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:

Kim Nelson (original signature on file)

Date Submitted

09/07/2007