



CAPITOL LAKE/LOWER DESCHUTES WATERSHED

Long-Term Management Project Environmental Impact Statement

WORK GROUP MEETING SERIES

JANUARY 2019

Discipline-Specific Expertise

- ✦ **Floyd|Snider** – Project management and strategy, stakeholder outreach, technical coordination, EIS co-authorship
- ✦ **ESA** – EIS lead and technical disciplines
- ✦ **EnviroIssues** – Public participation and outreach
- ✦ **Moffatt & Nichol** – Design lead and hydrodynamic/sediment transport numerical modeling
- ✦ **Herrera** – Water resources, geomorphology, aquatic invasive species, and sediment quality
- ✦ **Ramboll** – Air quality and odor analysis
- ✦ **Heffron** – Transportation analysis



Water Resources—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Include a robust analysis of water quality in Capitol Lake basin and Budd Inlet – sources; potential improvements; compliance w/ WQ criteria
- ✦ Lake is main contributor to low dissolved oxygen in Budd Inlet
- ✦ Mismanagement of the lake is the primary cause of water quality issues, primarily the failure to remove sediments.
- ✦ Water quality in the lake is better than portrayed and is not detrimental to water quality in Budd Inlet (Dr. Milne reports cited)
- ✦ Conduct field sampling to establish current baseline
- ✦ Ecology offered assistance and suggested tools (Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Project and GEMMS - a specific model created for evaluating Budd Inlet)



Sediment Transport & Geomorphology—Scoping Comments

- ✦ The EIS is required to “consider sediment transport and [depositional] locations within lower Budd Inlet.”
- ✦ Consider the appropriate baseline measures – update sediment data and baseline measures from previous studies
- ✦ Address how sediment will be managed under each alternative
- ✦ Evaluate effects and dredging required to offset potential effects to sediment deposition within the federal Olympia Navigation Channel, Port’s Marine Terminal berthing areas, and waterfront businesses/marinas
- ✦ Define the relationship of management alternatives to ongoing Budd Inlet sediment investigation and cleanup



Aquatic Invasive Species—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Evaluate how alternatives would manage and control invasive species
- ✦ Most comments addressed NZMS, many stated restoring tidal action is important to address NZMS and invasive plants
- ✦ Others stated that closure of lake to prevent spread of NZMS was not warranted
 - Provided NZMS report on control and disposal of NZMS
 - Provided a consultant report by Kelly Stockton-Fiji that critiques State's actions at Capitol Lake



Fish & Wildlife—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Provide information on history of salmon and other native species in the waterbody
- ✦ Establish anticipated baseline biological/ecological conditions and opportunities for habitat restoration under each alternative
- ✦ Evaluate effects on salmon and consider potential effects to upstream hatchery
- ✦ Evaluate effects on Southern resident orca populations
- ✦ Evaluate potential impacts to the bat population (*Myotis lucifugus* and *Myotis yumanensis*).
- ✦ Evaluate effects on birds/waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals, and state listed “sensitive species” and the potential change of species between alternatives
- ✦ Several cited a report by Dr. David Milne which describes some of the species that currently use Capitol Lake and that would be impacted if dam removed.



Wetlands & Vegetation—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Evaluate how alternatives would affect wetlands, shoreline habitat and trees surrounding the lake
- ✦ Consider potential loss of freshwater forested wetland at Tumwater Historical park.



Sea Level Rise & Climate Change—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Many general comments – climate change, sea level rise, resiliency....
- ✦ Include an analysis of sea level rise and the potential resiliency of each alternative
- ✦ Consider City of Olympia’s Sea Level Rise Response Plan
- ✦ Evaluate how alternatives perform under multiple climate change scenarios
- ✦ Evaluate each alternatives ability to sequester carbon and offset methane release (blue carbon science)



Air Quality & Odor—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Majority of comments described potential odor as negative, “inappropriate for urban setting” “detracting from visitor experience”
- ✦ Some expressed appreciation for “natural” odor of an estuary
- ✦ Evaluate potential odor impacts of a restored estuary, considering tidal elevations, wind conditions and hydrogen sulfide production
- ✦ Describe historic conditions related to odor



Recreation & Land Use—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Evaluate any increase, loss, or change to recreational use of the waterbody (i.e., walking, boating, fishing and swimming) and community events (e.g., Lakefair)
- ✦ Evaluate change or impact to trails during construction and operation
- ✦ Evaluate the temporal aspect of recreation opportunities
- ✦ Address compliance with SMPs: Tumwater, Olympia, and Thurston County
- ✦ Evaluate impacts on Downtown and Budd Inlet business activity - decrease or increase in business activity would affect vitality of downtown
- ✦ Evaluate impacts to Port of Olympia (operational impacts)



Visual Quality—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Many described pleasing aesthetic of Capitol Lake
- ✦ Many said that existing conditions of the Lake are unsightly due to algae
- ✦ Many described an estuary as beautiful due to more natural appearance
- ✦ Many said estuary (referred to as “mudflats”) would be ugly
- ✦ Some asked if the water level in an estuary would serve as a natural reflecting pool, or if mudflats would be exposed more frequently



Economics—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Evaluate beneficial and adverse direct and indirect economic impacts of each alternative
- ✦ Consider costs to “downstream” parties
 - Include robust evaluation of impacts to the Port of Olympia and waterfront businesses
 - Include economic impacts to LOTT if inadequate action is taken to address waste load allocations assigned to Capitol Lake as part of the TMDL
- ✦ Consider ecosystem service values for each alternative
- ✦ EIS is required to “consider an expanded area around Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet including the Port of Olympia for the economic analysis.”



Historic & Cultural Resources—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Historic and cultural resources comments supporting both alternatives
- ✦ Evaluate impacts to the Capitol Campus National Historic District; consider importance of lake to Wilder & White and Olmstead plans
- ✦ Consider cultural heritage of the project area
- ✦ Consider cultural resource investigations to improve on archaeological and historic data available for the project area



Tribal Resources—Scoping Resources

- ✦ Consider the impacts that the dam and basin have on tribal treaty rights, including fishing, hunting, and gathering at Usual and Accustomed areas.
- ✦ Consider the history of the Squaxin Island Tribe and incorporate local and traditional knowledge to address cultural landscapes, traditions, and values.



Sediment Quality—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Consider the impacts from existing, and potential changes in, contaminated sediment under the alternatives
- ✦ Include updated sediment quality data to establish a baseline characterization of sediment within the waterbody
- ✦ Evaluate the relationship of management alternatives to ongoing Budd Inlet sediment investigation and cleanup
- ✦ Address contaminated sediments that may be transported downstream or upstream, depending on the alternative
- ✦ Assess the cost of upland disposal of dredged sediment if the sediment is contaminated (planning-level costs)



Environmental Health—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Consider environmental health impacts from existing and potential changes in contaminated sediment under the alternatives
- ✦ Consider the potential for a Restored Estuary or Hybrid Alternative to create a mudflat, which the commenter states that Thurston County Health Department has described as “dangerous at low tides.”
- ✦ Consider the potential for an increase in mosquito-borne diseases (e.g., West Nile)
- ✦ Consider potential changes to algae concentrations and how an estuary would mitigate the occurrence and spread of toxic algae, focusing on potential health consequences and how climate change could exacerbate the problem.



Transportation—Scoping Comments

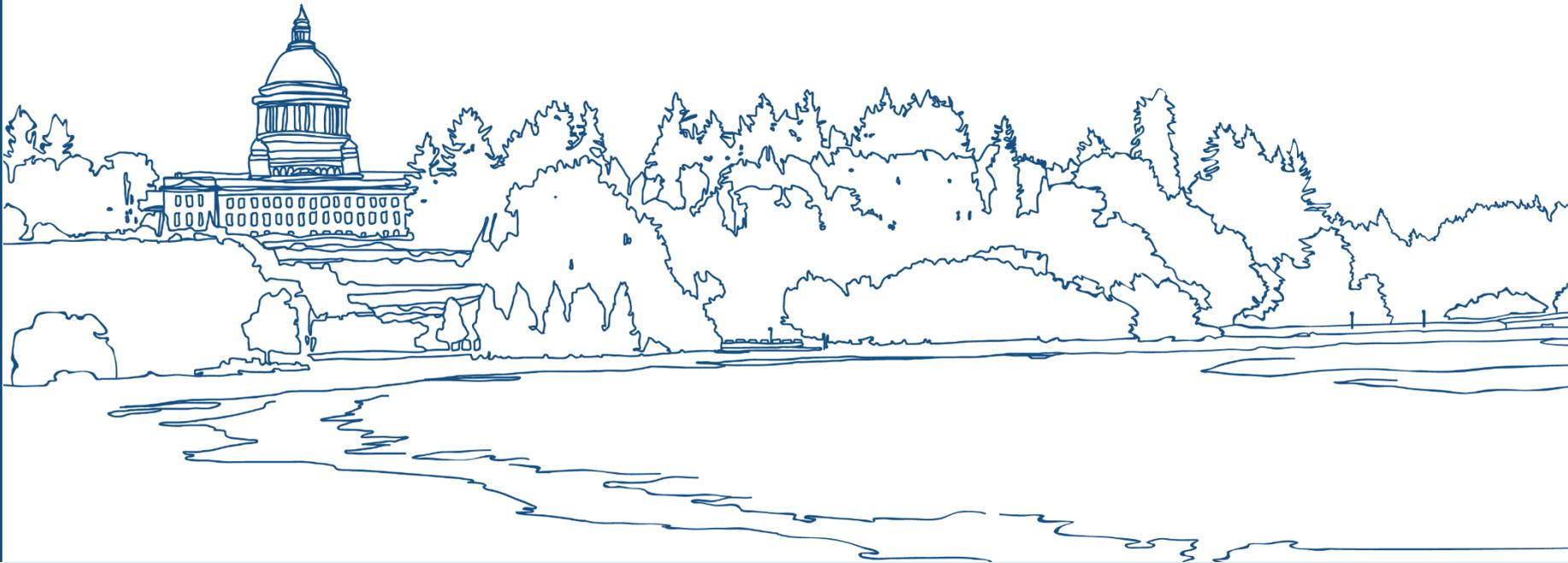
- ✦ Evaluate potential surface transportation construction and operational impacts of alternatives
- ✦ Evaluate potential construction and operational impacts to marine transportation
- ✦ Identify any changes needed to 5th Ave Bridge, 4th Avenue, and Deschutes Parkway (to fortify from tidal action)
- ✦ Other commenters asked if changes to the railroad trestle separating the north and middle basins would be required (to optimize width openings)



Public Services & Utilities—Scoping Comments

- ✦ Evaluate impacts to LOTT— consider ability to meet TMDL requirements, ability to renew discharge permit (in future), and potential impacts to ratepayers
- ✦ Evaluate impacts to City of Olympia utilities (stormwater system in particular)





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