



City of Seattle

June 12, 2013

James Rasmussen  
210 South Hudson St., Suite 332  
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Leaders and Duwamish River Community,

We appreciate and welcome DRCC's efforts to engage the community and the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group to ensure that our Superfund cleanup investments result in a cleaner and safer river for all. We share your mission and want to do the best we can to ensure the optimum outcome for the Duwamish River and the adjacent communities, and we commit to continuing to work with you to find ways to do that. Seattle and the other members of LDWG will submit a formal comment letter in general support of the EPA's proposed cleanup plan. This comment letter will also include specific recommendations for changes that we believe will save money, shorten the length of the project, and result in a cleaner river.

This is not the end of this process. We believe that EPA and Ecology can adjust actions over time if our investments in monitoring demonstrate a need, and if scientific evidence emerges that there are opportunities to deploy new technologies or revise the deployment of current technologies to produce even cleaner results. We commit to support ongoing engagement, adaptive management, and active review as the cleanup continues into the next stage.

We also believe that source control work associated with the lower and upper river must be managed together over the long term to maintain the river and its community in as healthy a state as possible. We will work with Ecology and all other parties involved to make this happen.

We are writing now to respond to issues raised by the DRCC leadership and community members and highlighted in the Health Impact Assessment (HIA). While the superfund cleanup and pollution source control are fundamental to the health and well being of South Park, Georgetown and the businesses along the river, we know that they are not enough to achieve the quality of life people desire. We agree that even if the Duwamish had not become a Superfund site, there is a broader set of issues that these communities face.

For example, many of you have voiced concerns about affordable housing, displacement, jobs, economic development and healthy food. We are committed to addressing these concerns through enhancing programs we already provide, coordinating them better, increasing access to them and developing new programs or actions. Because of your comments and the HIA, we have already asked staff to assemble possible actions and to estimate funding needs that would address the following objectives:

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- Identify, encourage, or provide more options for safe fishing and healthful fish consumption.
- Ensure equity in all policies and efforts for environmental and community development.
- Provide job training and placement assistance in addition to that provided by the EPA's job Training Initiative.
- Preserve affordability and produce more affordable housing.
- Promote and protect home ownership.

An initial list of ongoing and prospective actions is attached. They include existing programs, enhancements to these programs and new initiatives. Taken together they are intended to state our long term commitment to improving the quality of life for Duwamish River communities.

Because these actions -- existing and new -- generally fall outside the purview of the Superfund cleanup project and utility funding, they will require City General Fund investments that can be analyzed and proposed through this year's budget process. We have asked our staff to begin to estimate costs, work with you to delineate the ideas in sufficient detail, identify jurisdiction and departmental leads, and create a coordinated program. The Mayor's Office will provide a coordinating project manager for the City and assist the departments in coordinating with other jurisdictions.

Finally, we also want to urge EPA and the Department of Ecology to do everything feasible to initiate cleanup actions as soon as possible. Because of the success of cleanups at sites like Slip 4, Boeing Plant 2, Duwamish/Diagonal, and soon T117, we know that we can achieve positive results, and it is up to all of us to keep that effective work going in an expeditious manner.

Sincerely,



Mayor Michael McGinn



Councilmember Richard Conlin



Councilmember Jean Godden




Councilmember Mike O'Brien




  
Council President Sally Clark

  
Councilmember Tim Burgess

  
Councilmember Nick Licata

  
Councilmember Bruce Harrell

  
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

Attachment: Ongoing and Prospective Actions for Addressing Cumulative Impacts in South Park and Georgetown





## **Ongoing and Prospective Actions for Addressing Cumulative Impacts in South Park and Georgetown**

The City of Seattle is committed to restoring the health of the Duwamish River, its communities and businesses. We look forward to working with other governments, agencies and stakeholders on a broad based program to address this objective. We understand that while the Superfund cleanup and pollution source control are foundational to this objective, there are quality of life issues that must be address in parallel. A number of issues were identified in the Duwamish River Clean up Coalition's recent health impact studies. The City shares these concerns and we know that King County and the Port are also committed to addressing them. The City believes that we are interested in working to address these issues, recognizing that they require a long term commitment and coordinated strategy. The City is committed to coordinating with our partners to focus on existing programs, enhancement these programs and potential new actions.

Currently, through the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative, King County's Equity and Social Justice Ordinance and the Port of Seattle's environmental and social responsibility programs, we individually and collectively use equity tools and resources to inform and enhance our cleanup activities, and to help us effectively engage the South Park and Georgetown community. In addition, King County is conducting an equity impact review of the clean up to identify the determinants of health, equity, and health disparity conditions.

Looking forward, the following are community asks and concerns that were identified in DRCC's HIA and CHIA reports and the actions that we know are either being pursued or considered in order to address these concerns. Where actions are new or enhancements to existing programs, we are working to determine budget and staffing needs, including lead and support responsibilities.

### **Displacement Housing, Economic Strength and Development**

- Partner with the South Park and Georgetown community to identify innovative approaches to promote local businesses (in partnership with MIC, ECOSS and others); increase home affordability and homeownership; and improve the quality of life for residents.
- Explore whether a land trust model would work to increase affordable housing for South Park and Georgetown.
- Continue to promote and use KC's Green Tool for new development of affordable housing.
- Redevelop the Georgetown Steam Plant Museum which could be used for community meetings, events; Increased visitation could enhance local businesses, etc.
- We will continue to support local small business development through our support of programs such as the Small Business Development Center.

### **Jobs**

- Continue to promote EPA's Superfund Job Training Initiative; we have incorporated similar language in our contract templates that encourages local jobs (business and residents) and promotes WMBE inclusion.

- Link EPA's Super Fund Job Training Initiative applicants (successful or not) to work force development programs supported by the City, County and Port so that anyone not hired can still get employment assistance.
- Open City Light's apprenticeship job training facility in the Duwamish area planned for 2015 and will actively recruit participants from the local community.
- Implement King County's recent Brownfield grant that will be used to do cleanup work in the Duwamish area.

#### **Health and Human Habitat**

- Continue to use less polluting technologies during the cleanup. Actively enforce the City's air quality laws including anti-idling ordinances and engage Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to identify innovative strategies to address air quality issues in the Lower Duwamish.
- The City and the Port will reengage on the Truck Parking recommendations that were developed by a community-based work group and adopted in 2009.

#### **Food**

- In consultation with and with approval from local and state health agencies, provide culturally appropriate education for residents about what fish and shell fish are safe to consume from the Lower Duwamish Waterway (i.e. partner with local nonprofit to educate residents about safer alternatives and how to properly clean and prepare fish according to health agency advice)
- In consultation with and with approval from local and state health agencies, partner with local fishing groups and others to identify and educate what Duwamish fisheries are safe to eat in larger quantities such as salmon and squid. Also educate fishers about other safe fisheries in the area, including information on how to get there on public transit (similar to a map of local farms produced by King County).
- Seek ways to enhance community members' access to healthy seafood.
- Complete Fisher Study in 2014 to help identify who is fishing the LDW and what they are fishing for. The final report will be available in 2015.