



**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**  
**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**  
**ADOPTION of EXISTING DOCUMENTS**

November 28, 2022

**Lead agency:** Cascade Water Alliance

**Agency Contact:** Alison Bennett, [abennett@cascadewater.org](mailto:abennett@cascadewater.org), Intergovernmental and Communications Director (425) 453-0930.

**Agency File Number:** N/A

**Description of Proposal**

The Lake Tapps Reservoir Project Five-Year Maintenance and Repair Activities Work Plan (2023-2027):

The Lake Tapps Reservoir Project Five-Year Maintenance and Repair Activities Work Plan includes the normal and routine maintenance and repair activities for certain facilities that Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) owns and operates within Pierce County, including within the cities of Buckley and Bonney Lake. A portion of the Cascade facilities are located within designated Shoreline Areas and Critical areas.

An overview of Cascade's Maintenance and Repair Activities Work Plan ("Work Plan") is set out below. The entire Work Plan, which lists each activity, the location and when the activity will occur is attached; also attached is a set of detail Maps of the Lake Tapps Reservoir Project:

- Maintenance and repair of the Tunnel Intake facilities and its associated trash rack facilities (to include building repair, gate repair, installation of a pad for a crane needed for repair and restoration work fencing installation and repair);
- Debris and trash removal;
- Removal of hazardous or dangerous stumps and trees;
- Aquatic vegetation and Eurasian milfoil control;
- Removal of unauthorized improvements and materials;
- Boat launch maintenance and repair (mainly vegetation management);
- Various valve, gauge and pipeline facilities around the Reservoir; and
- Backflow preventer maintenance and repair including debris, hazardous or dangerous trees and stump removal, maintenance of gates and other equipment.
- Dike-related facilities inspection, maintenance and repair to prevent structural deficiencies at the dikes and to keep measurement equipment, such as the weir and piezometer in working order, including:

- Inspect, maintain, and repair weirs;
- Inspect, maintain, and repair piezometers in and around the Lake Tapps Reservoir dikes; and
- Regular maintenance activities, including removing or preventing growth of large vegetation maintenance and repairs to dike surfaces, maintaining signage and ecology block identification of dikes.
- Maintenance of ditches and road and stormwater facilities. The goal of this maintenance is to keep water flowing and prevent structural deterioration, including: vegetation control, removing debris and sediment to maintain flow, and repairing damage to culverts or the interior of the ditches.
- Roads and Stormwater Facilities: The goal of this maintenance is to keep roads safe and passable and to prevent failure of storm drainage ditches and culverts, including: vegetation control; repairing or regrading road surfaces, and maintaining ditches and culverts.
- Fish Screen and Fish Returns in the Upper Conveyance System will be routinely maintained to remove debris and sediment, and repair equipment.
- The Headworks and Flowline in the Upper Conveyance System will be routinely maintained to remove debris and sediment, and for vegetation control and removal.
- Debris Booms and Buoys in the Reservoir:
  - The Lake Tapps Reservoir Project contains a number of booms. Booms are located at various places on the Reservoir and in the flowline, as described in *Attachment B*, to collect floating debris before it reaches critical facilities. Maintenance of booms includes replacing rotting logs and ensuring they remain properly secured.
  - Cascade has installed several buoys in Lake Tapps Reservoir to mark hazards or provide other warnings. Buoys may need to be maintained periodically to repair or replace signs or buoy equipment, or to ensure anchoring is secure.
- Measures to respond to trespass, including maintaining barriers and signage; vegetation control and repairing damaged facilities.

**Location of proposal** - The portions of the Lake Tapps Reservoir Project addressed in this application are the Upper Conveyance System, the Reservoir, and the Dikes.

- Upper Conveyance System: From the Headworks in Buckley (700 N River Ave, Parcel No. 0619021006) and through the linear project in Buckley and Pierce County containing the flume, flowline, settling basins, and buried pipeline properties into Prinz Basin (218<sup>th</sup> Ave E Parcel No. 0520262013) ("Upper Conveyance System");
- Reservoir: From Prinz Basin into the Lake Tapps Reservoir below the ordinary high watermark (OHWM) (No address); to the Tunnel Intake (at 2212 Sumner Tapps HWY E, Parcel No. 0520082019); and
- Dikes 1, 2A, 28, 3, 4, 4A, 5 through 15 ("Dikes") and the roads and ditches along the Dikes.

Tax Parcel Nos for the locations of maintenance and repair activities:

0520043005, 0520043006, 0520043042, 0520054001, 0520054017, 0520081003, 0520082019, 0520083037, 0520091002, 0520091003, 0520092000, 0520101002, 0520101003, 0520102002, 0520102004, 0520104002, 0520143003, 0520143004, 0520143005, 0520151000, 0520161000, 0520171000, 0520172003, 0520174000, 0520211000, 0520212000, 0520212001, 0520214002, 0520214004, 0520221000, 0520223000, 0520224000, 0520224004, 0520232002, 0520232004, 0520233000, 0520233006, 0520253003, 0520254043,

0520254044, 0520253002, 0520262013, 0520271001, 0520271005, 0520272000, 0520273000, 0520274000, 0520274001, 0520281001, 0520281002, 0520273019, 0520092000, 0619021006, 0619021006, 7535000010, 7535000020, 0619022001, 0620353001, 0620344017, 0620344014, 8000050060, 0620344005, 0619041009, 0619041008, 0620333007, 0620324004, 0620323003, 0620314004, 0620314001, 0620312026, 0620314018, 0620312025, 0620303018

**Applicant/Proponent:** Cascade Water Alliance, Melina Thung, Chief of Staff, [mthung@cascadewater.org](mailto:mthung@cascadewater.org), 425-453-0930

**Title of documents being adopted and the date the adopted documents were prepared:**

1. July 1, 2021, SEPA Checklist and DNS for 2021 Flowline Outage
2. May 17, 2018, SEPA Checklist for Addendum Five Year (2018-2023) Maintenance Work Plan and SEPA Addendum
3. June 28, 2017, SEPA Checklist and DNS for Five Year Maintenance Plan
4. August 15, 2016, Determination of Exemption for White River – Lake Tapps Project Programmatic Maintenance and Repair Project
5. January 6, 2015, SEPA Checklist and DNS for Ongoing Maintenance of Eurasian Water Milfoil Control Efforts at Lake Tapps
6. July 2, 2014, SEPA Checklist and DNS for 2014 Flowline Outage

**Description of document (or portion thereof) being adopted:**

Cascade Water Alliance was the lead agency of the six documents listed above, none of which were appealed. These six documents reviewed proposed maintenance and repair activities by Cascade in the same locations of the current proposal. Six documents are being adopted in order to assure that the extent of the locations and maintenance and repair activities of the current proposal are fully encompassed, and, in fact, they are.

**The adopted documents are available on Cascade's website:** <https://cascadewater.org/water-supply/projects-rfqs-rfps/>.

We have identified and adopted these documents as being appropriate for this proposal after independent review. The documents meet our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

Cascade Water Alliance, the lead agency, has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

The proposed maintenance and repair activities, as set forth in the Work Plan, will be conducted in the same manner as has been conducted by Cascade during its 12 years of ownership of the Lake Tapps Reservoir Project, and consistent with the activities it has conducted under the previous Five-Year Maintenance Plans. Work in the water is minimize; mitigation methods are used to avoid or minimize soil erosion, disturbance of vegetation, trees and other wildlife habitat and traffic disturbance; activities comply with permits for the treatment of Eurasian milfoil

including notice requirements and with mitigation requirements of the state and local agencies.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and the comment period will end on December 15, 2022.

SEPA Responsible Official for Cascade Water Alliance  
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**Signature**   
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

**Date** Nov. 28, 2022 -

**Appeal process:** No administrative appeal provided.

**ATTACHMENT**

- (1) 2023-2027 Cascade's Maintenance and Activities Work Plan for Shoreline Designated Areas and Critical Areas of the White River Lake Tapps Reservoir Project and Maps