

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

SNO-KING WATERSHED COUNCIL,
et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C16-318-JCC

ORDER GRANTING STIPULATED
CONSENT DECREE

This matter comes before the Court upon the Parties' Joint Motion for Entry of Consent Decree and the foregoing Stipulations of the parties (Dkt. No. 11). Having considered the Stipulations and the promises set forth below, the Court hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. This court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this action.
2. Each signatory for the parties certifies for that party that he or she is authorized to enter into the agreements set forth below.
3. This Consent Decree applies to and binds the parties and their successors and assigns.
4. This Consent Decree applies to the operation, oversight, or both by Defendant of activities at the two sites, located at 2600 100th Street SW, Everett, WA 98204, on the south side of 100th St. SW, between Airport Road to the west and 23rd Ave. W. to the east. The first site, "Site 1," comprises approximately seven acres within Tax Parcel Nos. 28042300201800,

1 28042300201900, 28042300202000 and 28042300202100. Site 1 is a roughly rectangular shape,
2 and is immediately adjacent to and east of the second site, "Site 2." Site 2 comprises
3 approximately four acres within Tax Parcel No. 28042300201800, within a roughly square
4 shape. Both sites are owned by defendant Snohomish County and front directly on 100th St. SW,
5 and are depicted in Attachment A to this Consent Decree.

6 5. This Consent Decree is a full and complete settlement of the claims in the
7 complaint and all other claims known and unknown existing as of the date of entry of this
8 Consent Decree, that could be asserted under the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387,
9 arising from conditions and activities at Site 1 and Site 2. These claims are released and
10 dismissed with prejudice. Enforcement of this decree is Plaintiffs' exclusive remedy for any
11 violation of its terms.

12 6. This Consent Decree is a settlement of disputed facts and law. It is not an
13 admission or adjudication regarding any allegations by Plaintiffs in this case or of any fact or
14 conclusion of law related to those allegations.

15 7. The parties agree to the following terms and conditions in full and complete
16 satisfaction of the claims covered by this decree:

17 A. Snohomish County will immediately withdraw or cause to be withdrawn the
18 following applications for permits or modifications of permits currently pending before
19 the Snohomish County Department of Planning and Development Services ("PDS"):

- 20 i. Permit application #15-107054 LDA Paine Field Wetland ERR;
- 21 ii. Permit application #15-107054 WMD Paine Field Wetland ERR; and
- 22 iii. Permit #16-100848 LDA (100th Street SW Parking Lot).

23 B. Not later than ten days following the entry of this Consent Decree, the County
24 will submit a letter to the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Pollution
25 Control Hearing Board withdrawing the Paine Field Wetland ERR Project approved by
26 Ecology in Administrative Order number 11627; the County will submit a letter to the

1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers withdrawing the Paine Field Wetland ERR Project
2 approved by Corps permit number NWS-2014-796; and the County will submit a letter to
3 the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife withdrawing its Hydraulic Project
4 Approval permit number 2015-4-569+01. The County will transmit copies of these
5 letters to Plaintiffs.

6 C. The County will ensure the following tasks are performed at Site 2 by October 15,
7 2016:

- 8 i. Remove all straw and any remaining crushed rock.
- 9 ii. Till and amend the soil in Site 2 consistent with Snohomish County Drainage
10 Manual (2016 edition) Best Management Practice T5.13.
- 11 iii. Hydroseed Site 2 consistent with Snohomish County Drainage Manual (2016
12 edition) Best Management Practice C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding, Vol. II.
13 The Airport shall use Snohomish County Airport/Paine Field Hydroseed mix (“Airport
14 Hydroseed”), comprised of (by weight) 3-Way Golf Course Ryegrass Blend (60%),
15 Chewing Fescue (25%), and Creeping Fescue (15%). At the same time Site 2 is
16 hydroseeded, bonded fiber matrix also will be applied.
- 17 iv. Once the site has stabilized, remove all temporary erosion control measures,
18 including straw wattles, silt fences, and compost socks in adjacent ditches.

19 D. The County will provide written or electronic notice to Plaintiffs once all actions
20 under permit #15-102936 have been completed. PDS and Plaintiffs will schedule a
21 mutually agreeable date for PDS to conduct a final inspection of Site 2. Plaintiffs may
22 attend the final inspection of Site 2. PDS has final authority over whether to approve the
23 final inspection.

24 E. The County will cause appropriate temporary stabilization best management
25 practices to be effectively implemented at Site 1, pending full site restoration.

26 F. The County will ensure a new land disturbing activity (LDA) permit application

1 for remediation of Site 1 is promptly submitted to PDS. The application will contain the
2 following items:

3 i. Remove all crushed rock surfacing, except for that area described in F.iv. below.

4 ii. Till and amend the soil in Site 1 consistent with Snohomish County Drainage
5 Manual (2016 edition) Best Management Practice T5.13, except for that area described
6 in F.iv. below. The grading of Site 1 will be engineered in a manner intended not to
7 create standing water that may attract water fowl.

8 iii. Prior to October 15, 2016, hydroseed the area in Site 1, except for that area
9 described in F.iv. below, consistent with Snohomish County Drainage Manual (2016
10 edition) Best Management Practice C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding, Vol. II.
11 The County will use Airport Hydroseed.

12 iv. Site 1 is subject to a lease with Verizon Wireless for non-exclusive access
13 between the Verizon cell tower proposal approved by permit #14-110886 (Verizon
14 Wireless Sector 3 Paine Field) and public right-of-way. The LDA permit application
15 for remediation of Site 1 will provide for the continued existence of a gravel access
16 road sited in compliance with SCC 30.62A.320(1)(a) through (h) and (2); however, the
17 location of the gravel access road may differ from the location depicted in permit #14-
18 110886 as determined by the County.

19 G. Upon issuance of the new LDA permit for Site 1, the County will act in good faith
20 to complete all work approved in the permit by October 15, 2016. However, if such work
21 is not completed by October 15, 2016, Site 1 soils will be stabilized no later than October
22 15, 2016, for the duration of the wet season through April 30, 2017. All work approved
23 in the new LDA permit for Site 1 shall be completed by no later than October 1, 2017.
24 To increase the probability that work can be completed by October 15, 2016, Plaintiffs
25 agree not to file any administrative or legal appeals related to issuance of the new LDA
26 permit for Site 1.

1 H. The County will provide written or electronic notice to Plaintiffs once all actions
2 under the new LDA permit for Site 1 have been completed. PDS and Plaintiffs will
3 schedule a mutually agreeable date for PDS to conduct a final inspection of Site 1.
4 Plaintiffs may attend the final inspection of Site 1. PDS has final authority over whether
5 to approve the final inspection.

6 I. The County will promptly execute and record a conservation easement, included
7 as Attachment B to this Consent Decree, to preclude the use of Wetland ERR or any part
8 thereof as a stormwater detention holding pond or for any other project that would impair
9 Wetland ERR's values or functions. The property subject to the conservation easement is
10 depicted in Attachment B, Ex. B. The required performance of this term is subject to two
11 contingencies: (1) the initial agreement and release of the property from federal
12 obligations by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which the County will use its
13 best efforts to obtain without delay; and (2) future demand by Sound Transit for use of all
14 or part of Wetland ERR for regional transportation infrastructure. If the FAA does not
15 release the property from federal obligations, the County is discharged from performing
16 this term upon prompt notice to Plaintiff, and will instead, within sixty days of
17 recognizing that the FAA has withheld release, pay an additional \$50,000 (FIFTY
18 THOUSAND DOLLARS) to EarthCorps towards the environmental benefit project
19 described in paragraph 8 of this Consent Decree, which funds may be expended on
20 improvements of the nature described outside the Swamp Creek watershed, so long as
21 they are within either Snohomish County or the Lake Washington watershed.

22 J. Not later than October 1, 2017, the County will modify the culvert under the
23 Verizon cell tower access road to prevent overtopping and rilling of surface flow.

24 8. Not later than 30 days after the entry of this Consent Decree, Snohomish County
25 will pay \$125,000 (ONE HUNDRED, TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) to
26 EarthCorps, as described in Attachment C to this Consent Decree, for environmental benefit

1 projects in the Snohomish County Swamp Creek watershed. Payment will be made to the order
2 of and delivered to EarthCorps. Payment shall include the following reference in a cover letter
3 or on the check: "Consent Decree, Sno-King Watershed Council and Waste Action Project v.
4 Snohomish County." A copy of each check and cover letter, if any, shall be sent simultaneously
5 to Plaintiffs.

6 9. Snohomish County will pay Plaintiffs' reasonable attorney and experts' fees and
7 costs in an amount not to exceed \$35,000, as indicated by invoices for attorney and expert
8 witness fees and costs to be submitted to Snohomish County's counsel. Payment will be made
9 within 7 days of the entry of this decree or receipt of the fee documentation, whichever comes
10 later, by check payable and mailed to Smith & Lowney, PLLC, 2317 E. John Street, Seattle,
11 Washington 98112, attn: Richard Smith. This payment is full and complete satisfaction of any
12 claims Plaintiffs may have under the Clean Water Act for fees and costs.

13 10. A force majeure event is any event outside the reasonable control of Snohomish
14 County that causes a delay in performing tasks required by this decree that cannot be cured by
15 due diligence. Delay in performance of a task required by this decree caused by a force majeure
16 event is not a failure to comply with the terms of this decree, provided that Snohomish County
17 notifies Plaintiffs of the event; the steps that Snohomish County will take to perform the task; the
18 projected time that will be needed to complete the task; and the measures that have been taken or
19 will be taken to prevent or minimize any impacts to stormwater quality resulting from delay in
20 completing the task.

21 Snohomish County will notify Plaintiffs of the occurrence of a force majeure event as
22 soon as reasonably possible but, in any case, no later than fifteen days after the occurrence of the
23 event. In such event, the time for performance of the task will be extended for a reasonable
24 period of time following the force majeure event.

25 By way of example and not limitation, force majeure events include

26 a. Acts of God, war, insurrection, or civil disturbance;

- b. Earthquakes, landslides, fire, floods;
- c. Actions or inactions of third parties over which defendant has no control;
- d. Restraint by court order or order of public authority;
- e. Strikes; and
- f. Litigation, arbitration, or mediation that causes delay.

11. This court retains jurisdiction over this matter. While this decree remains in force, this case may be reopened without filing fee so the parties may apply to the Court for any further order that may be necessary to enforce compliance with this decree or to resolve any dispute regarding the terms or conditions of this decree. In the event of a dispute regarding implementation of, or compliance with, this decree, the parties must first attempt to resolve the dispute by meeting to discuss the dispute and any suggested measures for resolving the dispute. Such a meeting should be held as soon as practical but must be held within thirty (30) days after notice of a request for such a meeting to the other party and its counsel of record. If no resolution is reached at that meeting or within thirty (30) days of the notice, whichever occurs first, either party may file a motion with this court to resolve the dispute. The provisions of section 505(d) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), regarding awards of costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any prevailing or substantially prevailing party, shall apply to any proceedings seeking to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree.

12. The parties recognize that, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(3), no consent judgment can be entered in a Clean Water Act suit in which the United States is not a party prior to forty-five (45) days following the receipt of a copy of the proposed consent judgment by the U.S. Attorney General and the Administrator of the U.S. EPA. Therefore, upon the signing of this Consent Decree by the parties, Plaintiffs shall serve copies of it upon the Administrator of the U.S. EPA and the Attorney General.

13. This Consent Decree takes effect upon entry by the court.

1 14. This Consent Decree terminates upon the County’s completion of the actions in
2 Paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 of this decree, except that the County’s commitments regarding actions to
3 be taken in the event of contingencies as described in paragraph 7.I. of this Consent Decree
4 remain in effect as part of an enforceable contract between the parties. After completing the
5 actions in Paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 of this Consent Decree, the County will serve upon Plaintiffs a
6 Notice of Intent to Terminate the Consent Decree. Plaintiffs and the County shall confer
7 informally concerning the Notice and any disagreements as to compliance. If Plaintiffs agree
8 that the County has completed the actions in Paragraphs 7, 8, and 9, the parties shall submit, for
9 the Court’s approval, a joint stipulation regarding termination. If Plaintiffs do not agree that the
10 County has completed the actions in Paragraphs 7, 8, and 9, the County may serve and file a
11 motion seeking termination of the Consent Decree.

12 15. This Consent Decree may not be used as evidence in any proceeding or as an
13 admission or adjudication with respect to any allegations in the Complaint or any fact or
14 conclusion of law with respect to any matter alleged in or arising out of the Complaint.

15 16. Both parties have participated in drafting this decree.

16 17. This Consent Decree may be modified only upon the approval of the court.

17 18. If for any reason the court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the
18 form presented, this Consent Decree is voidable at the discretion of Defendant or Plaintiffs. The
19 parties agree to continue negotiations in good faith in an attempt to cure any objection raised by
20 the court to entry of this Consent Decree.

21 19. Notifications required by this Consent Decree must be in writing. The sending
22 party may use any of the following methods of delivery: (1) personal delivery; (2) registered or
23 certified mail, in each case return receipt requested and postage prepaid; (3) a nationally
24 recognized overnight courier, with all fees prepaid; or (4) e-mail. For a notice or other
25 communication regarding this Consent Decree to be valid, it must be delivered to the receiving
26 party at the addresses listed below or to any other address designated by the receiving party in a

1 notice in accordance with this paragraph 19.

2 Richard A. Smith
3 Smith & Lowney PLLC
4 2317 East John St.
5 Seattle, WA 98112
6 Email: rasmithwa@igc.org

7 **and to:**

8 Pamela S. Van Swearingen
9 Van Swearingen Law Office
10 18229 84th Pl. W.
11 Edmonds, WA 8026
12 Email: pamela-vs1@comcast.net

13 **if to Snohomish County:**

14 Arif Ghouse, Director, Snohomish County Airport
15 3220 100th Street SW,
16 Everett, WA 98204
17 Email: Arif.Ghouse@co.snohomish.wa.us

18 and to:

19 Christina Richmond
20 Laura Kisielius
21 Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office, Civil Division
22 3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 504
23 Everett, WA 98201
24 Email: lkisielius@snoco.org, crichmond@snoco.org

25 A notice or other communication regarding this Consent Decree will be effective when
26 received unless the notice or other communication is received after 5:00 p.m. on a business day,
or on a day that is not a business day, then the notice will be deemed received at 9:00 a.m. on the
next business day. A notice or other communication will be deemed to have been received: (a) if
it is delivered in person or sent by registered or certified mail or by nationally recognized
overnight courier, upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt; or (b) if the
receiving party rejects or otherwise refuses to accept it, or if it cannot be delivered because of a
change in address for which no notice was given, then upon that rejection, refusal, or inability to

1 deliver; or (c) for notice provided via e-mail, upon receipt of a response by the party providing
2 notice or other communication regarding this Consent Decree.

3 DATED this 9th day of November 2016.

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10 John C. Coughenour
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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