

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Swan Creek Stream Restoration**
2. Proponent/applicant—Name and phone number: **Craig S. Sivley, P.E., Asst. Director,  
City of Tacoma Public Works Dept.  
(253-591-5525)**  
  
Proponent/applicant—Address: **City of Tacoma Public Works Department  
747 Market St., Room 400, Tacoma, WA. 98402**
3. Contact Person—Name and phone number: **John O'Loughlin**  
  
Contact Person—Address: **City of Tacoma Public Works Department, Utility Services  
Engineering Division. 2201 Portland Avenue, Tacoma, WA  
98421-2711**
4. Date checklist prepared: **May 26, 1999**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **City of Tacoma**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
  

<b>May 1999 - Sept. 1999</b>	<b>Project permitting.</b>
<b>Aug. 2000 - Oct. 2000</b>	<b>Project development.</b>
<b>Nov. 2000 - Nov. 2005</b>	<b>Project maintenance and monitoring and adaptive management.</b>
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
  
**The City will develop an adaptive management plan for this site in consultation with the Natural Resource Trustees, that will identify potential further activities.**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.  
  
**Swan Creek Stream Restoration Project Concept Plan. March, 1997.**
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.  
  
**The City knows of no other pending applications.**

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

1. *City of Tacoma Wetland Permit.*
2. *Pierce County Wetland Permit.*
3. *Pierce County Site Development Permit.*
4. *Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval.*
5. *Washington State Department of Ecology CWA 401 Water Quality Certification.*
6. *Washington State Department of Ecology Approval to Allow Temporary Exceedance of Water Quality Standards.*
7. *Washington State Department of Natural Resources Right-of-Entry.*
8. *US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 / Section 10 Permit.*

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.

*The City of Tacoma is proposing to initiate a stream restoration project on 12 acres of property bordering Swan Creek near the City of Tacoma corporate boundary and the Puyallup River (Figure 1). The project would be developed on property that is presently owned by the City of Tacoma.*

*Activities associated with site habitat restoration include excavation of approximately two acres of filled wetland property to create off-channel wetland and open water habitat for juvenile anadromous salmonids and other wildlife species; evaluation and implementation of habitat improvements, including possible channel relocation, in an area of the stream adjacent to the Burlington-Northern railroad tracks; evaluation of existing fish passage and implementation of recommended passage improvements in the stream channel upstream of the railroad tracks; and the planting of native vegetation within and adjacent to newly created wetlands and on nearby hillslopes. Restoration activities are designed to complement the wetland complex which presently dominates the Haire parcel in the center of the restoration site. Public access improvements would be designed and constructed consistent with habitat restoration objectives. The location of this project adjacent to both Swan Creek Regional Park and Port of Tacoma restoration properties presents opportunities for both habitat restoration and public outreach.*

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. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s).

*2700 Block of Pioneer Way East. At the intersection of Pioneer Way East and Browning Street.*

13. Assessor Parcel Numbers: *#471502-3980; 471502-4031; 032011-3002; and 032011-3077*

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one):  
Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes,  
mountainous, other:

***The site is generally flat to gently sloping with steeper slopes at the boundaries. These boundaries are Pioneer Way East to the south and west, and the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks to the north and east.***

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

***Bank slopes are approximately 30% in some areas.***

- 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.

***Soils have been mapped as "Shalcar Muck" as recently as 1979 in the USDA "Soil Survey of Pierce County Area, Washington." These soils are defined as "poorly drained, level, formed in decaying sedges, cattails and reeds and in alluvium in long backwater depressions of the major river valleys".***

- d. Are there surface indications or history of  
unstable soils in the immediate vicinity?

***No.***

- e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate  
quantities of filling or grading proposed.  
Indicate source of fill.

***Freshwater marsh and open water habitat would be created by excavating approximately eight feet of fill material from the interior of the Walter property (Parcel #032011-3077), totaling approximately 11,000 yd<sup>3</sup>. Post construction elevations would range from 13-14 feet NGVD29 in the re-established wetland area to existing elevations - approximately 22 ft NGVD29 - around the marsh perimeter. The material excavated from the property would be removed to the appropriate disposal facility. If suitable, some excavated material may be utilized on site to create topographic features, such as a small berm between Pioneer Way and the restored wetland area. Material might also be used to create a similar berm in places between the pedestrian walkway and project habitat areas as a method of encouraging people to utilize only developed pedestrian access facilities.***

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

***Yes, erosion could occur during construction. The City will prepare a Project Construction Plan which will detail erosion control activities. The Plan will be approved by the Natural Resource Trustee Agencies (Trustees) prior to construction. Post-construction erosion is expected to be minimal due to the extent of plantings, mulching, and use of irrigation for the establishment of trees and shrubs.***

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

***No impervious surfaces will be placed on the property. The public access path will utilize gravel, wood chips, or other suitable, pervious material.***

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

***Erosion control measures to be proposed as part of the construction plan will be commensurate with the material exposed. Control measures will include minimization of daily exposed area, covers for stock-piled soil, operation of equipment from upland areas, silt fencing, mulching, and measures as necessary to control fugitive dust.***

## 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.

***Air emissions during construction would be limited to diesel equipment exhaust from excavators and trucks.***

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

***No off-site emissions or odors are evident that would affect this project.***