CENWS-OD-TS-DMMO June 23, 1998

Memorandum for Record

SUBJECT: RECENCY DETERMINATION ON THE SUITABILITY OF DREDGED MATERIAL FROM THE FEDERAL MAINTENANCE CHANNEL, SQUALICUM CREEK WATERWAY (CENPS-OP-NP-89) FOR DISPOSAL AT THE BELLINGHAM BAY NONDISPERSIVE DISPOSAL SITE

1. This documents the recency determination for 6,000 - 8,000 cy of material proposed for dredging from the Squalicum Waterway federal maintenance channel (from 25+00 to 30+00) to be disposed in the Bellingham By nondispersive disposal site.

2. The following summary reflects the consensus determination of the agencies (Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10) with jurisdiction over dredging and disposal regarding the applicability of recency guidelines to the proposed project.

3. The Port of Bellingham (local sponsor) has requested federal maintenance dredging of material shoaling the federal channel.

4. Sampling and testing of sediments in Bellingham Harbor took place in 1994. All the material tested for this project (258,000 cy) was found suitable for disposal at a non-dispersive site, and most of it (214,000 cy) was also suitable for dispersive site disposal. The federal dredging initiated in the Fall of 1995 was not completed between 25+00 and 30+00 due to conflicts with ongoing Lummi Nation fishing activity (gillnetting) for Coho.

5. The material proposed for maintenance dredging from the Squalicum Creek Waterway occupies the area previously characterized within DMMU C3. This material failed dispersive site interpretation guidelines, but passed nondispersive siting guidelines. This material would have to be disposed of at the Bellingham Bay nondispersive disposal site.

6. Recency guidelines for existing information refer to the duration of time for which chemical and biological characterization for a given sediment remains valid and adequate for decision-making. Recency guidelines are based on project rank. The area occupied by DMMU C3 was ranked moderate for testing purposes. Moderate ranked projects have a recency of 5-7 years for data.

7. No known changes have occurred in the condition of the project area (e.g., accidental spill or new discharges). Therefore, the agencies have determined that the recency guidelines apply, and additional sediment testing is not required for the area covered under this recency determination.

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DMMO File