MEMORANDUM FOR: RECORD **March 31, 2020**

SUBJECT: TIER 1 ANTIDEGRADATION EVALUATION FOR THE CITY OF KENT MILL CREEK RE-ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT ON MILL CREEK IN KENT, WASHINGTON, WITH UPLAND DISPOSAL.

1. Introduction. This memorandum documents the Tier 1 anti-degradation evaluation by the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) of the City of Kent's Mill Creek Re-establishment maintenance dredging project. This evaluation resulted in a no-test anti-degradation determination, and the DMMP does not require further testing for the evaluation of the leave surface.

2. Project. The City of Kent proposes to remove up to 21,000 cubic yards (CY) of material from a 3.2-mile long stretch of Mill Creek running through Kent, Washington, see Figure 1 for the project vicinity map. Sediment has accumulated at the project location since the last dredging approximately 30 years ago, and has resulted in significant loss of flow capacity within the creek. Significant flooding is common along portions of the creek during large rain events, see Figure 2. The City of Kent has determined that maintenance dredging is required to restore the creek to its full capacity. All material removed from the creek will be disposed upland at an appropriate location.

The dredging history of this project is not well known. The available information indicates that during the mid-twentieth century dredging occurred approximately every decade. However, the last known dredging occurred in the 1980's and removed all accumulated sediment down to the hard-packed bottom of the stream.

For the proposed dredging, the most likely removal process will involve an excavator working from the uplands, likely in the dry pending water levels. The proposed project will remove all accumulated sediment down to the native bottom of the creek.

3. Evaluation. For this project, the DMMP is primarily concerned with the surface to be exposed following dredging, since the dredged material will be removed and placed at an upland location. The proposed dredge volume is 21,000 CY. Because this volume exceeds the "no test" small project volume of "less than 1,000 CY" (low-moderate or moderate-ranked projects), the DMMP small project exclusionary guidelines based on volume do not apply.

Under DMMP guidelines, projects for which upland disposal is planned do not ordinarily require testing of the dredged material if they are ranked moderate or less, but they do require evaluation under the Department of Ecology's anti-degradation standard.

4. Tier 1 Anti-Degradation Determination. The project proposal is to dredge down to the previous bottom of the creek (i.e. to remove ALL accumulated sediment) and upland disposal is proposed. Based on this information, the DMMP agencies have determined that the sediment exposed by dredging will likely meet the State of Washington antidegradation standard, and therefore, no DMMP testing of the leave surface is required for this project.

Since all dredged material will be going to an upland disposal location, a suitability determination for open-water disposal is not appropriate for this project.

This anti-degradation determination does ***not*** constitute final agency approval of the project. During the public comment period that follows a public notice, resource agencies will provide input on the overall project. A final decision will be made after full consideration of agency input, and after an alternatives analysis is done under section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

5. References.

DMMP 2018. *Dredged Material Evaluation and Disposal Procedures (User Manual)*. Dredged Material Management Program, updated December 2018.

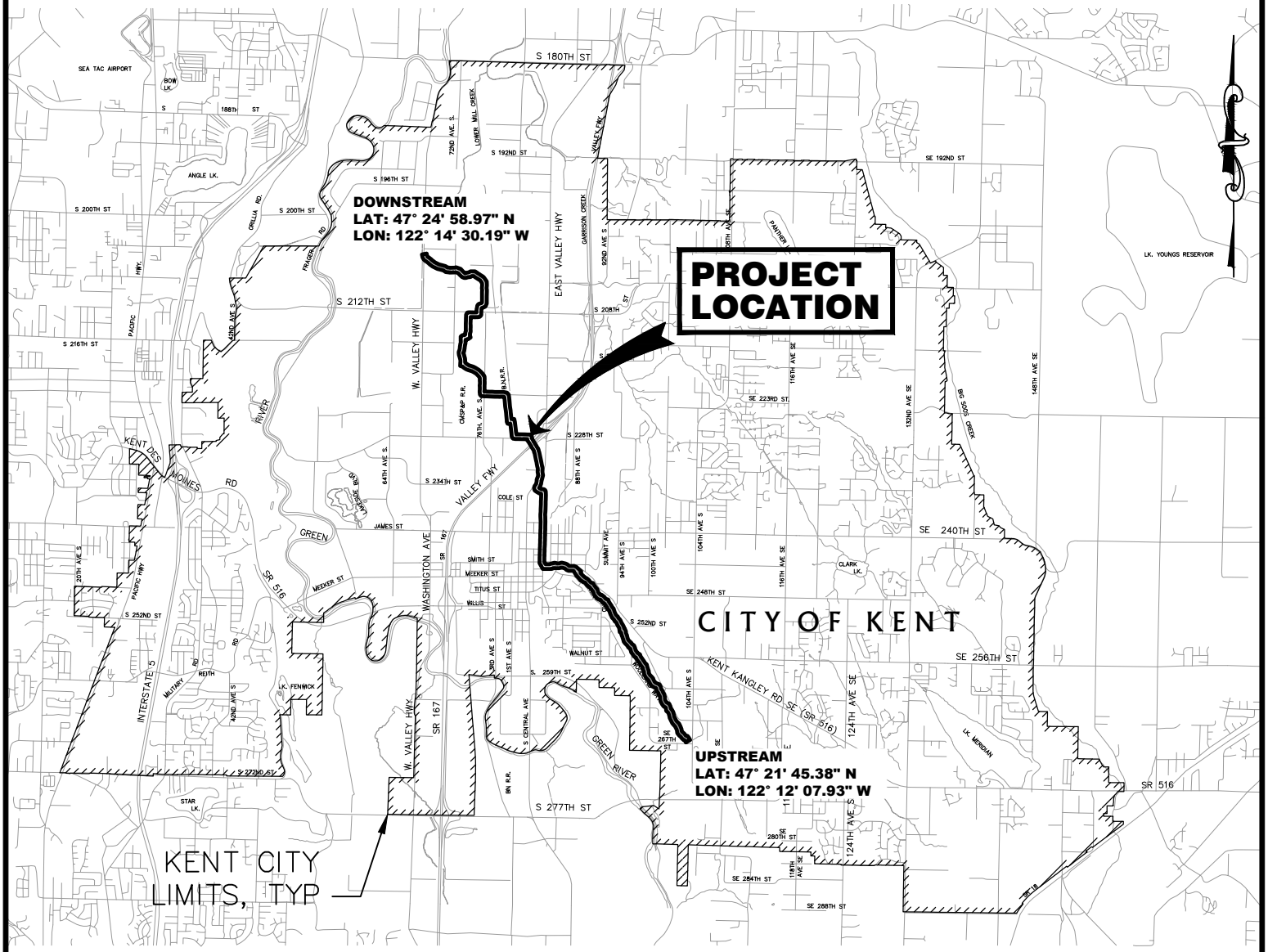
6. Agency Signatures.

The signed copy is on file in the Dredged Material Management Office, Seattle District USACE.

Date	Kelsey van der Elst – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
Date	Erika Hoffman – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Date	Laura Inouye, PhD. – Washington State Department of Ecology
Date	Shannon Soto – Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Copies Furnished:

DMMP agencies
USACE Regulatory
Melissa Dahl, City of Kent
Cliff Whitmus, Wood Environmental



VICINITY MAP

NOT TO SCALE

g:\enviromental\13-3002 mill creek rehabilitation\dwg\reestablishment\EXHIBIT\jarpa plans\13-3002 JARPA G01 COVER SHEET.dwg 7/17/2019 4:46 PM

REFERENCE NUMBER: NWS-2018-726 APPLICANT: KENT PUBLIC WORKS		PROJECT LOCATION: SEE SHEET G01	PROPOSED PROJECT: MILL CREEK REESTABLISHMENT PROJECT	
LATITUDE: 47° 23' 56" N LONGITUDE: 122° 14' 00" W		VERTICAL DATUM – NAVD 88 HORIZONTAL DATUM – NAD 83/91		
SHEET G01 OF 106	DATE: 07/19/19	IN: MILL CREEK NEAR/AT: KENT	COUNTY: KING STATE: WA	FILE: 13-3002 JARPA G01 COVER SHEET.DWG

Figure 2. Pictures of flooding along Mill Creek during a 100-year flood event in December 2019. Photos provided by the City of Kent.

Photo 1: Looking East at Mill Creek and James Street.

Photo 2: Looking North at Mill Creek and Kent Memorial Park.

Photo 3: Looking South at Mill Creek and 76th Ave.