



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

US Army Corps of Engineers

Regulatory Branch
4735 E. Marginal Way S., Bldg 1202
Seattle, WA 98134-2388
Telephone: (206) 437-1244
ATTN: Daisy Douglass,
Project Manager

Public Notice Date: June 11, 2025
Expiration Date: June 18, 2025

Reference No.: NWS-2021-503
Name: Orcas Power and Light
Cooperative (Orcas, Double, Alegria
Island Cable Replacement)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the following request associated with Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO) for the Orcas, Double, and Alegria Island cable replacements has been submitted for a Department of the Army (DA) under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as amended. In Executive Order (EO) 14156 the President declared a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621) based upon the finding that the United States' insufficient energy production, transportation, refining, and generation constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to our Nation's economy, national security, and foreign policy. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Seattle District has found that this permit request meets the terms of EO 14156 and is therefore subject to emergency permitting procedures to address an energy supply situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures. The Seattle District will implement the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division in accordance with 33 CFR § 325.2(e)(4), work described below and shown on the enclosed drawings dated March 2021.

APPLICANT: Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO)

Attention: Mr. Russell Guerry
183 Mount Baker Road
Eastsound, Washington 98245
Telephone: (360) 376-3589

LOCATION: In West Sound near Deer Harbor, Orcas Island, San Juan Island County, Washington.

WORK: The replacement of two existing insulated submarine cables that provide power from 1) Orcas Island to Double Island and 2) Orcas Island to Alegria Island with one 2-inch diameter Kerite 15kv insulated submarine cable.

The replacement of the cables would result in up to 27 cubic yards (CY) of sediment excavation,

NWS-2021-503; Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (Orcas, Double, Alegria Island Cable Replacement)

discharge of up to 27 CY of native excavated material backfill, and discharge of up to 4 CY of rock below the high tide line (HTL). On Orcas Island, a new 7.5-inch diameter High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) conduit and submarine cable would be attached to the existing conduit at the upland termination point (TP) down to approximately +6 MLLW. A trench would be excavated from approximately +6 MLLW to -2 MLLW to install the new 7.5-inch diameter HDPE conduit with 2-inch diameter submarine cable. The trench would be backfilled with the native excavated materials totaling approximately 22 CY placed below the HTL. The remainder of the cable would be unspooled from a barge and supporting vessels as it moves across the channel placing the cable directly on the seafloor. The cable would then be pulled into the conduit on Double Island using a messenger wire and land-based machinery (backhoe and/or excavator) until the cable reaches the upland termination point on Double Island. On Double Island, a trench would be excavated from the upland termination point to approximately +0 MLLW to install a new submarine cable with conduit. The trench would be back filled with the native excavated material totaling approximately 5 CY of material placed below the HTL.

A second cable would be connected to the new cable at TP3 to provide power to Alegria Island. The cable would be unspooled from a barge and supporting vessels and directly laid on the seafloor as the barge travels south toward Alegria Island. The cable would then be floated ashore and placed directly along the shoreline and connected to the existing conduit from the HTL to the upland termination point. Approximately 4 CY of rock would be placed below the HTL to protect the cable directly laid along the shoreline.

All trenching work would be completed in the dry during low tides using a wheeled or tracked excavator. Additionally, support vessels and divers may be used as necessary while laying the new cables on the seafloor. Cast-iron cable protection would be installed through the rocky portions of the cable route and in shallow areas at all landfalls to a depth of -14 feet MLLW. Cable protection is needed to prevent damage from sharp protrusions, potential anchor strikes and/or other damage which may occur in the shallows. The existing cables from Orcas Island to Double Island (approximately 920-feet long) would remain in place as a back-up and the existing cable from Orcas Island to Alegria (approximately 2,050-feet long) would be cut and abandoned in place.

PURPOSE: To maintain power services on Orcas, Double, and Alegria Islands.

Copies of this public notice which have been mailed or otherwise physically distributed feature project drawings in black and white. The electronic version features those drawings in color, which we think more accurately communicates the scope of project impacts. To access the electronic version of this public notice, go to the Seattle District's web page at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/> and under the heading "Open Public Comment Periods" select Regulatory Public Notices. Recently issued public notices are listed in chronological order of the date of issuance. Select and view the listing for this project.

The location of the line of mean high water and high tide line shown on the project drawings have not yet been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps

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determines the boundaries of the waters are substantially inaccurate a new public notice may be published.

MITIGATION: No mitigation is proposed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. If the Corps determines the project may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat the Corps would consult with NMFS and USFWS in accordance with the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division, under 50 CFR Part 402.05 in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) determines that the proposed action may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters the Corps will coordinate with NMFS in accordance with the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) determines that the proposed action requires Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps would initiate Section 106 consultation in accordance with the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division, under 36 CFR Part 800.12 in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

EVALUATION: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR Parts 320-332 and the decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Washington Department of Ecology has or will evaluate the proposed project in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and for consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or

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deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The described discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: The source of the fill material will be the existing material excavated and side cast.

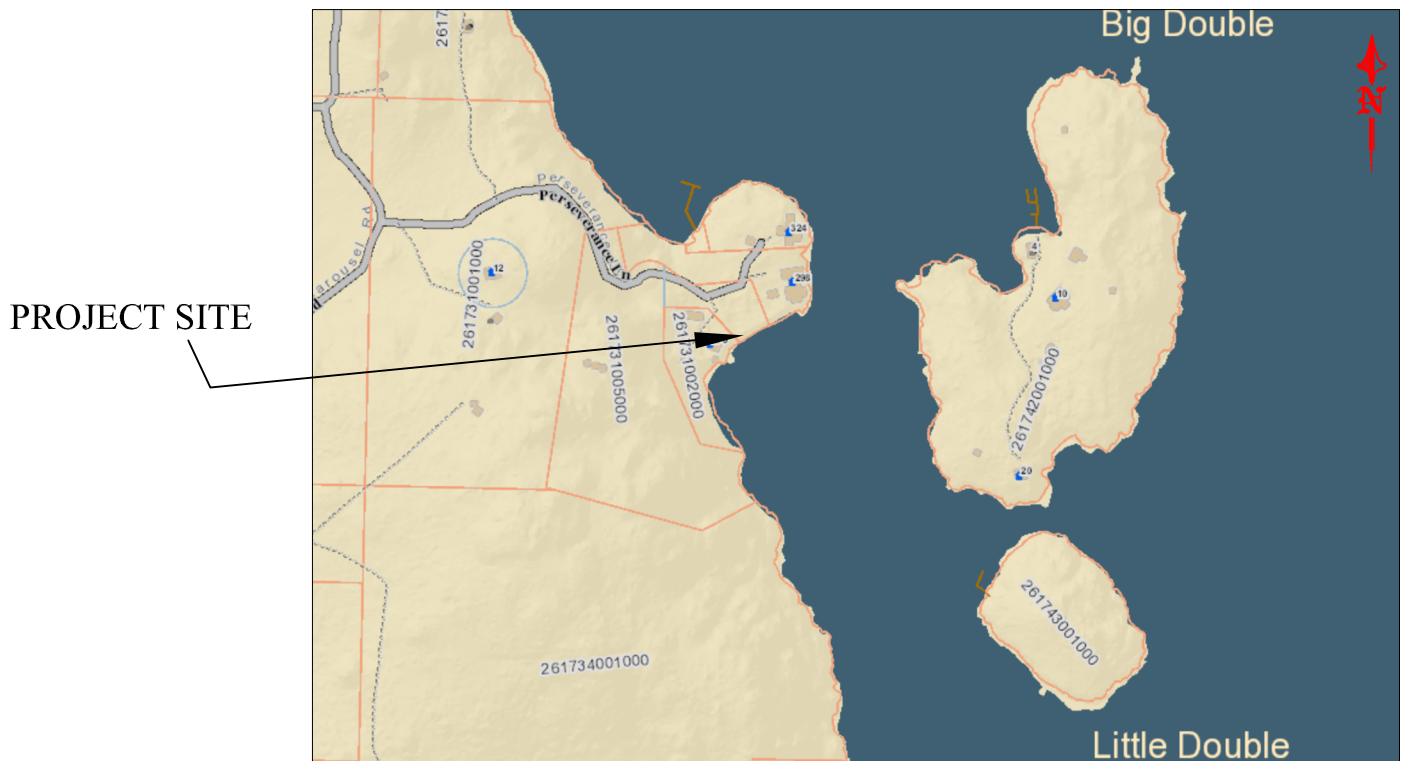
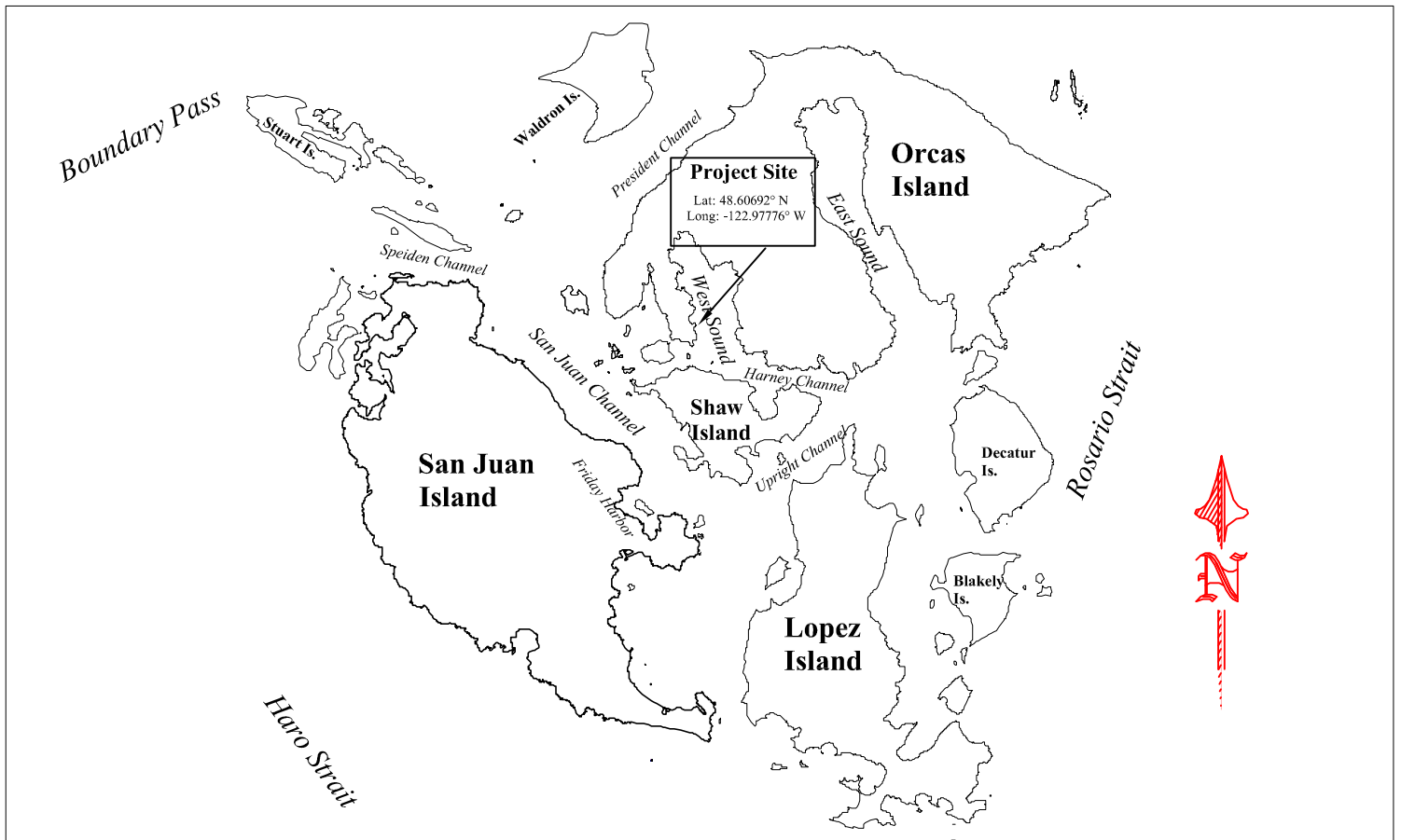
COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether authorizing the work would not be contrary to the public interest. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. All e-mail comments should be sent to daisy.p.douglass@usace.army.mil. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commenter's name, address, and phone number. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration.

You may also now submit project specific comments to the Corps through the new Regulatory Request System (RRS) through this link: <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>; Click Public Notices and filter to Washington State to see all current Seattle District Public Notices, including this notice. You may submit your comments directly through this portal.

Conventional mail comments should be sent to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch,
Attention: Daisy Douglass, 4735 E. Marginal Way S, Bldg 1202, Seattle, Washington, 98134-2388.

To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: OPALCO (Orcas, Double, Alegria Island Cable Replacement); NWS-2021-503.

Encl: Figures (7)



OPALCO DOUBLE CABLE Project

REFERENCE: # NWS-2021-503

APPLICANT:
Orcas Power & Light Co-op

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. Kim Kaiser
TPN 261731003000
2. Christopher J Dorland TTEE
TPN: 261731002000

VICINITY MAP

LOCATION:

324 Perseverance Lane
TPN 261731005000

LAT/LONG: 48.60692° N, 122.97776° W

SHEET: 1 of 7 **DATE:** MARCH 2021

PROPOSED: Submarine power cable upgrade

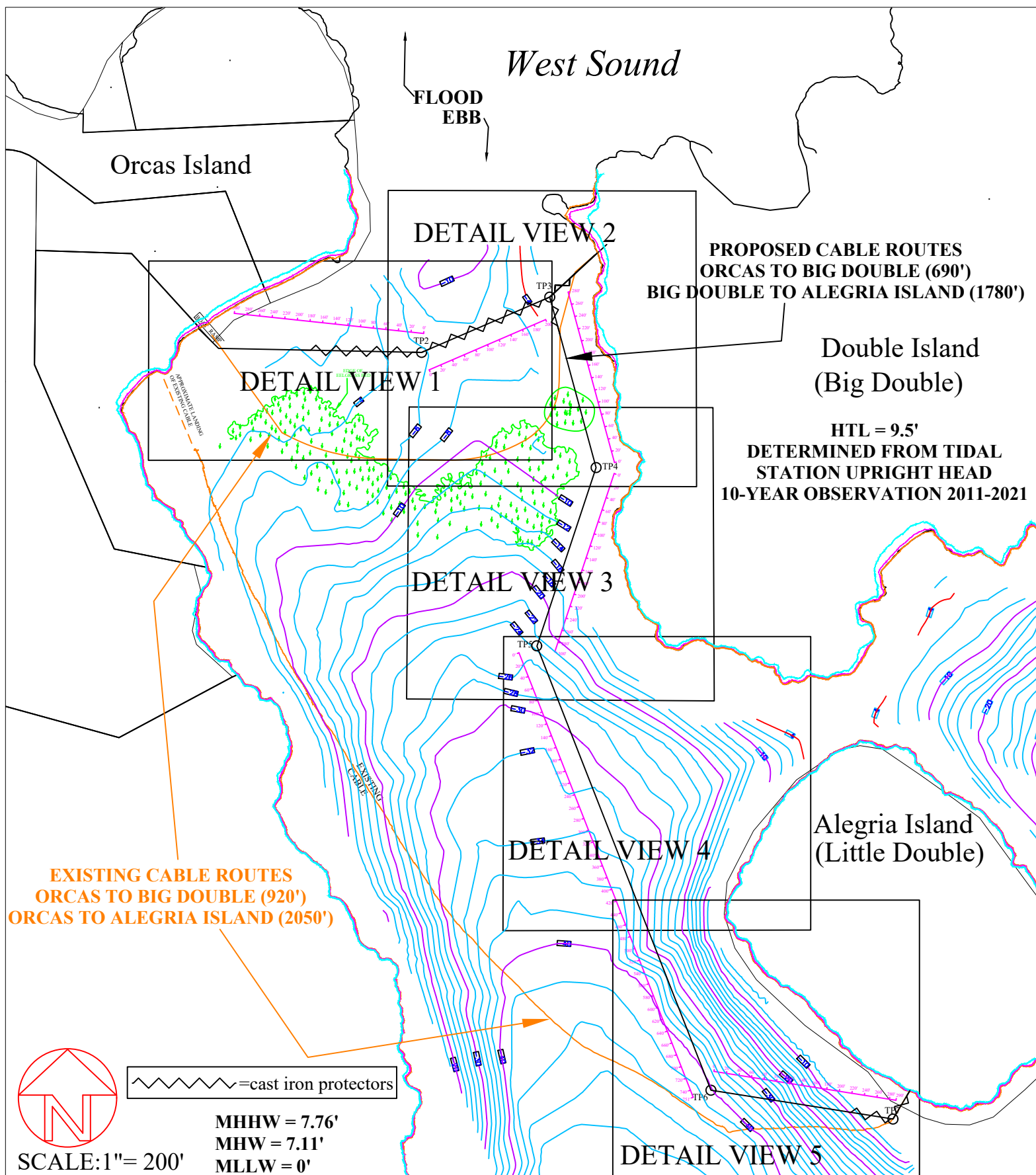
IN: West Sound

AT/NEAR: Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

COUNTY: San Juan

STATE: WA

DATUM: N.O.S. MLLW=0'



REFERENCE: # NWS-2021-503

APPLICANT:

Orcas Power & Light Co-op

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. Kim Kaiser
TPN 261731003000
2. Christopher J Dorland TTEE
TPN: 261731002000

OVERVIEW

LOCATION:

324 Perseverance Lane
TPN 261731005000

LAT/LONG: 48.60692° N, 122.97776° W

SHEET: 2 of 7 **DATE:** MARCH 2021

PROPOSED: Submarine power cable upgrade

IN: West Sound

AT/NEAR: Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

COUNTY: San Juan

STATE: WA

DATUM: N.O.S. MLLW=0'

Orcas Island

MHHW = 7.76'
MHW = 7.11'
MLLW = 0'
HTL = 9.5'

West Sound

TP3

CABLE TO BE ENCASED IN CAST
IRON PROTECTION BETWEEN
ONSHORE CONDUITS

TURN POINT (TP)

TP2

~~~~~ = cast iron protectors



SCALE: 1" = 60'

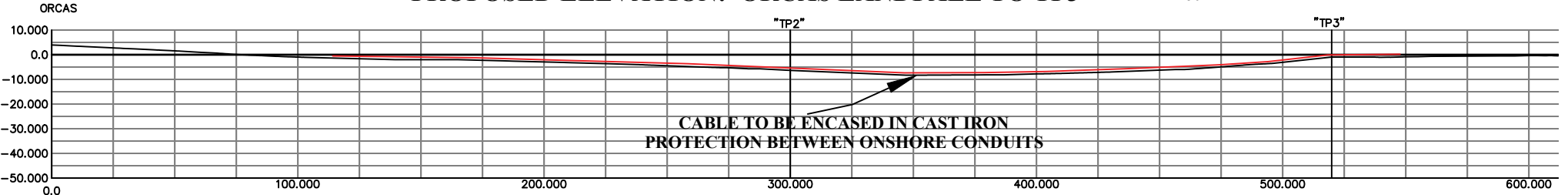
NEW CONDUIT TRENCHED FROM  
SHORE TO -2'MLLW (≈175')  
(existing conduit to be used from shore to  
upland submarine cable termination point)

EDGE OF  
EELGRASS BED

PROPOSED CABLE FROM ORCAS  
ISLAND TO DOUBLE ISLAND  
(690' MHW to MHW)

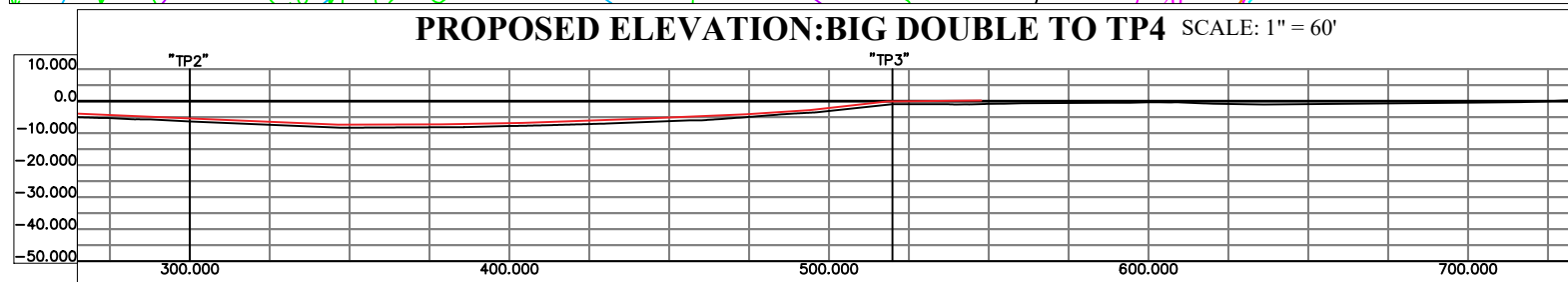
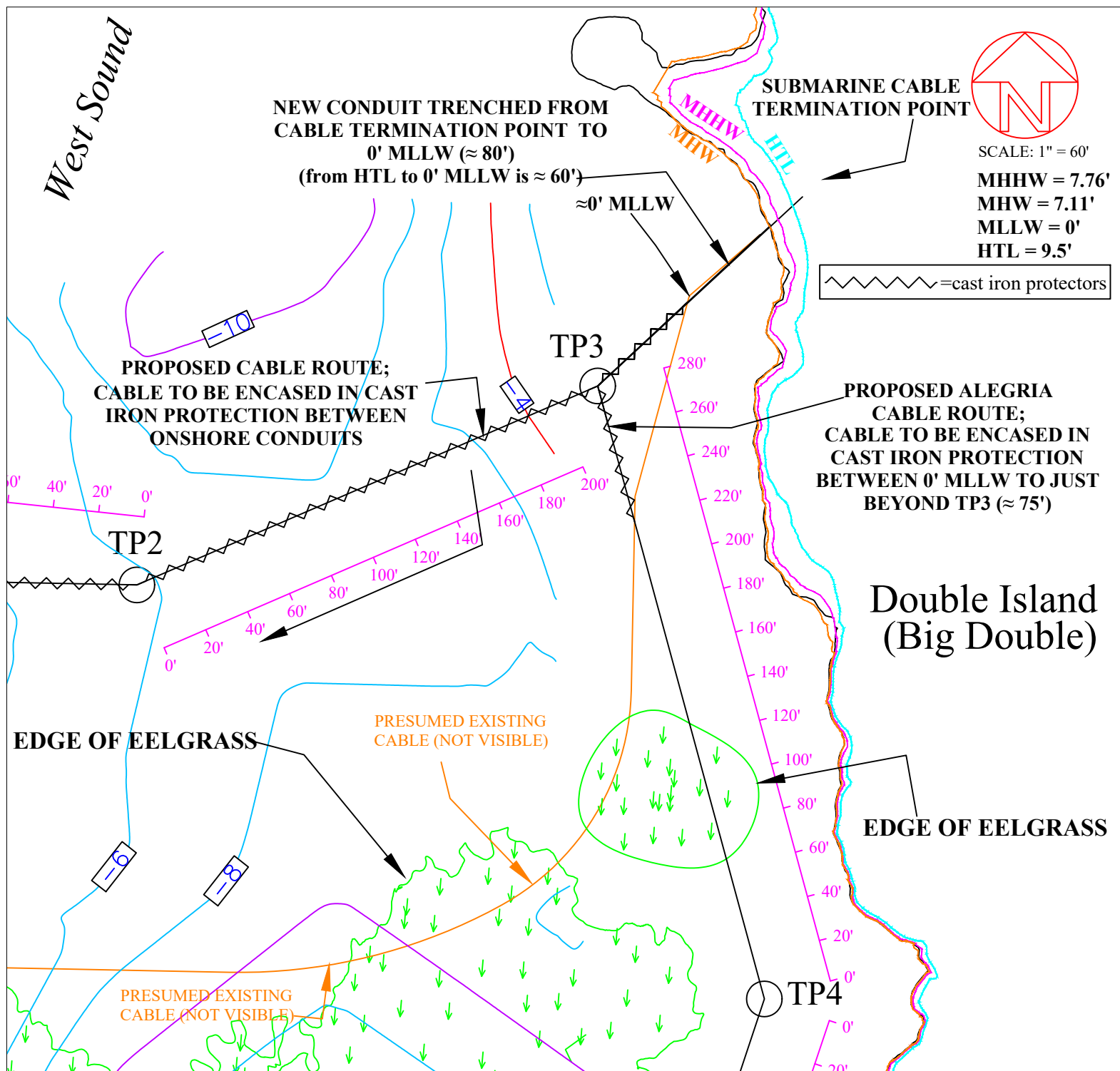
PRESUMED EXISTING  
CABLE (NOT VISIBLE)

PROPOSED ELEVATION: ORCAS LANDFALL TO TP3 SCALE: 1" = 60'



|                                                                                                                             |                                                               |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>REFERENCE:</b> # NWS-2021-503                                                                                            | <b>DETAIL VIEW 1</b>                                          | <b>PROPOSED:</b> Submarine power cable upgrade |
| <b>APPLICANT:</b><br>Orcas Power & Light Co-op                                                                              | <b>LOCATION:</b><br>324 Perseverance Lane<br>TPN 261731005000 | <b>IN:</b> West Sound                          |
| <b>ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:</b><br>1. Kim Kaiser<br>TPN 261731003000<br>2. Christopher J Dorland TTEE<br>TPN: 261731002000 | <b>LAT/LONG:</b> 48.60692° N, 122.97776° W                    | <b>AT/NEAR:</b> Deer Harbor, Orcas Island      |
|                                                                                                                             | <b>SHEET:</b> 3 of 7 <b>DATE:</b> MARCH 2021                  | <b>COUNTY:</b> San Juan                        |
|                                                                                                                             |                                                               | <b>STATE:</b> WA                               |
|                                                                                                                             |                                                               | <b>DATUM:</b> N.O.S. MLLW=0'                   |





**REFERENCE:** # NWS-2021-503

**APPLICANT:**

Orcas Power & Light Co-op

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

1. Kim Kaiser  
TPN 261731003000
2. Christopher J Dorland TTEE  
TPN: 261731002000

**DETAIL VIEW 2**

**LOCATION:**

324 Perseverance Lane  
TPN 261731005000

**LAT/LONG:** 48.60692° N, 122.97776° W

**SHEET:** 4 of 7 **DATE:** MARCH 2021

**PROPOSED:** Submarine power cable upgrade

**IN:** West Sound

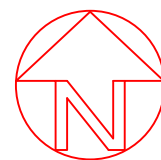
**AT/NEAR:** Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

**COUNTY:** San Juan

**STATE:** WA

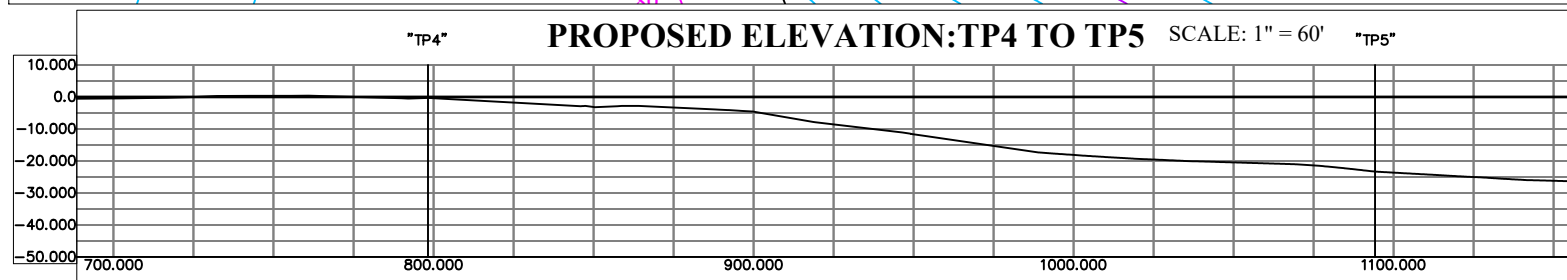
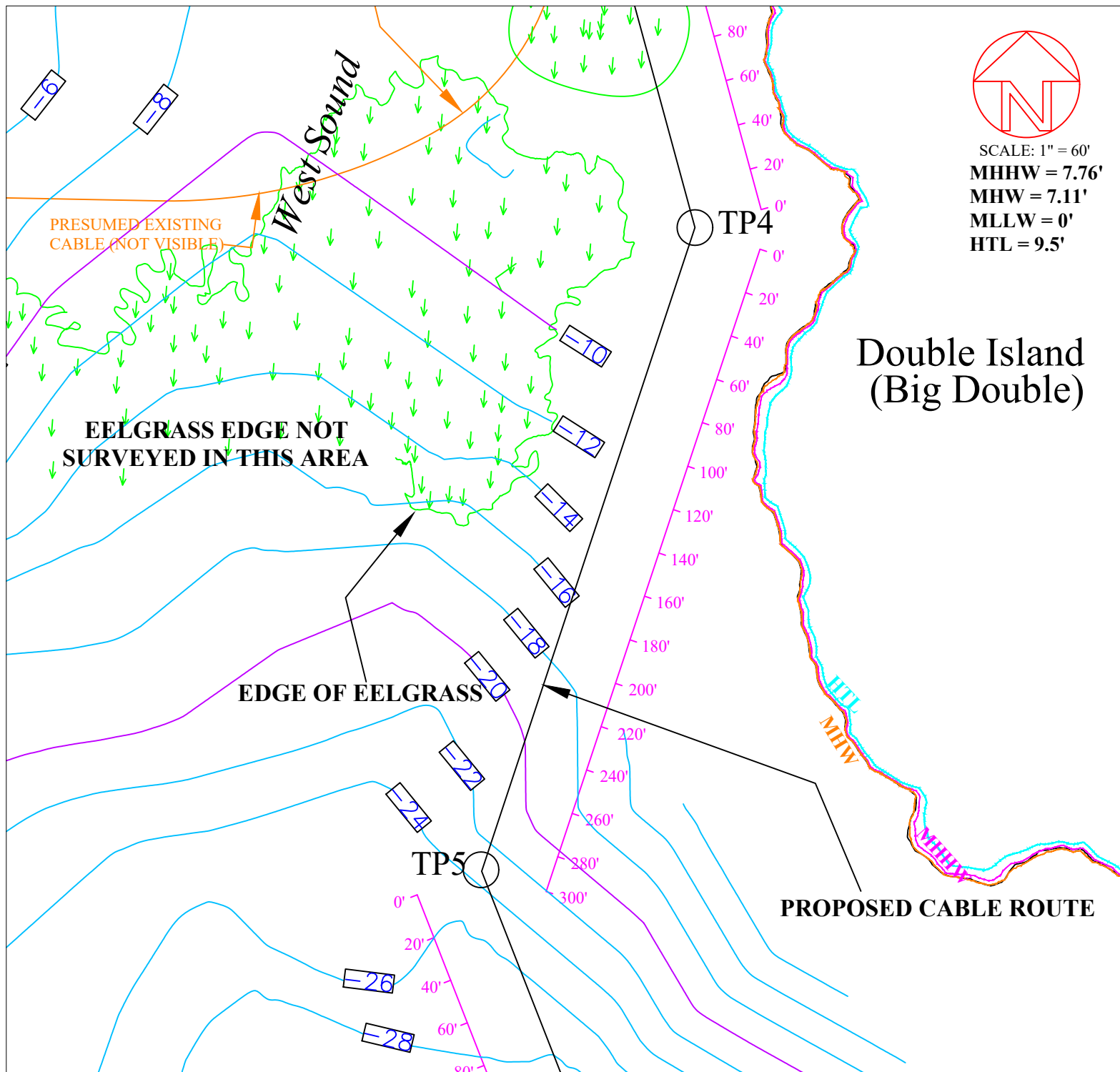
**DATUM:** N.O.S. MLLW=0'





SCALE: 1" = 60'  
MHHW = 7.76'  
MHW = 7.11'  
MLLW = 0'  
HTL = 9.5'

## Double Island (Big Double)



**REFERENCE:** # NWS-2021-503

**APPLICANT:**  
Orcas Power & Light Co-op

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

1. Kim Kaiser  
TPN 261731003000
2. Christopher J Dorland TTEE  
TPN: 261731002000

### DETAIL VIEW 4

**LOCATION:**  
324 Perseverance Lane  
TPN 261731005000

**LAT/LONG:** 48.60692° N, 122.97776° W

**SHEET:** 5 of 7 **DATE:** MARCH 2021

**PROPOSED:** Submarine power cable upgrade

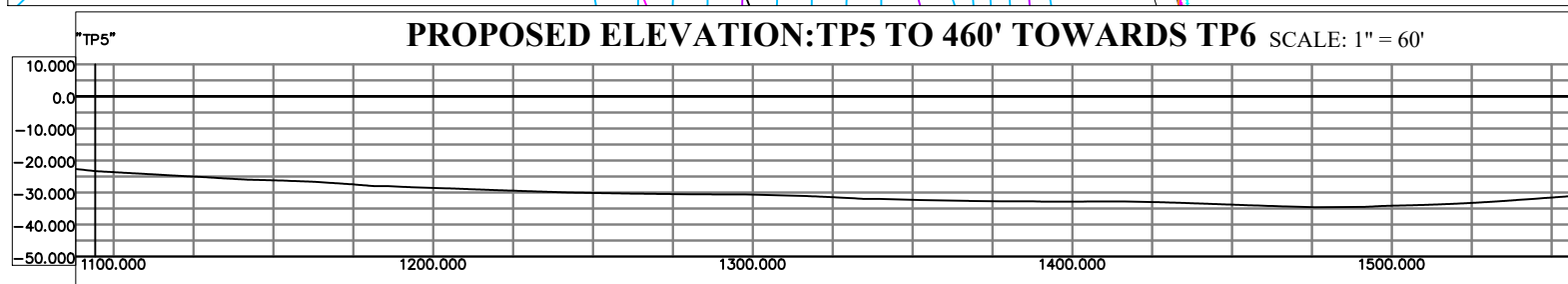
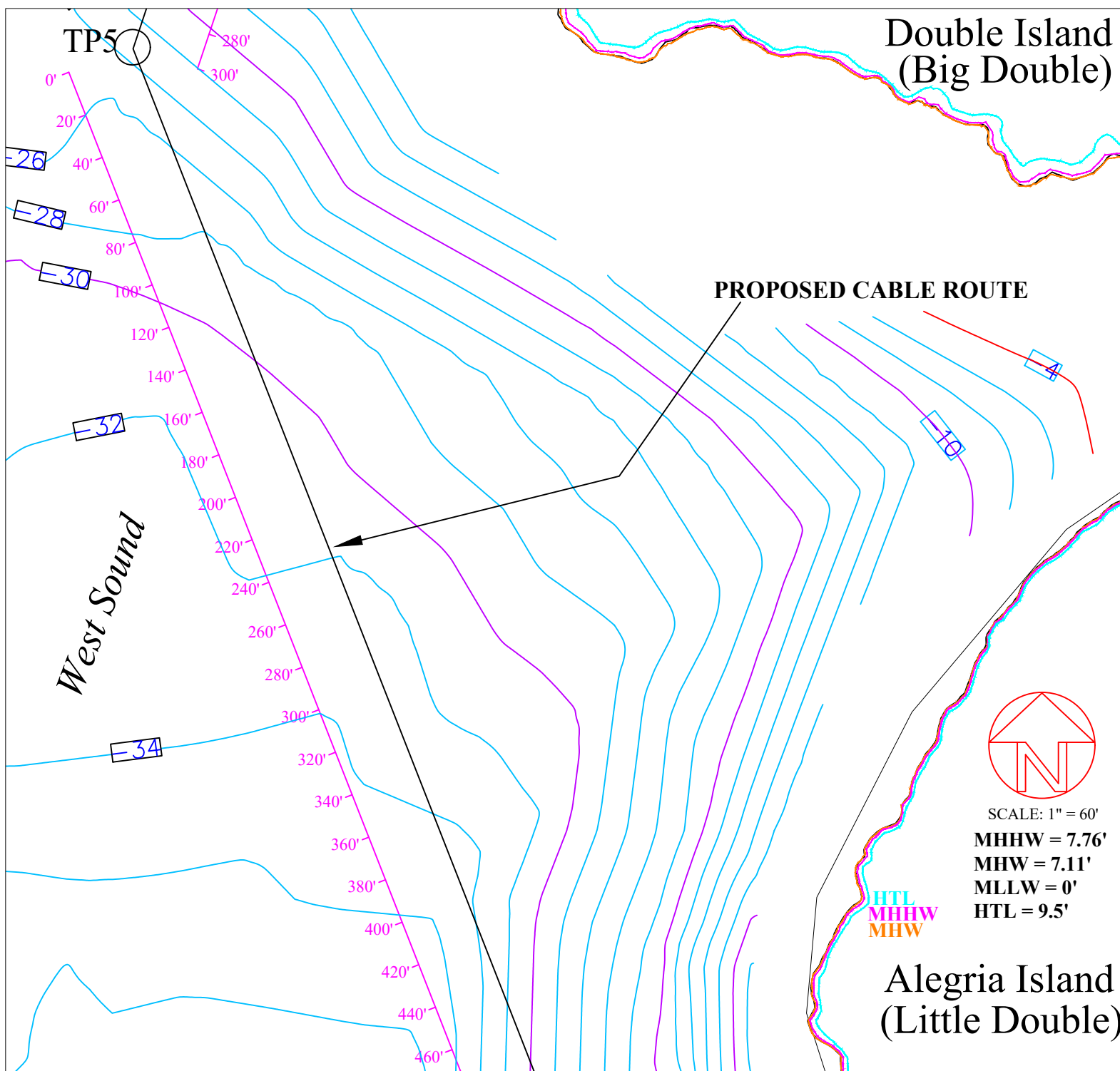
**IN:** West Sound

**AT/NEAR:** Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

**COUNTY:** San Juan

**STATE:** WA

**DATUM:** N.O.S. MLLW=0'



**REFERENCE:** # NWS-2021-503

**APPLICANT:**

Orcas Power & Light Co-op

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

1. Kim Kaiser  
TPN 261731003000
2. Christopher J Dorland TTEE  
TPN: 261731002000

**DETAIL VIEW 4**

**LOCATION:**

324 Perseverance Lane  
TPN 261731005000

**LAT/LONG:** 48.60692° N, 122.97776° W

**SHEET:** 6 of 7 **DATE:** MARCH 2021

**PROPOSED:** Submarine power cable upgrade

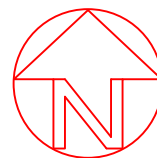
**IN:** West Sound

**AT/NEAR:** Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

**COUNTY:** San Juan

**STATE:** WA

**DATUM:** N.O.S. MLLW=0'



SCALE: 1" = 60'

MHHW = 7.76'

MHW = 7.11'

MLLW = 0'

HTL = 9.5'

~~~~~ = cast iron protectors

HTL

MHHW
MHW

PROPOSED CABLE ROUTE

Alegria Island
(Little Double)

West Sound

TP6

TP7

EXISTING CABLE

CABLE TO BE ENCASED IN
CAST IRON PROTECTION
FROM $\approx -10'$ MLLW to HTL
($\approx 120'$)
(existing conduit to be used
from HTL to upland submarine
cable termination point)

PROPOSED ELEVATION: 460' TO ALEGRIA ISLAND

SCALE: 1" = 60'

"TP6"

Alegria
"TP7"

CABLE TO BE ENCASED IN CAST
IRON PROTECTION FROM \approx
-10' MLLW to HTL
($\approx 120'$)

REFERENCE: # NWS-2021-503

APPLICANT:
Orcas Power & Light Co-op

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. Kim Kaiser
TPN 261731003000
2. Christopher J Dorland TTEE
TPN: 261731002000

DETAIL VIEW 5

LOCATION:
324 Perseverance Lane
TPN 261731005000

LAT/LONG: 48.60692° N, 122.97776° W

SHEET: 7 of 7 DATE: MARCH 2021

PROPOSED: Submarine power cable
upgrade

IN: West Sound

AT/NEAR: Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

COUNTY: San Juan

STATE: WA

DATUM: N.O.S. MLLW=0'