

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384  
360-738-2525 Fax



**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

SEPA Distribution List  
SEP2013-00031  
Date of Issuance: August 6, 2013

Please review this determination. If you have further comments, questions or would like a copy of the SEPA checklist, phone the responsible official at (360) 676-6907. Please submit your response by the comment date noted on the attached notice of determination.

WA State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation via email  
Gretchen Kaehler, gretchen.kaehler@dahp.wa.gov

SEPA Unit, WA State Department of Ecology, Olympia via email  
sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov

WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife via email  
Joel Ingram, joel.ingram@dfw.wa.gov

WA State Department of Natural Resources via email  
Rochelle Knust, sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov

Lummi Nation  
Attn: Natural Resources Department  
Attn: Cultural Resources Department

Nooksack Indian Tribe  
Attn: Natural Resources Department  
Attn: Cultural Resources Department

Applicant  
Coastal Geological Services  
Alexis Blue, PE

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**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

## SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

**File:** SEP2013-00031

**Project Description:** Replacement of two neighboring failing bulkheads by constructing a new stone revetment to protect existing single family residences.

**Proponent:** Bryan McKnight & Doug McTaggart

**Address and Parcel #:** 397 & 381 W Bluff Road APN#s: 405304399330 & 405304405311

**Lead Agency:** Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

**Zoning:** Residential Rural      **Comp Plan:** Rural Community  
**Shoreline Jurisdiction:** Shoreline Residential

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that with proper mitigation, no significant adverse environmental impacts are likely. Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c), an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required. This decision was made following review of a completed SEPA environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

There is no comment period for this DNS.

Pursuant to WAC 197-11-340(2), the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance indicated below. Comments must be received by August 20, 2013 and should be sent to: Sam McDaniel

**Responsible Official:** Tyler Schroeder

**Title:** Planning Manager

**Telephone:** 360-676-6907

**Address:** 5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226

**Date of Issuance:** August 6, 2013

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be "T. Schroeder".

An aggrieved agency or person may appeal this determination to the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner. Application for appeal must be filed on a form provided by and submitted to the Whatcom County Current Planning Division located at 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226, during the ten days following the comment period, concluding August 30, 2013.

You should be prepared to make a specific factual objection. Contact Whatcom County Current Planning Division for information about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

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**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)  
Legal Notice

To be published one time only on: **August 6, 2013**

CHARGE TO: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, Washington 98226  
**Acct #048867**

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**WHATCOM COUNTY GIVES PUBLIC NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING SEPA  
THRESHOLD DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) HAS BEEN  
ISSUED TODAY SUBJECT TO THE 14 DAY COMMENT PERIOD  
CONCLUDING ON, August 20, 2013.**

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**ANY PERSON OR AGENCY MAY APPEAL THE COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE WITH WAC 197-11 BY FILING AN APPEAL WITH THE WHATCOM COUNTY CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION LOCATED AT 5280 NORTHWEST DRIVE, BELLINGHAM, WA 98226. APPEALS MUST BE MADE WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE COMMENT PERIOD.**



SEP 2013 - 31

## SEPA Environmental Checklist

### Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

### Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### Use of Checklist for Non-Project Proposals:

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." in addition, complete the supplemental sheet for non-project actions (part C).

For non-project actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

## A Background

- 1 Name of proposed project, if applicable:  
Bulkhead Replacement
- 2 Name of applicant: Bryan and Judy McKnight  
Applicant phone number: (604)377-7353  
Applicant address: 1938 19th Ave. W, Vancouver BC, V6J 2P3
- 3 Contact name: Alexis Blue  
Contact phone number: (360)647-1845  
Contact address: 1711 Ellis Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
- 4 Date checklist prepared: June 19, 2013
- 5 Agency requesting checklist: Whatcom County PDS
- 6 Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
Fall 2013
- 7 Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? Yes  No   
If yes, explain:
  
- 8 List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:  
None.
  
- 9 Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? Yes  No   
If yes, explain.
  
- 10 List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
Whatcom County Shoreline Exemption, WFDW Hydraulic Project Approval

- 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. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Replacement of existing failing bulkheads by constructing a new stone revetment type of shore stabilization with most of the toe of the new structure in the same alignment as the existing structure and above OHWM with slight variations due to topography and upland infrastructure.

- 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, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Section : 4  
Township: 40 North  
Range: 3 West  
Address: 397 W Bluff Road, Point Roberts, WA

## B Environmental Elements

### 1 Earth

- a. General description of the site:

- Flat  
 Rolling  
 Hilly  
 Steep Slopes  
 Mountainous  
 Other

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

45%

- 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.

The subsurface profile consisted of about 1.5 feet of yellow brown SAND and GRAVEL (SP/GP by USCS). Below this layer there is compact silty CLAY to clayey SILT (ML/CL by USCS) that is glacial marine drift (GMD)

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity?      Yes       No

If so, describe.

The project site area is listed as 'unstable' in the 1978 coastalslope stability mapping depicted in the Coastal Zone Atlas of Washington

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

revetment construction: excavation above OHWM 225/140 CY, below OHWM 10/11 CY. Rock import above OHWM 279/177 CY, below OHWM 10/11CY

Indicate source of fill.

Approved upland quarry for revetment stone and quarry spall

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use?  
Yes       No

If so, generally describe.

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

0%

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

The project is being installed for erosion abatement and replacement of current shoreline armor

## 2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, or industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed?

dust, construction equipment, barge

If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

During construction there will be barge-delivered excavating equipment that will be used for minor excavation and then placement of barge-delivered rock and quarry spall. Some dust will be also be emitted as material is moved

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal?    Yes     No

If so, generally describe.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

### 3. Water

a. Surface:

- (1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)?    Yes     No

If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Strait of Georgia

- (2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters?    Yes     No

If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Shoreline armor replacement mostly above OHWM (ordinary high water)

- (3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected.

Indicate the source of fill material. Approved quarry

- (4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions?  
Yes     No



Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain?

Yes  No

If so, note location on the site plan.

(5) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters?

Yes  No

If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge

b. Ground

Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Yes  No

Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

(1) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals.....; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

(1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known).

The project will not alter water runoff, including stormwater.

Where will this water flow?

Will this water flow into other waters? Yes  No

If so, describe.

(2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters?

Yes  No

If so, generally describe.

Fuel and hydraulic oil spills may occur on site that could be transported into the Straight of Georgia

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

The contractor will have oil-absorbent materials on site to be used in the event of a petroleum product spill and measures to avoid petroleum products or other deleterious materials from entering surface waters will be taken.

#### 4 Plants

a. Check types of vegetation found on the site:

- Deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- Evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- Shrubs
- Grass
- Pasture
- Crop or grain
- Wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- Water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- Other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Shrubs, wet-soil and salt-tolerant plants will be removed in the replacement revetment footprint

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not aware of any

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Marine riparian native vegetation (nookta rose, oceanspray) will be planted landward of the revetment for slope stabilization. 530 sq ft

5. Animals

- a. Check any birds and animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Birds:

- Hawk,  
 Eagle,  
 Other:

- Heron,  
 Songbirds;

Mammals:

- Deer,  
 Elk,  
 Other:

- Bear,  
 Beaver;

Fish:

- Bass,  
 Trout,  
 Shellfish;

- Salmon,  
 Herring,  
 Other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

not aware of any

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? Yes  No

If so, explain.

Not aware of any

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Timing limitations: In-water work will only be allowed from July 16 through February 15 for the protection of salmon and bull trout. All work below the OHWM will be conducted 'in the dry'



6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Diesel fuel will be used to power heavy equipment

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? Yes  No

If so, generally describe.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None proposed

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? Yes  No

If so, describe.

Accidental spills of fuel and petroleum products may occur.

(1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Fuel and oils spill response

(2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The contractor will have oil-absorbent materials on site to be used in the event of a petroleum product spill

b. Noise

- (1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

none aware of

- (2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Heavy equipment such as excavators and backhoes will be barge-delivered. Noise levels will not exceed ambient conditions within a radius of approximately 300 feet from the site. +

- (3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

none proposed

8 Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Residential

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? Yes  No

If so, describe.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Residential including deck with failing rock and mortar bulkhead

- d. Will any structures be demolished? Yes  No

If so, what?

The residential will not be demolished but the existing, failing bulkhead will be demolished

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Residential

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Rural community

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Residential

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area?      Yes       No   
If so, specify.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

not applicable

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

not applicable

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

none proposed

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

none proposed

## 9 Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable

- High  
 Middle  
 Low-income

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:  
Not applicable

## 10 Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?  
6 ft stone revetment shoreline armor
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?  
none
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:  
none proposed

## 11 Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?  
Not applicable
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?  
Not applicable
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?  
Not applicable
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:  
Not applicable

## 12 Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?  
Not applicable

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Not applicable

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Not applicable

### 13 Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None known

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

none proposed

### 14 Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Barge access due to accessibility from upland roads is infeasible for heavy equipment

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? Yes  No

If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

not applicable



- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? Yes  No   
If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of)

- Water,  
 Rail, or  
 Air transportation?

If so, generally describe.

barge-delivered construction equipment and materials

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

not applicable

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

none proposed

## 15 Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)?

Yes  No

If so, generally describe.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

none proposed

## 16 Utilities

- a. Check utilities currently available at the site:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electricity,   | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural gas,               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water,         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refuse service, |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone,     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary sewer,            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Septic system, | <input type="checkbox"/> Other.                     |

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

no change proposed

**SIGNATURE**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Judy McKeighan*

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

*July 8, 2013*

### **C Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions**

*(Do not use this sheet for project actions)*

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment. When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

- 1 How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

no impact

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

not applicable

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

no impact

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

none proposed

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

no impact

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

none proposed

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

no impact

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

none proposed

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

no impact

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

none proposed

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

no impact

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

none proposed

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

no conflict