

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

**WEST BAYSHORE DRIVE PROJECT
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON**

prepared for:

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BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

I. Project description

A. Project Location

The proposed extension to Southwest Bayshore Drive and wetland mitigation site are located in the city of Oak Harbor, Island County, WA, Section 3, Township 32 North, Range 1 East (Figure 1).

B. Project Description

The project includes a proposed road extension, a stormwater quality facility, and a wetland mitigation site to mitigate the filling of 0.42 acre of low value DOE Category II wetlands (Figure 2).

The project is the construction of a stretch of Southwest Bayshore Drive that will connect an existing portion of Southwest Bayshore Drive to Beeksma Drive (Figures 1, 2, and 3). The proposed road will begin on the western end at an existing paved road, travel about 300 feet over an existing gravel area that is at grade, fill an area approximately 600 feet by 40 feet of which a portion is the emergent wetland area, and then tie into an existing road, Beeksma Drive. The total length of the proposed new section of road is about 900 feet.

The project purpose is to relieve traffic congestion, alleviate a traffic hazard from vehicles making left turns (southbound from SR-20 into businesses or southbound from businesses onto SR-20), and to compensate for the proposed C-curb (traffic barrier in the center of the road) by funneling traffic from businesses on this south side of SR-20 onto the proposed Southwest Bayshore Drive and then to the intersection of Beeksma Drive and SR-20 to an existing traffic light (Figure 3).

About 75 percent of the area for the proposed road extension is an area of historic gravel fill. The areas to the immediate north, west, and east are existing businesses or graded areas that are dominated by pasture grasses on compacted fill material. The area to the southwest is a farmed field and the area to the immediate south-southeast is a palustrine emergent wetland (Figures 2 through 8). There are no direct connections of the proposed fill area for the road extension project to surface waters, although, all runoff from the existing area is into a farmed field or an existing palustrine emergent wetland. All runoff from the proposed project will be conveyed into a stormwater pond and will overflow into a farmed field and infiltrate into the ground. Since runoff from the proposed project area is currently conveyed into the farmland area or the adjacent wetland and the proposed stormwater runoff will be conveyed into a stormwater quality pond, turbidity and other forms of contaminated water from stormwater runoff will be treated prior to flowing into the adjacent farmed field.

Fill and construction activities for road creation will be accessed from an existing gravel or paved road or compacted fill area. Timing for construction will occur during the dry season, between June and September. Since there are no trees or shrubs in the proposed road

The materials used for this project are suitable pit run material, crushed rock for ballast, asphalt pavement, and concrete for curb, gutter, and sidewalk.

The work corridor is the immediate area. The project area is "isolated" from the traffic and business area and is readily accessible via existing roads.

Staging areas, equipment wash out, and stockpiling areas are, as stated previously, within the vacant lots that are actually filled and leveled areas planted with a pasture grass mix that are to the immediate north and northwest of the project area.

Soil stabilization, project site clean-up, and revegetation shall be seeding the side slope with a pasture grass mix, covering with sterile straw, and planting with trees. The planting of trees is discussed within the wetland mitigation plan (Appendix B).

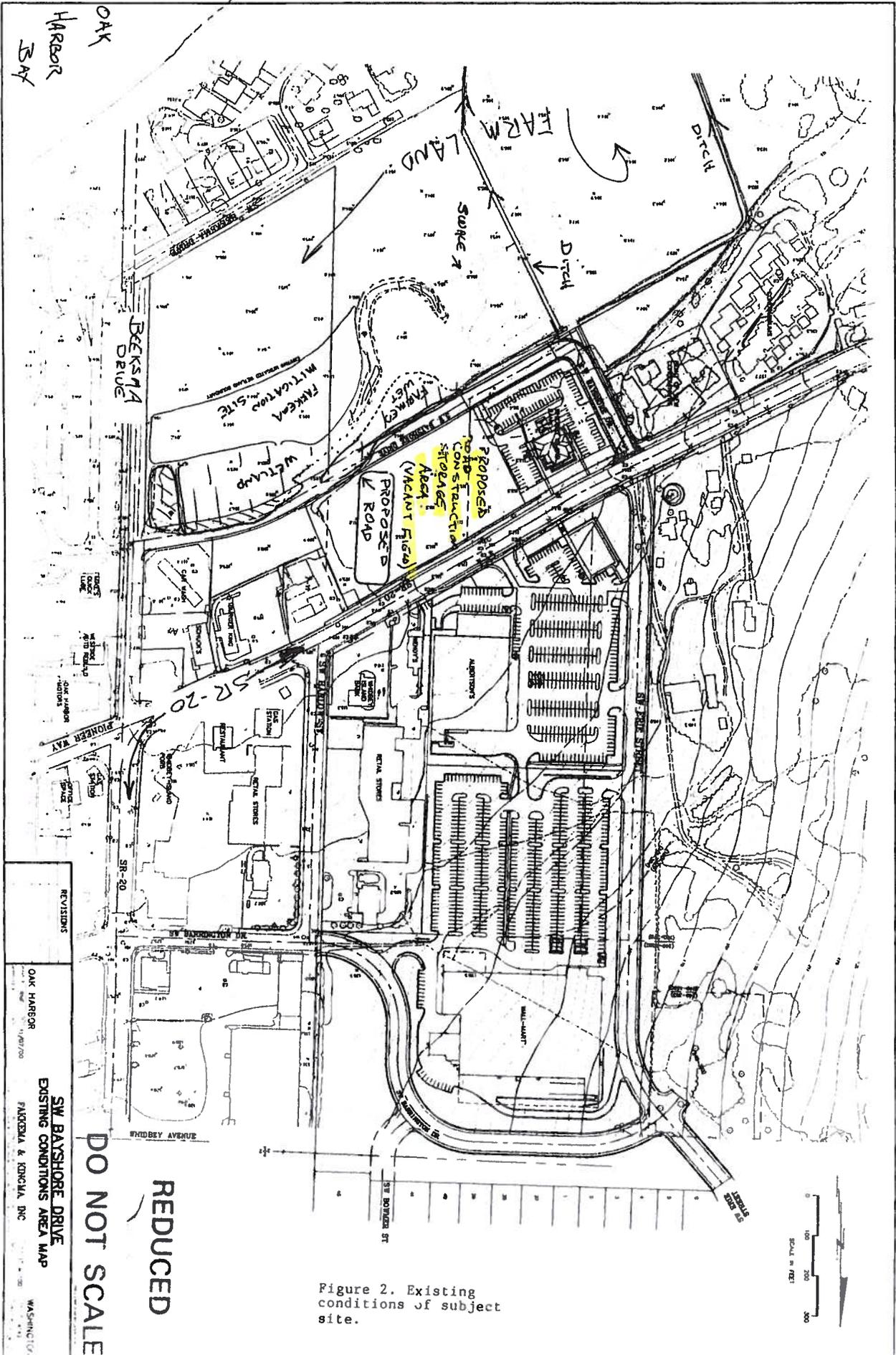
Project timing will be during the dry summer/fall months, typically from July through September. The duration of construction of the road project and wetland site construction/preparation, will occur within this time period.

Construction, planting, monitoring, and maintenance of the mitigation site are discussed in the wetland mitigation plan (Appendix B).

II. Action Area

This project site is located within urban Oak Harbor along Oak Harbor Bay. The general area is a mix of residential and commercial properties (Figure 2). The project site (proposed road, mitigation site, and stormwater facility) is a mix of upland, drained farmed wetland, farmed wetland, and palustrine emergent semipermanently flooded (PEMF) brackish wetlands (Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8). The site is bordered to the immediate south by farmland, to the south of the farmland by homesites, a city road and park to the east, commercial property to the north (vacant and constructed), and farmland to the west. The project site is nearly level with a slight slope to the southwest and bisected by a historic fill and natural sloped area with the northern portion of the road about 4 to 5 feet above the grade of the adjacent farmed fields and wetland area (Figure 5). The construction of the road will require placement of fill in this lower wetland edge to bring the proposed road up to existing grade. The general area where the wetland mitigation will occur is a combination of historically drained tidal marsh and upland areas with portions that have been historically filled. The area where the created wetland mitigation will occur is upland farmed field that is composed of a hydric soil (Figure 3).

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) maps the Lummi silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (Lb) and the Tidal marsh, 0 to 2 percent slopes (Td) soil units in this general area (Ness et al. 1958). We concur with this assessment. The Lummi soil is listed as hydric and the Tidal marsh unit is, by default, hydric.



OAK
HARBOR
BAY

BEKEMA
DRIVE

FIXED
MILITARY
SITE

PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION
STORAGE
WATER
TREATMENT
PLANT
PROPOSED
ROAD

SR-20

PIONEER
WAY

SR-20

HYDDEY AVENUE

SR BOYDEN ST



REDUCED
DO NOT SCALE

REVISIONS

OAK HARBOR
1/19/70

SW BAYSHORE DRIVE
EXISTING CONDITIONS AREA MAP
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Figure 2. Existing conditions of subject site.