

Memorandum of Understanding

for

Planning Coordination Efforts

between

**The City of Washougal WA (City) and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS),
Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge)**

A. Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) documents the roles and responsibilities of the City and the USFWS regarding a City-owned parcel of land that is proposed for development as a municipal well field, which is adjacent to the Refuge and would be affected by the proposed Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project (Steigerwald Project). As described in Section C, below, the Steigerwald Project requires relocation of the Port of Camas-Washougal's (Port) levee from an area between the City's well field and the Columbia River in a roughly East-West direction to a North-South direction to place the levee-protection area to the West of Steigerwald Lake and associated wetlands, with a second North-South levee to the East of the lake.

The parties intend this project to minimize the financial and infrastructure impacts to each other and adjacent landowners and agree to cooperate to achieve this end.

B. Authorities:

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into between the USFWS, Portland, pursuant to the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966, as amended and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 and the City pursuant to RCW 39.34.030, the Interlocal Cooperation Act.

C. Background:

The USFWS is partnering with the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership), Port, and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in planning and design efforts to reconnect Gibbons Creek and the Refuge to the Columbia River. The Steigerwald Project proposes to construct two setback levees, elevate State Route 14 to the Columbia River's 500-year flood elevation, remove all Gibbons Creek flood control infrastructure, remove 2.2 miles of the existing Columbia River levee, and reconstruct the Refuge's network of hiking trails (Figure 1). The preferred alignment of the Steigerwald Project's west setback levee (Alignment A) bisects the City's well field parcel (Figures 1 and 2). The City purchased the 19-acre well field parcel in 2016 with the intention of

installing a series of ten well heads to supply water to residents of both the City of Washougal and City of Camas. Because the proposed setback levee would bisect the City's well field parcel, well field utilities would need to span the levee, and a portion of that parcel (approximately 10.4 acres) that is now protected from Columbia River floods would be subjected to inundation when the Columbia River reaches or exceeds its 100-year flood stage. Thus BPA plans to compensate the City for the added cost of installing utility infrastructure required to span the setback levee. Additionally, the Steigerwald Project would grade the well field parcel to bring ground surface elevations up to, or above, the 100-year flood stage (the vast majority will be at or above the 500-year flood stage, as detailed on Figure 2). The Steigerwald Project also would remove the remaining two barns located on the parcel and construct a gravel access road to provide access for the City. These project features are shown on Figure 2.

D. Partnership Goals and Challenges

The USFWS seeks to work with the City to insure that the Steigerwald Project's preferred alignment for the west setback levee (Alignment A) and full build out of the City's municipal well field (and associated operation and maintenance) do not adversely impact either party's desired outcomes for their respective projects.

E. Roles and Responsibilities:

The USFWS, Estuary Partnership, BPA and Port are currently developing a range of alternatives to restore floodplain processes and hydrologic connectivity between Gibbons Creek, the Columbia River, and the adjacent floodplain habitats within the Refuge. Among other project actions, two new setback levees would be constructed at the east and west extents of the project to reduce flood risk for the Port, City properties (including the City's wastewater treatment plant), State Route 14, and several private parcels, including the M Bar J Ranch (Figure 1).

The new levees will require the City to grant to the Port an easement for the new west setback levee, including the perpetual right for levee operation and maintenance.

Alignment A would construct the west setback levee across the City's well field parcel. The USFWS understands the City plans to initiate construction of the well field in approximately 10-20 years and would need to have utility crossings over the levee to service the well field site, along with other construction actions, such as drilling up to ten wells and installing associated infrastructure. These levels of improvements may require USACE approval and permits.

The cities of Camas and Washougal have entered a joint venture in which they intend to develop a municipal well field on an 18-acre parcel located adjacent to the Port's Industrial Park and the Refuge. This municipal water source is identified in the Lewis, Salmon-Washougal Watershed Plan (WRIA 27/28) and has broad local and regional support. When fully developed, the well field will include ten well heads pumping at a

maximum capacity of 25 MGD (million gallons per day). The two cities will provide water to their residents, and perhaps other municipalities in the region. This municipal water supply is critical to future growth in the cities of Camas and Washougal.

Therefore, the City and USFWS agree that communication between the parties during the City's well field planning, design, and construction process and development of the Steigerwald Project is critical for the effective outcome of both efforts. The City and the USFWS agree to:

- Keep each other informed of the progress of their respective projects;
- Cooperate with each other during design, permitting and construction of the Steigerwald Project;
- Cooperate with each other during the City's well field planning, design, and construction processes;
- Cooperate with each other during any required USACE permitting and any other USFWS regulatory approval process for the development of the City's well field, including the portion of the well field located outside of the realigned levee system, i.e., to the east of the west setback levee; and,
- Acknowledge that the USFWS in partnership with the Estuary Partnership, Port and BPA, selected Alignment A as the preferred alignment, with the understanding that 10.4 acres of the City's well field would be located outside the realigned levee system and operated directly adjacent to the Refuge. In spite of this adjacent use, both parties agree to minimize adverse impacts on the other's adjacent lands in the operations and management of their respective programs.

F. Modification, Termination and other conditions:

This MOU may be amended as mutually agreed by all parties. Upon mutual agreement the revised or new amendments shall become immediately effective and instituted by the USFWS and the City. The MOU will have an addendum and signature page added to document the revisions. This MOU becomes effective when signed by the signatory Parties and remains in effect until modified or terminated. Either party may terminate its involvement at any time by providing 30-day written notice to other party.

This MOU is not a fiscal or fund obligation document. Any action or activities involving transfer of funds between the Parties will be made in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and procedures and will be outlined in separate agreement(s).

City of Washougal (City)

By _____

Molly Coston, Mayor

Date

US Fish & Wildlife (USFWS)

Pacific Region, National Wildlife Refuge System

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Project Leader

By _____

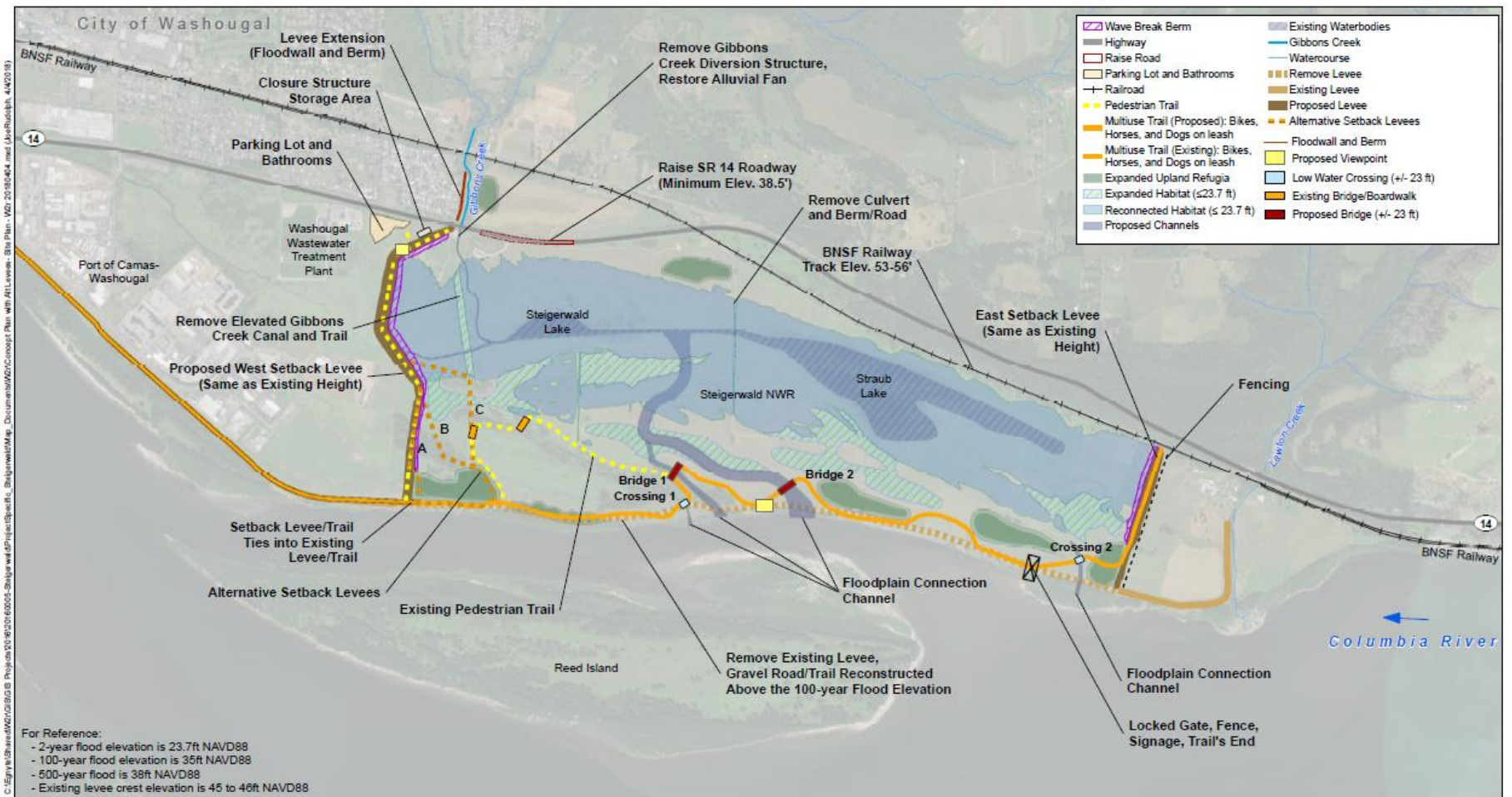
Christopher Lapp, Refuge Manager

Date

Figures
Memorandum of Understanding
Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project

DRAFT

Insert Figure 1



SOURCE: Estuary Partnership, 2013; Clark County; National Hydrography Dataset; USACE LIDAR, 2010
Service Layer Credits: ESRI 2013



Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Design
Figure 1 - Site Plan
Proposed Floodplain Restoration Overview
Washougal, Washington

Figure 2

