

FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
Final SEIS in Focus
4.2014



Elliott Bay  Seawall
Project



The Final Supplemental EIS

The Elliott Bay Seawall Project will replace the aging seawall along Seattle's waterfront to protect public safety, providing a unique opportunity to improve the aquatic habitat and creating the foundation for Seattle's future waterfront.

The City of Seattle published a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on December 16, 2013 to update its previous environmental review based on changes resulting from design refinements, construction approach and agreements made through the permitting process. The public comment period closed on January 22, 2014, following a public meeting held on January 9, 2014. The Final SEIS with comment responses was released on April 7, 2014.

What is a Supplemental EIS and why was it prepared?

Since publication of the Final EIS in March 2013, refinements have been proposed to the project design, along with adjustments to the typical construction sequencing and approach. The City prepared a Draft SEIS to evaluate whether the proposed changes would cause new or increased significant adverse effects.

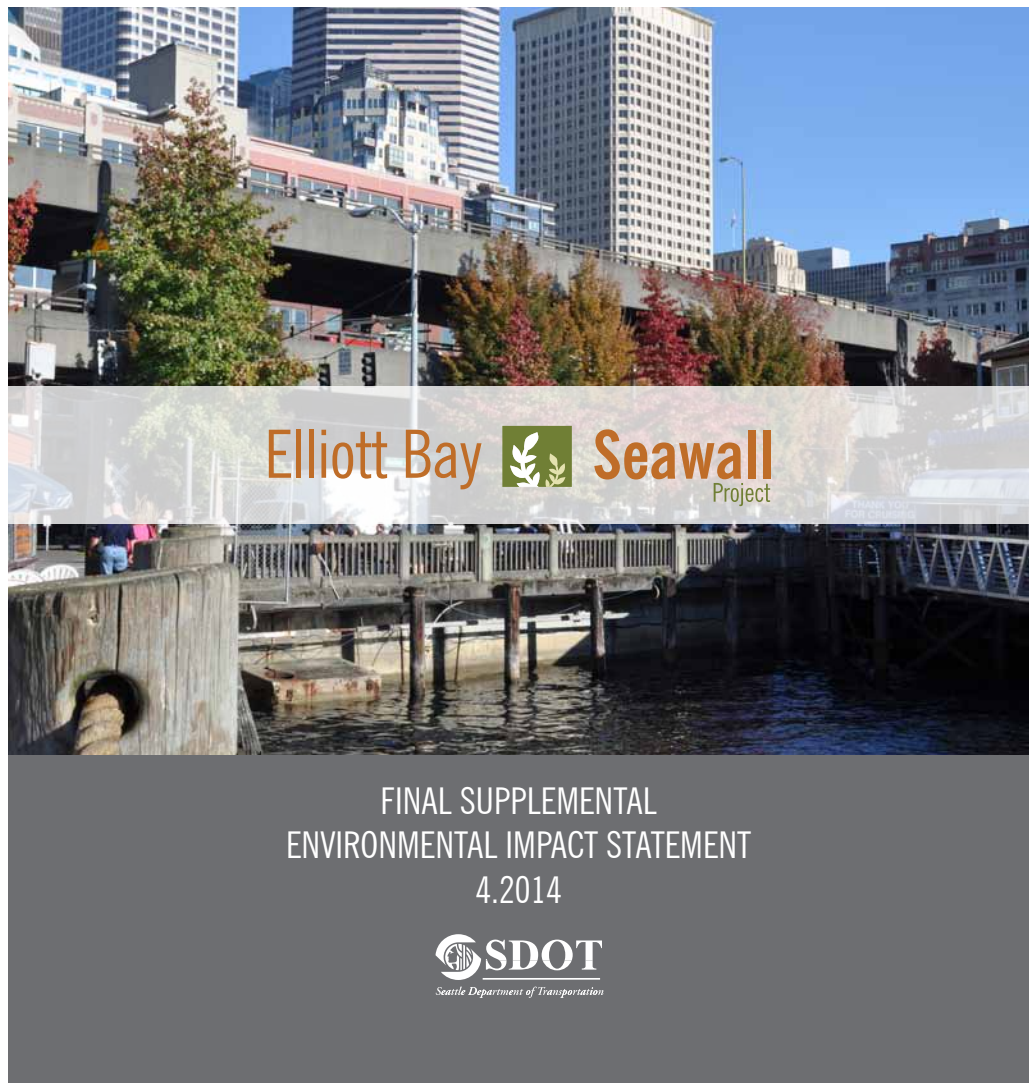
The SEIS enables the City, with input from the public, regulatory agencies and local tribes, to consider the environmental impacts of the project changes in conjunction with factors such as cost, schedule and feasibility.

The Updated Preferred Alternative

While changes were proposed to the design and construction of the Preferred Alternative described in the Final EIS, these changes were not substantial enough to constitute a new project alternative for review; thus, the SEIS evaluated an Updated Preferred Alternative.

Like the Preferred Alternative, the Updated Preferred Alternative will:

- Provide protection against coastal storms and seismic events
- Construct a new seawall using soil improvement techniques
- Remain the most cost-effective and least disruptive construction method





Comments received on the Draft SEIS and the City's response

Nine comment letters were received on the Draft SEIS from Native American tribes, state and local agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals. Comment topics can generally be summarized into three categories:

- Elimination of the summer construction shutdown
- Transportation effects and mitigation
- Noise and vibration effects and mitigation

A complete record of all of the comments and the City's response to each comment is provided in the Final SEIS.



Elimination of the summer construction shutdown

Comments received on the proposed elimination of the summer construction shutdown expressed concern that impacts such as noise, dust, and interrupted access would continue during the busy summer season, resulting in potential economic effects on waterfront businesses.

To reduce the potential impacts from summer work, the City would phase construction activities to the greatest extent feasible to ensure that access to businesses and parking is provided during the summer. The City has launched a comprehensive public information and communications effort, which will continue throughout construction in an effort to minimize impacts to waterfront businesses. The City has also committed to a variety of mitigation measures.



Transportation effects and mitigation

Switching ferry queuing to the south

Comments noted that pedestrian access to the King County Water Taxi, vehicle access to the Port of Seattle facilities at Terminal 46, and transit service on First Avenue S. may be affected by the relocation of ferry queuing to the south of the Seattle Multimodal Terminal at Colman Dock.

Access will be maintained to the King County Water Taxi, the Seattle Multimodal Terminal at Colman Dock and Port of Seattle facilities throughout construction. The traffic analysis shows that construction activities and ferry queuing are not expected to significantly affect traffic operations in the area south of Colman Dock.

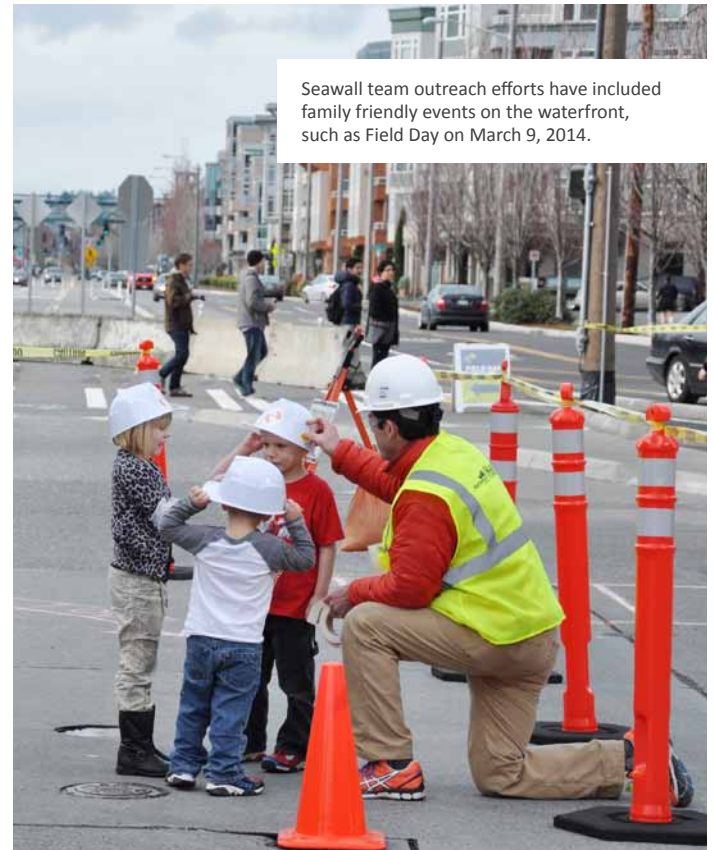
Maintaining access to the cruise terminal

Two commenters reiterated the importance of maintaining access to the cruise terminal. To ensure that impacts to operations at the cruise terminal are minimized, the City will continue to coordinate with the Port of Seattle.



Noise and vibration effects and mitigation

Noise-related comments received on the Draft SEIS expressed concern regarding the proposed water treatment system and the type of noise variance used by the project. Commenters expressed concern that noise from the water treatment system, if unmitigated, would have unacceptable effects on nearby residences, businesses, and visitors. The location of the water treatment system has not yet been determined, but the system will be sited and designed to minimize noise levels to the greatest extent practicable. Specific noise mitigation will be identified once the system has been sited and designed, in accordance with the Seattle Noise Ordinance.



Seawall team outreach efforts have included family friendly events on the waterfront, such as Field Day on March 9, 2014.



Rendering of new textured seawall face and restored condition after the Seawall Project is complete.

What's next?

The Seawall Project began construction in November 2013 in compliance with the existing environmental review and issued permits. Updates to the preferred alternative described in the Final SEIS will commence once environmental reviews are complete and the necessary approvals have been secured.

Stay involved!

Coordination with project stakeholders has been continuous throughout the project. The City is committed to continued coordination to ensure that all stakeholders stay apprised of project activities and overall progress.

For more information

www.waterfrontseattle.org/seawall_project/environmental.aspx

Project hotline: 206-618-8584

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:

Materials can be provided in alternative formats – large print, Braille, cassette tape or on computer disk – for people with disabilities by contacting 206-618-8584 or seawallSEIS@seattle.gov. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request for alternative formats through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.