



**Planning & Community Development**  
818 East Edison Avenue  
Sunnyside, Washington 98944  
(509) 837-7999 Office, (509) 836-6383 Fax

### **NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

**DATE:** March 14, 2023  
**TO:** SEPA Reviewing Agencies, Applicant, and Adjoining Property Owners  
**FROM:** Trevor Martin, AICP, Community & Economic Development Director  
**APPLICANT:** City of Sunnyside  
**FILE NUMBER:** SEPA-2023-0032  
**LOCATION:** Vicinity of Maple Grove Rd. and Yakima Valley highway.  
**TAX PARCEL NUMBER(S):** Adjacent 221027-11013, in City right-of-way  
**DATE OF APPLICATION:** March 7, 2023  
**DATE OF COMPLETENESS:** March 14, 2023

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** Environmental review for the proposal to restore an approximately 400 foot portion of the MS4, along Yakima Valley Highway and Maple Grove Rd., back to its original condition. The City will be removing several yards of sand, corrugated steel piping, and a concrete manhole.

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW** This is to notify agencies with jurisdiction and environmental expertise and the public that the City of Sunnyside, Planning Division, has been established as the lead agency, under WAC § 197-11-928 for this project. The City of Sunnyside has reviewed the proposed project for probable adverse environmental impacts and expects to issue a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) per WAC § 197-11-355. The proposal may include mitigation measures under applicable codes and the project review process may incorporate or require mitigation measures regardless of whether an EIS is prepared. A copy of the subsequent threshold determination may be obtained by request and may be appealed pursuant to SMC Ch. 18.04.

**Required Permits:** The following local, state, and federal permits/approvals may or will be needed for this project: Building Permit, potentially other permits suggested by DST

**Required Studies:** SEPA Review, No others required at this time

**Existing Environmental Documents:** n/a

**Development Regulations for Project Mitigation and Consistency Include:** the State Environmental Policy Act, International Fire Code, WAC 173-180-320, WAC 296-24-33005, the Sunnyside Zoning Ordinance, SMC Title 12—Development Standards, and the Sunnyside Comprehensive Plan.

**REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS:** Agencies, tribes, and the public are encouraged to review and comment on the proposed project and its probable environmental impacts. There is a 14-day comment period for this review. This may be your only opportunity to comment. All written comments received by 5:00 p.m. on **March 28, 2023** will be considered prior to issuing the final SEPA determination. Please reference file numbers (SEPA-2023-0032) and applicant's name (City of Sunnyside) in any correspondence you submit. You can mail your comments to:

**Trevor Martin, AICP, Community & Economic Development Director**  
**City of Sunnyside, Community and Economic Development Department**  
**818 E. Edison Ave., Sunnyside, WA 98944**

**NOTICE OF DECISION** A copy of the decision and the SEPA threshold determination will be mailed to parties of record and entities who were provided this notice once it is rendered. The file containing the complete application is available for public review at the City of Sunnyside, City Hall, 818 E. Edison Ave. If you have any questions on this proposal, please contact Trevor Martin, AICP, CED Director, at (509) 836-6393 or e-mail at [tmartin@sunntside-wa.gov](mailto:tmartin@sunntside-wa.gov).

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

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.

## ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

## ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:***

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

## **A. Background** [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [Maple Grove MS4 Restoration Project](#)
2. Name of applicant: [City of Sunnyside](#)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [Trevor Martin, AICP, 509-836-6393](#)
4. Date checklist prepared: [March 7, 2023](#)
5. Agency requesting checklist: [Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [April 2023](#)
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [No, the City is planning to restore the MS4 and have it function as originally intended.](#)
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [A Technical Memorandum is attached to this document.](#)
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [None at this time](#)
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [A SEPA Environmental Checklist and mitigation plan are required for this action.](#)
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.) [The City of Sunnyside has proposed to restore an approximately 400 foot portion of the MS4, along Yakima Valley Highway and Maple Grove Rd., back to its original condition. The City will be removing several yards of sand, corrugated steel piping, and a concrete manhole.](#)
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. [The obstruction of the MS4 was created by the property owner at 10 Maple Grove in Sunnyside, WA. The property owner placed several yards of sand, piping, and a manhole in the MS4 in an unpermitted attempt to pipe the ditch. The city will be removing the material and restoring the ditch back to its original condition.](#)

## **B. Environmental Elements** [\[HELP\]](#)

1. **Earth** [\[help\]](#)

- a. General description of the site: [Flat ditch line running adjacent Yakima Valley Highway sloping towards the east.](#)

(circle one)  Flat,  rolling,  hilly,  steep slopes,  mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? ~1%
- 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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [Loam \(Zillah Sandy Loam\)](#)
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [No](#)
- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [Removing several yards of sandy fill in an area of about 4,000 square feet. Removing the fill will help restore the MS4 to its original state for the confluence of water towards the east.](#)
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [Erosion could occur along the ditch line, within the City right-of-way, from equipment placement on the embankment of the MS4.](#)
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [None](#)
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [The City will work with the State to obtain all required permits and provide any necessary plans.](#)

## 2. Air [\[help\]](#)

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [None other than the standard emission from City vehicles.](#)
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [None](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [The City will work with all necessary agencies to obtain necessary permits.](#)

## 3. Water [\[help\]](#)

- a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

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)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [Yes, the site is directly adjacent wetlands to the north of the site. The site itself is a MS4 ditch](#)

which carries surface water east, into the City of Sunnyside. There are no designated names for the wetlands, a description of the space can be found in the attached memorandum.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. Yes, the City will be removing several yards of sand and the MS4 is directly adjacent a state mapped wetland. However, no staging and no operation for the cleanup will take place in the wetland. All staging and action will take place in the City right-of-way.
- 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. The adjacent property owner brought in enough fill to fill in a MS4 ditch that is approximately 400 feet in length, at approximately three feet wide and three feet deep. The City will be removing all of the fill sand that has been placed in the MS4, restoring the ditch to its original state.
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. No
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. No

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No
- 2) 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. None

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). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. The action will be restoring a section of the MS4 that was filled with sand and corrugated steel piping through an unpermitted action from the adjacent property owner. The purpose of the MS4 is to collect surface water.
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. [No](#)

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: [The purpose of this project is to restore an existing MS4 ditch, which will allow adjacent properties to continue to drain as they were initially designed.](#)

#### 4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

a. Check the 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

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

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?

[None](#)

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

[None known](#)

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

[None](#)

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

[Cordgrass, hogweed, knapweed, and thistle](#)

#### 5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. [None known](#)

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

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

[None](#)

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, the state of Washington is Part of the Pacific Flyway

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

NONE

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None

## 6. **Energy and Natural Resources** [\[help\]](#)

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.

None

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

No

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

## 7. **Environmental Health** [\[help\]](#)

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? If so, describe. **No**

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None known

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. **None**

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **None**

**b. Noise**

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [Typical noise from City equipment and vehicles that will be on site during removal of the material in the MS4.](#)
- 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. [Short term noise, vehicle and operating equipment. Work will take place during standard business hours, between 7am-5pm.](#)
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [None](#)

**8. Land and Shoreline Use** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [The project site is the MS4 drainage ditch, and directly adjacent the ditch is a meat packing facility.](#)
- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [No](#)
  - 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: [No](#)
- c. Describe any structures on the site.  
[None, directly adjacent the MS4 ditch, is a meat packaging facility that will not be impacted during the removal of the material in the MS4.](#)
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [No](#)
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [B2 – General Commercial](#)
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [Commercial](#)
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [Not Applicable](#)
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [Yes, the site is directly adjacent a wetland and within the MS4 drainage ditch.](#)
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [None](#)

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [None](#)
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [None](#)
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [None](#)
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [None](#)

### **9. Housing** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [None](#)
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [None](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [None](#)

### **10. Aesthetics** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [None](#)
- 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](#)

### **11. Light and Glare** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [None](#)
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [None](#)
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [None](#)
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [None](#)

### **12. Recreation** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [None](#)
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [None](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [None](#)

### **13. Historic and cultural preservation** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe. [None](#)
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [None](#)
- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [None](#)
- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required. [None](#)

#### **14. Transportation** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [The portion of the MS4 is directly adjacent Yakima County Highway/Wine Country Road, and Swan Road in Sunnyside, WA.](#)
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [No](#)
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [None](#)
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [No](#)
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [No](#)
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [None](#)
- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. [No](#)
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [None](#)

#### **15. Public Services** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **No**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None**

**16. Utilities** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:  
 electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,  
 other – [Irrigation and drainage](#) \_\_\_\_\_
- 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. **None**

**C. Signature** [\[HELP\]](#)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signee Trevor Martin, AICP

Position and Agency/Organization City of Sunnyside

Date Submitted: March 14, 2023

**D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions** [\[HELP\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to 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?  
**The proposal would not have any increased adverse impacts. The City would be removing illegally placed discharge in the MS4.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:  
**None proposed**

- 2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life? **Not likely**

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?

Not likely

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

No proposed measure

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?

This project would not impact any sensitive areas, the work proposed is within City of Sunnyside right-of-way

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?

Not Applicable

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

None

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

Not Applicable

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.

None

**Date:** January 16, 2023

**Project No.:** 23015G

**To:** City of Sunnyside  
818 E. Edison Avenue  
Yakima, WA 98944

**Attention:** Shane Fisher  
Public Works Director

**From:** Dean P. Smith, PE 

**Re:** City of Sunnyside  
MS4 STORMWATER SYSTEM  
10 Maple Grove Road Ditch Restoration  
WAR 046-009

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## **BACKGROUND**

As part of the City of Sunnyside's MS4 General Stormwater Permit (WAR 046-009), regulated by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the City is required to ensure the integrity of roadside ditches as they are part of the stormwater management system.

In October 2022, the City of Sunnyside identified unpermitted facilities at 10 Maple Grove Road by the property owner, that included installation of a drain culvert, a drainage structure, and backfill material. The unpermitted facilities are isolated to a roadside ditch along the west side of Maple Grove Road and north side of Yakima Valley Highway (YVH). The City instructed the owner of the property at 10 Maple Grove Road to cease and desist all work being performed within the City limits and City right-of-way. Subsequently, Ecology was notified of the finding.

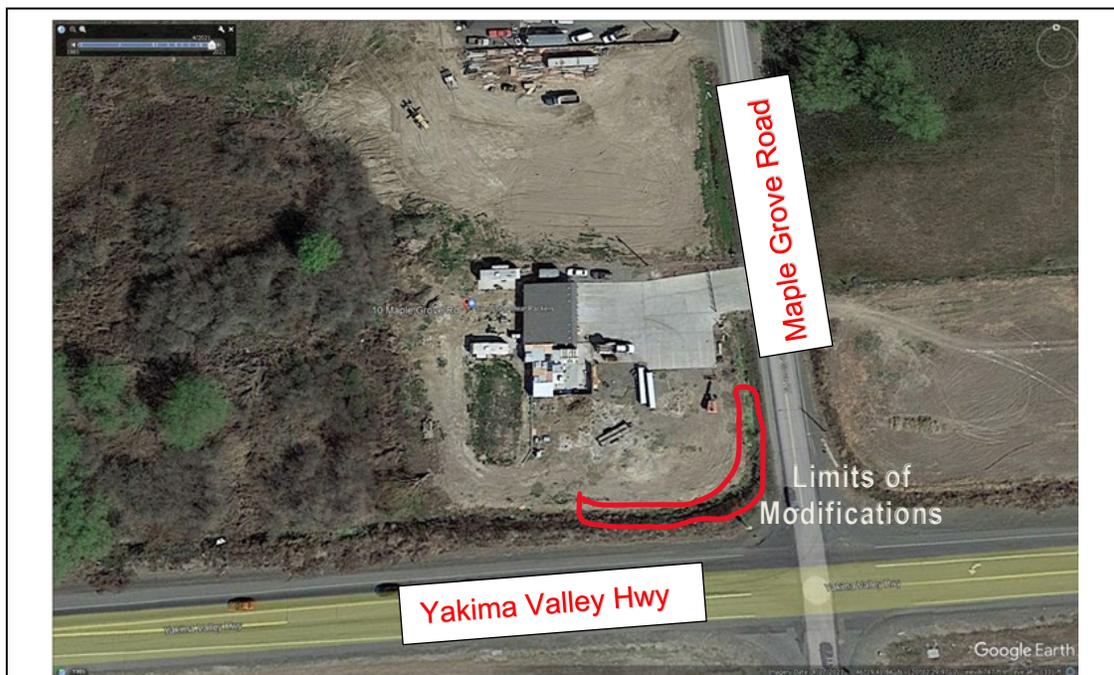
## **CONDITIONS PRIOR TO MODIFICATIONS**

The ditch conveys stormwater and irrigation wastewater from outside of the City limits to an existing culvert under YVH and to an irrigation canal on the southside of YVH. Yakima County has classified the ditch as part of a manmade stream and is identified in the County's 2013 Critical Area Ordinance (see attached). Immediately upstream of the ditch is a wetland as evidenced by standing water assumed to be from shallow groundwater in the property east of 10 Maple Grove Road. Overflow from this wetland drains through the ditch to the culvert passing under YVH.

Photos (below) obtained from Google Earth, dated September 2022, show the state of the ditch shortly after modifications began. These photos show an open ditch on the north side of YVH and west side of Maple Grove Road. The ditch within the City limits is part of the City's MS4 system.



View looking southeast on Maple Grove Road at intersection of YVH.



Overhead view of 10 Maple Grove Road  
(northwest corner of YVH and Maple Grove Road).

**CURRENT CONDITIONS**

As shown in the photos below, adjacent to the property owned by David and Dianne Rand at 10 Maple Grove Road, a conveyance pipe, manhole structure, and sand backfill was installed without engineering, permits, and approval and inspection by the City of Sunnyside. The pipe is either 6-inch or 8-inch corrugated metal pipe. Invert elevations are unknown.

HLA's initial assessment without completing a hydraulic analysis is flow capacity of the added pipe is not equivalent to the ditch profile in place prior to the modifications. Therefore, a backwater and surcharge condition are anticipated which will affect the upstream property. Corrugated metal pipe is not permitted for this use because of the corrosive nature of the native soils. Additionally, sand is not a permitted backfill material within the City of Sunnyside.



Corner of Maple Grove Road and YVH looking south (above) and looking east (right).



Photos of structure installed adjacent to northwest intersection of YVH and Maple Grove Road.

## **RESTORATION PROCEDURES**

The pipe, structure, and backfill material are not satisfactory to be considered an equivalent improvement compared to the existing ditch. To restore the roadway ditch, the following steps are recommended:

- Seek coverage under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction general stormwater permit.
- Complete SEPA Checklist as required.
- Meet with City of Sunnyside staff to coordinate schedule and inspection.
- Prepare traffic control plan to close one lane of YVH and Maple Grove Road to complete the restoration work. The lane shall remain closed until the ditch is stabilized.
- Schedule work to be performed during period when rain or snow runoff is not occurring. If required, use a VacTruck to keep the area from filling with water while performing work.
- Prior to starting work, install filter fabric or temporary plug at the inlet of the existing culvert passing under YVH toward the south to prevent sand and debris from conveying into the culvert during restoration activities. If needed, a temporary Check Dam for Best Management Practices (BMP) meeting Ecology standards could be utilized to restrict the flow of water while cleanup operations are in process.
- Remove sand and pipe from roadside ditch on the north side of YVH and west side of Maple Grove Road.
- Remove concrete structure adjacent to northwest corner of roadway without disturbing the existing culvert passing under YVH.
- Reestablish invert grade of roadside ditch to ensure drainage from the west and north to the existing culvert passing under YVH, and grade as necessary to ensure drainage adjacent to ditches is graded away to prevent surface water runoff from the property at 10 Maple Grove Road.
- Stabilize ditch bottom and side slopes by seeding with native drought resistant seed mix. Install geomat to help seed take hold during first year of growth.
- After work is complete, remove the check dam in ditch, filter fabric, or temporary plug installed at the inlet of the culvert passing under YVH.

Notice was received on January 10, 2023, from Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) that Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) is not required. Also on January 10, 2023, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responded that a permit is not required by their agency.



Responses to comments from Ecology email dated January 9, 2023, to Raul Sanchez, City of Sunnyside:

Hi Raul,

Thanks for sending the Restoration Plan for Maple Grove ditch to Ecology. I do have a few questions and comments, listed below.

1. There is no reference to completing SEPA. **ADDED**
2. Contact WDFW for a determination if an HPA is required. **CONTACTED ERIC BARTRAND REGARDING NEED FOR HPA. HE STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED.**
3. Contact Dave Moore ([david.j.moore@usace.army.mil](mailto:david.j.moore@usace.army.mil)) at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for determination if a permit is required or if the activity is exempt. A new definition of Waters of the U.S. was just issued and will be effective 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register* (see this Fact Sheet for more information: [Public Fact Sheet Revised Definition of Waters of the United States Final Rule \(epa.gov\)](#)) **DAVE MOORE WAS CONTACTED AND A RESPONSE WAS PROVIDED THAT A PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED.**
4. Seeking coverage under NPDES construction general stormwater permit should be at the top of the list. **REVISED AND ADDED.**
5. A temporary plug will be utilized, however, there is no discussion of where flows will temporarily be routed to and how the bypass will be dispersed. **PERFORM WORK WHEN FLOW IS LOW. IF REQUIRED, USE VAC TRUCK TO KEEP WORK AREA FROM FILLING WITH WATER WHEN PERFORMING WORK. A CHECK DAM CAN BE INSTALLED PRIOR TO THE CULVERT TO REDUCE FLOW.**
6. How will the bottom of the ditch be stabilized? **INSTALL GEOMAT ON BOTTOM AND SIDES OF DITCH TO ALLOW SEEDING TO TAKE HOLD AND STABILIZE DITCH BOTTOM (ADDED TO RESTORATION PROCEDURES).**
7. Seed mixes should be a *native* drought resistant seed mix. **REVISED AND ADDED.**
8. Is a traffic-control plan going to be prepared or will the work be done from the right-of-way adjacent to the private property? **THE CITY'S PREFERENCE IS FOR A TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN TO BE PREPARED ALLOWING FOR A LANE CLOSURE. DESCRIPTION ADDED TO THE NARRATIVE.**

We're available to offer review of any sediment and erosion control plans when prepared as well. Please let me know if you or HLA have questions about the above comments and questions.

Thanks,

Andrea Jedel, PWS  
Municipal Stormwater Permit Implementation Planner  
Ecology Water Quality Program – CRO  
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