

**45<sup>th</sup> Ave SW Culvert Replacement  
SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

Description of Proposal

SPU owns and maintains a 24-inch diameter, 220-foot-long, vitrified clay culvert conveying Fautleroy Creek under 45<sup>th</sup> Ave SW in the Fautleroy neighborhood of the City of Seattle. The culvert is a complete fish passage barrier and is failing. This Project would replace the existing culvert with a 14-foot-wide, 237-foot-long, three-sided, open-bottom culvert. The new culvert would meet State requirements for passage of fish and stream flows. Additionally, the Project would restore wetland, riparian, and streambed habitat in areas up to 180 feet upstream and up to 80 feet downstream of the replacement culvert. The Project would also construct a small public amenities area ('45<sup>th</sup> Ave SW Landing') at street level and would include a stair system for worker access to the new culvert.

The Project is designed to:

- Replace a failing culvert
- Improve safety of SPU maintenance crews with improved access conditions
- Restore fish passage
- Engage the floodplain and improve adjacent riparian and wetland habitat
- Increase climate resiliency with a culvert design accommodating a range of flows
- Build opportunities for community connection to the Fautleroy Creek watershed
- Ensure compatibility with the anticipated future California Ave SW culvert replacement

The general construction sequence, which may be refined by the contractor, is currently understood to be as follows:

- Close a portion of 45<sup>th</sup> Ave SW between SW Director St and just north of the intersection at SW Wildwood Place and develop a detour.
- Prepare site and temporarily relocate utilities.
- Install a temporary creek bypass system and erosion protection measures.
- Install drilled soldier piles and shoring to support construction of the new culvert through the roadway, including excavation, dewatering, and access for construction equipment, materials, and personnel.
- Remove the existing 24-inch-diameter culvert and construct a new 14-foot-wide culvert with an open bottom.
- Construct creek habitat enhancements including large woody material (LWM), streambed gravels, and habitat boulders.
- Backfill deep excavation area to roadway grade.
- Construct maintenance stairs, retaining walls, and public amenities.
- Install plantings and slope stabilization measures.
- Remove the temporary bypass system, restore utilities, restore street-level improvements, and demobilize.
- Monitor post-construction conditions.

Proponent

Seattle Public Utilities  
Seattle Municipal Tower Suite 4900  
P.O. Box 34018  
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Location of Proposal

The Project area is located on 45<sup>th</sup> Ave SW in West Seattle, between SW Wildwood Pl and SW Director St (Figure 1). The existing culvert runs east-west under 45<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. The Project extent is approximately 300 feet upstream and downstream of the roadway center. The culvert is approximately 200 feet north of the intersection of 45<sup>th</sup> Ave SW and SW Wildwood Pl (Township 24N, Range 3E, Section 35 (SW quarter).

Lead Agency

Seattle Public Utilities, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the issuance date below. A copy of the environmental checklist is available online at

<http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/construction-impacts>

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by March 17, 2025 and must be sent by email to:

Nathan Hart, SEPA Responsible Official  
Seattle Public Utilities  
[nathan.hart@seattle.gov](mailto:nathan.hart@seattle.gov)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nathan Hart

Issue Date: March 3, 2025

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by an \$85 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2025. Please see the Office of the Hearing Examiner web site for Temporary Operating Rules During COVID-19: <http://www.seattle.gov/hearing-examiner>