

***Attachment No. 1***

***Section 6 – Description of Crossing Construction/Reconstruction (Question No. 1)***

The existing 6-foot wide culvert/underpass through the embankment is tasked with conveying Lund's Gulch Creek, a coastal salmon-bearing stream, gulch sediments, and serves as the only legal access for 65,000 park visitors and 16 environmental and recreational groups seeking saltwater beach access at one of only three Snohomish County parks along Puget Sound. Disrupted shoreline processes due to shoreline armoring and increased storm events over the last decade result in sediment deposition, flooding and prevailing high water levels in the culvert. Park patrons determined to get to the beach either choose to wade through critical habitat in fast flowing water or illegally trespass over the railway tracks ignoring signs and cutting fencing and making rogue trails through inhospitable vegetation. This section of railroad, which services BNSF, Union Pacific, Amtrak, and Sound Transit has high daily volumes of freight, passenger and commuter railroad traffic which will likely increase over time, making this project time-sensitive. The proposed project will provide an Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant pedestrian path under the south abutment span. The proposed Underpass Trail is now separated from critical habitat and no longer subject to flooding. The proposed railroad bridge will address the public safety issue at this location, which is the focus of this petition. In addition, the expanded opening, from 6-feet (existing culvert/underpass) to 102-feet provided by the railroad bridge allows re-establishment of a historic (pre-railroad) estuary that will provide critical habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed juvenile Chinook (threatened) and other salmonids, as well as restore coastal processes such as sediment delivery for beach nourishment and widened channel meander.