



Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Multimodal Development and Delivery

## **Environmental Policy Statement**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Purpose**

Washington state law directs the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) “to enhance Washington’s quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment” (Revised Code of Washington [\[RCW\] 47.04.280\(1\)\(f\)](#)). WSDOT is committed to environmental protection, sustainability, and resilience. We recognize that our operations have the potential to impact the environment. We are committed to avoiding and minimizing adverse environmental impacts through proactive measures and continuous improvement.

The purpose of this Agency Policy is to provide clear direction on meeting WSDOT’s environmental responsibilities and to establish the framework for integrating environmental considerations into the agency’s operations and decision making. This framework includes tracking and fulfilling all environmental commitments that we make through compliance with laws, regulations, permits, and agreements.

#### **B. Supersession**

This Agency Policy supersedes and replaces Secretary’s Executive Order E 1018.03 with the same title, dated November 3, 2020. All references to the superseded E 1018.03 now reference P 1018.04.

#### **C. What Has Changed**

This Agency Policy makes the following changes from E 1018.03:

- In Subsection I.A, it adds and revises language, elaborating on WSDOT’s formal commitments.
- In Section II, it revises language throughout the section, including language about WSDOT’s values and goals.
- In Section III, it revises language throughout the section. This includes language about management and employee responsibilities, environmental contacts, environmental policy and procedures, environmental workforce development, and managing environmental commitments.
- In Section IV, it updates the contact information.

- In Section V, it adds to the list of references.
- In Section VI, it replaces a reference to the Secretary of Transportation with a reference to the Assistant Secretary of Multimodal Development and Delivery.

## II. Policy

WSDOT's employees are directed to conduct business in a safe, inclusive, and environmentally responsible manner that protects the human and the natural environment of the state.

Our efforts are guided by the agency's Strategic Plan values and goals:

- WSDOT will make informed decisions, take actions, and fulfill commitments to protect the environment, conserve resources for future generations, and effectively respond to the needs of overburdened communities and vulnerable populations in Washington state.
- WSDOT will promote sustainable practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural habitats and water quality.

To meet these expectations, it is necessary for WSDOT to work collaboratively with our communities, tribal governments, regulators, and transportation partners. WSDOT will:

- Engage all communities that are likely to be affected by proposed transportation plans and projects, including overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
- Enhance our decision-making processes to advance environmental justice and reduce disparities between communities.
- Work with the tribes and federal, state, and local agencies to protect our state's natural and cultural resources.
- Consult with tribes in order to protect treaty reserved rights and resources.
- Benefit the environment and the health and safety of our residents as we improve, operate, and maintain our state's multimodal transportation systems, consistent with the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act ([RCW 70A.02](#)).
- Track and fulfill all environmental commitments that are made.

Environmental stewardship is fundamental to WSDOT's goals. To inform agency decisions, the cultural, historic, and environmental context should be considered in plans, projects, and activities, and all community perspectives should be sought and considered. We ensure accountability by tracking and fulfilling our environmental commitments and reporting our environmental performance. We strive for the most effective and efficient environmental review and approval processes possible. Employees are encouraged to innovate and apply lean principles to achieve continuous improvement in our environmental performance.

WSDOT implements the agency's Environmental Compliance Assurance Policies (ECAPs) in accordance with [RCW 47.85.040](#) *Environmental training and compliance* during applicable phases of transportation project delivery.

## III. Information to Carry Out This Policy

### A. Management Responsibilities

All managers and supervisors are expected to be familiar with this Agency Policy, demonstrate WSDOT's commitment to environmental stewardship, and ensure our

agency's environmental policies and procedures are followed. Managers and supervisors will support and provide the direction, training, and other resources necessary so employees they manage or supervise can effectively implement WSDOT's environmental policies and procedures.

## **B. Employee Responsibilities**

All employees are expected to implement relevant environmental policies and procedures when performing their work. This includes, but is not limited to, environmental impact avoidance and mitigation, pollution prevention, and compliance with environmental laws, regulations, treaties, commitments, and agreements during project planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations.

All WSDOT employees are expected to:

- Be familiar with and follow the direction of this Agency Policy.
- Include community perspectives in decisions that can affect communities.
- Communicate environmental stewardship and compliance issues and concerns to coworkers, their supervisor, and appropriate environmental staff.

WSDOT employees that manage, oversee, or perform environmental work are further expected to:

- Maintain an awareness of all environmental policies and procedures applicable to their work. This includes developing and maintaining knowledge and awareness by taking relevant trainings as needed.
- Maintain an awareness of all environmental commitments applicable to their work, consistently track all environmental commitments using WSDOT's Commitment Tracking System (CTS), and ensure those commitments are fulfilled.
- Communicate roles, responsibilities, and expectations to contractors, consultants, and transportation partners regarding the best management practices, safety and environmental hazards, and environmental commitments that WSDOT has established.
- Understand WSDOT's [Community Engagement Plan](#) guidelines for how the agency engages with partners, stakeholders, tribes, and communities for all WSDOT efforts, as well as best practices, direction on tools to evaluate and understand the nature and needs of potentially affected people, processes supporting equity and inclusion, and methods for engaging those who face barriers to participation.
- Understand WSDOT's obligations and commitments under the federal Civil Rights Act and state Healthy Environment for All Act. Information about WSDOT's Environmental Justice and Title VI requirements is available on the [Environmental justice webpage](#).
- Quickly recognize and correct environmentally non-compliant work as outlined in WSDOT's Environmental Compliance Assurance Policies.
- Share and learn from past compliance experiences to continuously improve WSDOT's environmental compliance performance.

## C. Resources and Other Information

### 1. Environmental Contacts

WSDOT has environmental managers and subject matter experts throughout the agency. Statewide policy and procedures are set by the following offices: Environmental Services, Local Programs, Maintenance Operations, and Ferries. In addition, designated environmental staff in the regions and modes work closely with headquarters and serve as the primary source of environmental support for region and modal activities and project delivery. For contact information, see Section IV.

### 2. Environmental Policy and Procedures

WSDOT's [Environmental Manual](#) M 31-11 provides policy for complying with federal, state, tribal, and local environmental laws and regulations during all phases of the transportation decision-making process. The [Environmental Manual](#) is referenced in other internal agency manuals to provide consistency across all program areas. The [Environmental Manual](#) is supported by online technical guidance, procedures, and tools to help regional and modal staff and consultants fulfill environmental requirements.

### 3. Environmental Workforce Development

WSDOT supports environmental training and other environmental workforce development efforts. This is to ensure that those employees who are responsible for managing, supervising, and performing environmental work can effectively implement WSDOT's environmental policy and procedures and also track and fulfill all environmental commitments. Further, WSDOT supports right-sized training for all staff to better understand and integrate environmental goals into all aspects of WSDOT's work. For more information, see the [Environmental training webpage](#).

### 4. Managing Environmental Commitments

WSDOT maintains the environmental Commitment Tracking System (CTS) to track all project-level environmental commitments (such as permit conditions and commitments made during tribal consultations) and environmentally non-compliant work during design and construction. Utilizing CTS helps the agency ensure all environmental commitments are consistently tracked and fulfilled.

WSDOT design, construction, maintenance, and operations programs follow Environmental Compliance Assurance Policies (ECAPs). The primary purpose of the ECAPs is to help the agency quickly recognize and correct environmentally non-compliant work during all phases of transportation asset management. Environmentally non-compliant work is defined as actions that violate environmental permits or authorizations, verbal or written agreements, laws, or regulations. The secondary purpose of the ECAPs is to help the agency learn from our collective experiences and continuously improve our environmental compliance performance agencywide. WSDOT reports a summary of violations of environmental permits and regulations to the Legislature and Washington State Department of Ecology each year on March 1st ([RCW 47.85.040](#)).

Washington State Ferries (WSF) follows compliance procedures outlined in the [WSF Terminal Design Manual](#) M 3082 for design, construction, and maintenance, and WSF's Safety Management System protocols for environmental protection and pollution prevention during terminal and vessel operations.

#### IV. Contact for More Information

For questions or concerns about this Agency Policy, contact the Headquarters Environmental Services Office by phone at 360-705-7483 or contact statewide environmental subject matter experts and managers. Contact information is available through the discipline links on the [Environmental guidance webpage](#). Each discipline's page contains contact information on the "Contacts" tab.

#### V. References

- [RCW 47.01.440](#) *Adoption of statewide goals to reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by 2050—Department's duties—Reports to the legislature*
- [RCW 47.04.280](#) *Transportation system policy goals*
- [RCW 47.85.040](#) *Environmental training and compliance*
- [RCW 70A.02](#) *Environmental justice*
- [RCW 70A.45.020](#) *Greenhouse gas emissions reductions—Reporting requirements*
- [Governor's Executive Order 18-02](#) *Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery and Task Force*
- [Governor's Executive Order 20-01](#) *State Efficiency and Environmental Performance*
- Secretary's Executive Order E 1025 *Tribal Consultation*
- Secretary's Executive Order E 1031 *Protections and Connections for High Quality Natural Habitats*
- Secretary's Executive Order E 1087 *Title VI Policy*
- Secretary's Executive Order E 1102 *Wetlands Protection and Preservation*
- Secretary's Executive Order E 1113 *Sustainability*
- [Construction Manual](#) M 41-01, Section SS 1-07.5, "Environmental Regulations," Environmental Compliance Assurance Policy
- [Design Manual](#) M 22-01, Section 225.05(1), "Environmental Compliance During Design Phase"
- [Environmental Manual](#) M 31-11
- [Local Agency Guidelines](#) M 36-63
- [WSF Terminal Design Manual](#) M 3082
- WSDOT [Community Engagement Plan](#) webpage
- WSDOT [Environmental guidance webpage](#)
- WSDOT [Environmental justice webpage](#)
- WSDOT [Environmental training webpage](#)
- WSDOT [Title VI/Limited English Proficiency webpage](#)

## **VI. Review and Update Requirements**

When changes are necessary to update this document, inform the Director of the Development Division.

The Director of the Development Division reviews this document periodically and proposes updates for leadership review and approval by the Assistant Secretary of Multimodal Development and Delivery.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information**

This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equity and Civil Rights at [wslotada@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wslotada@wsdot.wa.gov) or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.