

**NOTICE OF  
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT  
MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (MDNS)**

**Port of Olympia  
SEPA 25-01**

**Project Name:** Olympia Regional Airport Master Plan Update

**Proponent:** Port of Olympia  
606 Columbia St NW, Suite 300  
Olympia, WA 98501

**Lead Agency:** Port of Olympia

**Location of Proposal:** 7643 Old Highway 99 SE, Tumwater, Washington 98501.

**Description of Proposal:** The Port of Olympia has updated its Airport Master Plan for the Olympia Regional Airport. The Port last completed an Airport Master Plan update in 2014; however, changes in the aviation industry and in local conditions necessitated an update to the Master Plan to allow for continued operation of the Airport consistent with current conditions and the regulatory environment. The updated Airport Master Plan describes existing Airport facilities and revises the list of recommended improvements and potential development alternatives given projected regional aviation demand.

**Mitigation Measures:** Projects undertaken pursuant to the Master Plan update will include, but not be limited to, the following mitigation measures intended to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts:

- All future maintenance and development projects will undergo environmental review upon implementation, consistent with rules under the State Environmental Policy Act ("SEPA") and all other federal, state, and local environmental regulations and permits.
- The following measures will be taken to protect sensitive, threatened or endangered species and their habitat:
  - The Port will continue work on the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan ("HCP") with the City of Tumwater and USFWS. The draft HCP strives to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to Streaked Horned Lark and Olympia Pocket Gopher populations.
  - All development activities will comply with the Endangered Species Act and where required will consult with the USFWS through Section 7 or Section 10 consultation or as approved in an Incidental Take Permit resulting from approval of the HCP.
  - The Port is partnering with WDFW to conduct a comprehensive streaked horned lark nesting study on the airport beginning in spring 2025.
  - Assistance will be provided to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and other resource agencies in monitoring the identified sensitive species.
  - The Port will provide airfield access to resource agency and conservancy personnel.
  - The Port will limit non-operational access to minimize impact to identified habitat areas.
  - The Port will continue to remove or cut invasive plant species that are detrimental to larks and gophers or their habitat.

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- The Port will continue to maintain landscaping and mowing regimes in a manner conducive to lark and gopher habitat.
- The Port will continue to minimize activities during the nesting season that may impact the lark as required by applicable laws and permits.
- The Port will continue to minimize impervious surfaces and retain or replant the maximum amount of grass with minimal trees or woody shrubs.
- Potential emissions related environmental impacts associated with future construction projects included in the Airport Master Plan Update will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time such projects are proposed. During any future proposed construction projects, compliance with all local, state, and federal air quality regulations would be required of all contractors.
- The Port is preparing for a transition to unleaded aviation fuel and will implement the transition as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.
- Noise impacts associated with future projects will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Operational noise mitigation is achieved through compliance with FAA standards and the Olympia Airport Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures listed on the Olympia airport website.
- Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (“CSWPPP”), including Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control, will be implemented during construction to avoid and minimize impacts to the environment. All future development will comply with federal, state, and local stormwater regulations and standards.
- During construction, dust impacts will be controlled by best management practices and implementation of the CSWPPP.
- No waste material will be discharged to groundwater. To manage the spill prevention of hazardous and waste materials during construction, the project contractor will implement a spill prevention and response plan. Construction work will be monitored, maintained, and adjusted as necessary to meet changing conditions.
- Excavated soils containing petroleum hydrocarbons or any other hazardous substances will be disposed of in a manner consistent with the level of contamination, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, by a qualified contractor(s), and the Department of Ecology notified, if appropriate.
- If suspected archeological or cultural resources are encountered during construction, the Port will follow its existing construction specifications that include procedures the contractor is required to follow. The procedures require protection of potential archeological or cultural resources until the appropriate persons and/or agencies are notified and have an opportunity to review discoveries.
- Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil, or fuel transfer valves and fittings on all construction equipment will be checked regularly for leaks and will be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills.
- Contractors will comply with all permit conditions and applicable local, state and federal requirements governing sensitive species and their habitat.
- The Port will work with the FAA to ensure compliance with FAA Order 5190.6B, Airports Compliance Handbook; and

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**Responsible Official:** Shawn Gilbertson  
Director of Environmental Planning and Programs  
Port of Olympia  
(360) 528-8061

**Date of Issuance:** February 6, 2025

**Determination:** This environmental evaluation has been conducted in accordance with the provision of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under Chapter 42.31C, Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 197-11 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and Port of Olympia Resolution No. 2008-20, Revised SEPA Policies and Procedures. As lead agency, the Port has determined that the Olympia Regional Airport Master Plan Update establishes a policy-level framework to apply to potential development. All future development projects undertaken pursuant to the updated Master Plan will be reviewed under SEPA and/or NEPA at the project level. As mitigated, the environmental impacts from the adoption of the Master Plan Update are not likely to be significant and an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 34.21C.030(2)(c).

This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist, the Airport Master Plan Update, applicable state laws and regulations, and Port of Olympia policies, which are on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

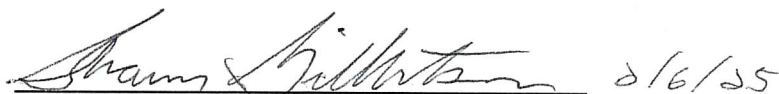
This Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-350; the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance.

**Public Comment:** Comments must be received by **5:00 p.m., February 20, 2025**  
Comments sent via e-mail should be sent to [sepa@portolympia.com](mailto:sepa@portolympia.com)  
Comments sent by mail must be received by the deadline. Mail to:  
Shawn Gilbertson  
Port of Olympia  
606 Columbia St NW, Suite 300  
Olympia, WA 98501

**Appeal Procedure:** Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.075, this Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance may be appealed by any agency or aggrieved person. Appeals must be filed with the Responsible Official within twenty-one (21) calendar days from the end of the comment period.

**Appeal Deadline:** Appeals must be received by **March 13, 2025**.

**Issued by:**

 2/6/25

Shawn Gilbertson  
Port of Olympia, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs

**Date:** February 6, 2025