

Memorandum

March 13, 2019

To: Tim Bell, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Anna Spooner, Anchor QEA, LLC

cc: Michael Hankinson, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Peter Hummel, Anchor QEA, LLC

Re: Fort Worden Marine Facilities Preliminary Evaluation Criteria

These preliminary evaluation criteria are based on the project goals and background information findings. The following preliminary criteria should be used as a starting point, then refined, with ongoing Washington State Parks and stakeholder input, and will be used to evaluate the alternatives and guide the development of a preferred alternative.

Nearshore Habitat

- Minimize intertidal and subtidal overwater shading
- Protect, improve, and restore valuable habitats including eel grass
- Protect, improve, and restore habitat-forming processes like littoral drift

Sea Level Rise

- Plan for sea level rise and design to a 50-year projection (2070)
- Design for coastal resiliency
- Address Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements

Sustainability

- Design durable features using long-lasting materials such as concrete and steel
- Reduce life-cycle cost

Unified Marine Area

- Improve pedestrian circulation and visitor safety
- Consider trucks and trailers, cars, pedestrians, non-motorized and motorized boaters, students, bicyclists, and scuba divers

Flexibility

- Accommodate future expansion of environmental education

Recreation

- Support current and projected future levels of use
- Support destination recreation opportunities such as boating and fishing
- Improve circulation and safety

Historic Integrity

- Minimize upland excavation and ground disturbance
- Minimize pile driving in upland and intertidal areas
- Avoid impacts/changes to National Historic District (NHD) and National Historic Landmark (NHL) contributing resources
- Consider avoiding impacts/changes to NHD/NHL-eligible resources and potential resources (including Harbor Defense Way, open spaces, and other landscape elements)

Consistency with Existing Fort Worden Planning Efforts

- *Per Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Program Development and Capital Improvement Plan (2015):*
 - Improve physical and programmatic connections between Marine Science Center (MSC), Cablehouse Beach Canteen, and the beach
- *Per Port Townsend Marine Science Center Strategic Plan 2015–2025 (2014):*
 - “[E]nsure sustainable funding and infrastructure to support initiatives driving double impact for Visitor Experience, Lifelong Education, and Research/Citizen Science”
 - Provide a seamless indoor/outdoor transition for expanded MSC
- *Per Fort Worden Site and Facilities Plan Use and Development Plan Staff Recommendation (2008):*
 - Allow two new upland structures for MSC near the existing Cablehouse Beach Canteen and MSC orca exhibit
 - Consider expansion of existing building on the pier to accommodate MSC program expansion
 - Retain the existing configuration of boat launch and mooring area
 - Consider developing an artificial reef and underwater diving park, with supporting onshore facilities (showers, orientation area)

Permit Feasibility

- Avoid adverse impacts on listed species
- Limit building height in shoreline zone to 30 feet (above average grade)
- Minimize overwater cover; no net gain of overwater cover
- Minimize in-water fill

Cost

- Consider construction costs
 - Note that a cost estimate for each alternative is required for Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and should “provide enough information so decision makers have a general understanding of the costs” as stated in the specific OFM Project Predesign Applicable Elements agreed upon in fall 2018.
- Consider life-cycle costs
 - Limit requirement and/or extent of future maintenance and operational costs
 - Note that a life-cycle cost for each alternative is required for OFM

Schedule

- Minimize impacts to Fort Worden operations and Fort Worden visitors
- Minimize impacts to MSC operations
- Note that OFM required schedule estimates for each alternative including an estimated start, midpoint, and completion date for each