

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Boulevard/Cornwall Overwater Pedestrian Walkway Project

2. Name, address, and phone number of owner/decision maker:

Gina Gobo Austin, City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation, Design and Development Division,
3424 Meridian St., Bellingham, Washington 98225 (ph: 360.778.7000)

3. Name, address and phone number of contact person:

Derek Koellmann, Anchor QEA, LLC, 1605 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98225
(ph: 360.733.4311 x221)

4. Tax Assessor's Parcel Number and Legal Description of Subject Property (the parcel number is mandatory to begin processing of the application). Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project. If a proposal would occur over a large area, provide the boundaries of the site. Provide a complete legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. You are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist:

The Project is primarily located above submerged aquatic lands in the city of Bellingham in Whatcom County, Washington (Township 38 North, Range 2 East, Section 36). The Project area is adjacent to Bellingham Bay in north Puget Sound, which is connected to the Strait of Georgia (see Sheet 1, Appendix A: JARPA Drawing Sheets). The overwater walkway would extend from Boulevard Park (parcel number 3702010904950000) to the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site (parcel number 3802363863080000). The overwater walkway would be located on Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) tidelands (Lease #22-084455), with landings occurring on the adjacent publically-owned properties, none of which are assigned tax parcel numbers.

5. Street Address of Subject Property:

The walkway will occur over WDNR tidelands (Lease #22-084455), Bellingham, Washington 98225. Landing sites occur at Boulevard Park (470 Bayview Road, Bellingham, Washington 98225) and the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill (southern end of Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98225)

6. Neighborhood and Area Designation (as per Comprehensive Plan):

The Project is located within two different comprehensive plan designations: Public and Industrial/Waterfront Mixed Use.

7. Zoning/Land Use Designation of Subject Property (see Neighborhood Plan – required for processing):

Industrial/Waterfront Mixed-Use (former Cornwall Avenue Landfill end)
and Public (Boulevard Park end)

8. Date checklist prepared:

June 9, 2010

9. Department requesting checklist:

City of Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department

10. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Construction is anticipated to begin in July 2012. The entire Project, including demolition and construction, is expected to take approximately 42 to 46 weeks to complete. In-water work is expected to take approximately 14 weeks to complete. However, the duration and total period of in-water work would be affected by several factors, including the type of construction equipment and procedures selected by the contractor, and the sequencing of work elements. If it is necessary to perform certain work at night during a low tide, appropriate City of Bellingham (City), Whatcom County, and any other necessary approvals would be obtained.

In-water work timing will occur according to the allowable USACE and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) work windows for Bellingham Bay and/or in accordance with the requirements and conditions of the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) issued by WDFW and appropriate concurrence recommendations identified by the federal agencies during Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation. The expected in-water work window for the Project is from July 16 to January 21 in the years in which construction will occur. The table below details the in-water work windows for the Project.

In-water Work Windows

Species	Month												Approved Work Windows by Species
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Salmon													July 2 to March 2
Bull Trout													July 16 to February 15
Herring													June 15 to January 21
Sand Lance													March 2 to October 14
Surf Smelt													N/A ¹

Note:

1 Surf smelt spawning occurs year-round.

11. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Further plans and activities related to the proposal include a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) remedial action for cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination at Boulevard Park and cleanup of contamination associated with the former landfill at the Cornwall Avenue site. There are also plans for shoreline repair, including shoreline armoring at the Boulevard Park site. Routine inspection and required maintenance of the overwater walkway is expected on an annual basis, but no future specific activities are anticipated related to construction of the Project.

12. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- *Boulevard Park Shoreline Assessment* (Reid Middleton 2008a)
- *Boulevard Park Overwater Walkway Eelgrass Habitat Memo* (Grette Associates 2009)
- *Boulevard Park Overwater Walkway Eelgrass Survey* (Reid Middleton 2008b)
- *Bellingham Boulevard Park, Pre-design Landscape Report* (Walker Macy 2008)
- *Final Draft Report: Initial Geotechnical Engineering Evaluation, Boulevard Park Shoreline and Overwater Walkway* (Reid Middleton 2009a)
- *Feasibility Report: Boulevard Park Shoreline and Overwater Walkway* (Reid Middleton 2009b)
- *Initial Cultural Resources Evaluation Memo: Phase I – Boulevard Park Shoreline and Overwater Walkway Project* (Landau Associates 2009)
- *Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form: Boulevard Over-Water Walkway Geotechnical Investigation* (Anchor QEA 2009)
- *An Archaeological survey of the Boulevard/Cornwall Overwater Pedestrian Walkway Project Area, Bellingham, Washington* (Wessen 2010)
- *Biological Assessment: Boulevard/Cornwall Overwater Pedestrian Walkway Project* (Anchor QEA 2010a)
- *Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form: Boulevard/Cornwall Overwater Pedestrian Walkway Project* (Anchor QEA 2010b)
- *Boulevard/Cornwall Overwater Pedestrian Walkway Mitigation Report* (Anchor QEA 2010c)

13. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

The overwater walkway is located within the boundaries of three MTCA sites that are regulated by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology): the Boulevard Park (also known as

the South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant [MGP] Site), Cornwall Avenue Landfill, and Whatcom Waterway sites. The Boulevard Park site is undergoing investigation under an Ecology Agreed Order (AO) for soil and groundwater contamination related to the former South State Street MGP. The Cornwall Avenue Landfill site is undergoing investigation under an Ecology AO for contamination associated with a former municipal landfill. The landings of the overwater walkway will fall within the boundaries of the Boulevard Park and Cornwall Avenue Landfill MTCA sites. The overwater walkway structure will cross over aquatic lands that are within the natural recovery area of the Whatcom Waterway site, which is undergoing cleanup and long-term monitoring consistent with the Whatcom Waterway Consent Decree. The Boulevard/Cornwall Overwater Pedestrian Walkway Project and the various MTCA projects are coordinated by the City. The landings for the walkway have been designed not to interfere with any future proposed restoration actions at the Boulevard Park and Cornwall Avenue Landfill MTCA sites.

To accommodate the construction of the overwater walkway landings, one or more MTCA interim remedial actions may need to occur to avoid delaying the implementation of the Project. Any needed remedial activities will be coordinated through, and approved by, Ecology.

14. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 and Section 10 permits
- Federal Highway Administration National Environmental Policy Act compliance
- Ecology Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Coastal Zone Management Consistency Approval
- WDNR Aquatic Resources Use Authorization
- WDFW HPA
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) concurrence
- NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) ESA concurrence
- Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section 106 concurrence
- City of Bellingham Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (SSDP) and Conditional Use Permit (CUP)

15. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page:

The new facility will include a new overwater walkway, 7 to 14 feet in width, with benches.

The walkway will be constructed of steel and concrete with wood pedestrian guardrails to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The landing to the south will connect to

Boulevard Park, which is connected to the Coast Millennium Trail route. The connection to the north at the former Cornwall Avenue site is connected to the waterfront district. Project elements include:

- Overwater precast and cast-in-place pile caps, precast deck panels, a finish slab, posts and pedestrian guardrails meeting ADA requirements, deck lighting, and benches
- In-water piles
- Landings and associated improvements at both Boulevard Park and the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site

The proposed improvements are detailed below and shown on Sheets 3 through 9 in Appendix A.

Overwater Walkway Structure

The proposed overwater structure will span approximately 2,350 feet across a portion of Bellingham Bay. The structure will be supported by 48 bents spaced at approximately 50 feet on center; each bent includes two 24-inch steel piles for a total of 96 piles, and a precast/cast-in-place concrete pile cap. The piles will be installed using a vibratory hammer and then proofed with an impact hammer to ensure vertical load requirements are met. Four of the piles will be located over areas of high bedrock and will be secured to the bedrock using steel rock anchors.

The bents will support 50-foot-long precast concrete double tee deck panels. A cast-in-place concrete finish slab will be installed over the top of the concrete panels. The final top of deck elevation will be +16.8 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). In total, approximately 34,000 square feet of new decking will be installed as part of the Project. 1,515 square feet of grating will be integrated into of total deck surface, specifically at the three spans located closest to the Boulevard Park terminus and the five spans located closest to the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site. Approximately 30% of the surface of these nearshore spans will be grated. The proposed grating will allow 70% light transmission.

The walkway deck will generally be 14 feet wide, except where it is widened to create alcoves for bench seating. The alcove areas will be 18.5 feet wide and 20 feet long, and will be located at approximately 200-foot intervals along the walkway. Wood pedestrian guardrails will be installed along both sides of the length of the overwater walkway.

Directional light-emitting diode (LED) lighting fixtures will be installed on the posts of the wood pedestrian guardrails of each walkway span (four per span, two on each side of the span) for a total of 188 LED lights. The power source for the lighting fixtures will be a main utility line that will run underground on the Boulevard Park side of the Project from the existing restroom located approximately 80 feet south of the proposed landing. The line splits to each side of the walkway from the landing and will run parallel below the underside of the boardwalk and on the outside edges, avoiding the openings in the grating. The light from these fixtures will be low voltage and directed at the overwater walkway deck, away from the water surface.

Landings and Associated Improvements

Landings for the overwater walkway will be developed at both Boulevard Park and the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site (see Sheet 5 in Appendix A). On the Boulevard Park end, an existing timber wharf and timber pier will be demolished. Additionally, four existing creosote-treated timber piles located in the embayment to the north of the existing timber pier will be removed. Removal of the timber wharf, pier, and creosote-treated piles is expected to provide partial mitigation for Project impacts. Four existing evergreen trees, approximately 18 to 36 inches diameter at breast height (dbh), and an existing asphalt path will be removed as well. Debris from the demolished structures will be disposed of at an approved upland facility and all creosote-treated wood will be disposed of in accordance with Washington State's Dangerous Waste Regulations (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 173-303) and Excluded Categories of Waste (WAC 173-303-071).

At the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site landing, five existing creosote-treated timber piles located immediately offshore of the southwest corner of the property will be removed.

At the Boulevard Park landing, approximately 600 cubic yards (cy) of fill will be placed over an upland area of approximately 5,600 square feet, raising the grade up to 6 feet over existing grade to accommodate a paved ADA accessible path leading to the overwater walkway. This path will connect the structure with the current path system at the park. Concrete wingwalls will be constructed where the paths connect to the overwater walkway structure. Approximately 6,700 square feet of heavy, loose riprap will be placed above existing riprap at the top of slope (above mean higher high water [MHHW]) of the new fill in the vicinity of the proposed landing. Sheet 6 shows the proposed grading and layout for the Boulevard Park landing and Sheet 9 provides typical sections of the ADA accessible paths for both the Boulevard Park and the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site landings, as well as wingwalls and abutments for the landings.

The new landing at the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site will be constructed similar to the Boulevard Park landing at the north end of the structure. Approximately 800 cy of fill will be placed over an area of approximately 12,300 square feet, raising the existing grade to provide an ADA accessible crushed rock path leading to the overwater walkway (constructed at a 1:20 slope). Concrete abutments will be constructed and approximately 2,300 square feet of heavy, loose riprap will be placed above existing riprap at the top of slope (above MHHW) of the new fill in the vicinity of the proposed landing to provide slope protection. The landing for the overwater walkway at the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site has been developed so that it will not interfere with future park development plans. Sheet 7 shows the grading and layout for the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site landing and Sheet 9 provides typical sections of the ADA accessible path.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

Most of the proposed walkway site is relatively level. The upland portions of Boulevard Park and the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill are relatively level with steeper slopes along the shoreline.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slopes are along the Boulevard Park shoreline; slopes range from 65 to 90 percent slope in the areas where the overwater walkway will connect to the upland.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The majority of the Project area is located above submerged aquatic lands. Subsurface conditions consist of varying depths of materials with approximately 5 to 15 feet of wood waste/organic matter, 10 to 15 feet of marine sediment (organic silt) with pockets of sand, 20 to 30 feet of Bellingham Glaciomarine drift (clay), and 20 feet of Deming Sand underlain by 10 to 40 feet of Kulshan Glaciomarine drift clay and bedrock.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (USDA 2010) identifies two soil series in the upland portion of the Project area. Urban land is located on the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill side (north of the Project) and Squalicum-Urban land complex, 5 to 20 percent slope, is on the Boulevard Park side (south of the Project). At the south side of the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill, the subsurface conditions consist of approximately 2 feet of

granular fill, 23 feet of landfill refuse, 10 feet of wood waste fill, and 8 feet of Nooksack Deposits/Glaciomarine Drift over bedrock encountered at approximately 43 feet below ground surface. At the north side of Boulevard Park, subsurface conditions consist of approximately 5 feet of earthen fill, 19 feet of wood waste fill, and 1 foot of sandy beach deposits over bedrock encountered at approximately 25 feet below ground surface.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

The Project site contains unstable soils at the surface due to underlying imported fill and wood waste. Because of the potential for movement of this material, the steeper shoreline slopes are stabilized with riprap materials. Portions of Boulevard Park can be submerged during large storm events, further exacerbating erosion along the shoreline.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Proposed filling and grading activities would be associated with the construction of the landings at either end of the structure. At the Boulevard Park landing site, approximately 5,600 square feet (600 cy of material) of fill will be placed to accommodate the landing and an ADA accessible path. Approximately 6,700 square feet of heavy, loose riprap will be placed above ordinary high water (OHW) and MHHW for slope protection.

At the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site, approximately 12,300 square feet (800 cy) of fill will be placed to accommodate the landing and an ADA accessible path and approximately 2,300 square feet of riprap will be placed for slope protection.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Some temporary erosion could occur during clearing and construction activities. During this phase of the Project, best management practices (BMPs; consistent with the Ecology *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*) will be implemented to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) plans will be completed prior to construction phases that involve clearing, grading, or alterations that could result in temporary erosion.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The percentage of the uplands covered by impervious surfaces would not be significantly changed. Approximately 16 percent of the overwater walkway will be covered with pervious grating. The remaining 84 percent of the overwater walkway will be constructed with impervious concrete materials.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

At a minimum, the contractor will be required to perform excavation work on the slope during low tide conditions to prevent excessive material from being eroded away during the tidal cycle. A floating sedimentation control curtain and debris boom will also be deployed for work occurring below OHW. Cleared areas that are disrupted during construction would be re-vegetated to prevent erosion. Heavy, loose riprap will be placed above OHW and MHHW to stabilize the side slope of the upland landing sites.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known:

During construction, there would be diesel emissions from construction equipment. Most of these short-term air quality impacts would be localized and would consist of particulate matter or slight increases in carbon monoxide during the construction phase. The Project is not expected to increase peak period traffic generated at Boulevard Park. No long-term adverse impacts to air quality are anticipated.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe:

There are no off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Equipment will be inspected regularly to ensure that uncontrolled emissions do not occur.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into:

The Project would occur in and around a small embayment of Bellingham Bay.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

For the proposed Project, construction activities that will occur over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters include:

- Removal of an existing timber pier, comprised of approximately 877 square feet of timber deck supported by eight steel H-piles (each 8 inches square), all of which will be removed
- Removal of an existing timber wharf, comprised of approximately 2,455 square feet of timber deck supported by approximately 87 creosote treated piles, all of which will be removed

- Removal of nine existing, isolated, treated-timber piles (each 12 inches in diameter)
- At the Boulevard Park landing, approximately 5,600 square feet of fill will be placed for upland improvements and 6,700 square feet of riprap will be placed for shoreline protection; at the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill landing site, approximately 12,300 square feet of fill will be placed for upland improvements and 2,300 square feet of riprap will be placed for shoreline protection
- Installation of ninety-six 24-inch steel pipe piles
- Installation of the walkway superstructure, which is composed of a 14-foot-wide (18.5 feet at seating alcoves) by 2,350-foot-long concrete deck (34,000 square feet of concrete deck including 1,515 square feet of grated surface) and approximately 4,720 linear feet of timber/steel guardrail

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material:

No fill or dredge material would be placed or removed from surface waters or wetlands.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known:

The proposal would not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan:

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Bellingham, the Project area within the embayment between Boulevard Park and the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill is located within a Zone A 100-year flood hazard area (FEMA 2004). Zone A is a designation that is given to 100-year flood hazard areas where no base flood elevations have been determined.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge:

The proposal does not include the discharge of any waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known:

No groundwater would be withdrawn as part of this proposal. No water would be discharged to groundwater as part of this proposal.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve:

No waste material would be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources as part of this proposal.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe:

Stormwater runoff from the overwater walkway structure would flow into Bellingham Bay.

Stormwater runoff at the associated landing sites would flow onto the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site and Boulevard Park.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe:

It is unlikely that waste materials would enter ground or surface waters from diesel-powered construction equipment at the site, although there is a chance that a minor fuel spill could occur during construction. After the Project is complete, waste materials associated with users of the overwater walkway, such as litter, could enter surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

An emergency spill kit will be required to be provided by the contractor during construction.

The Project would comply with all other permit requirements.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 shrubs
 grass
 pasture
 crop or grain
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other: macroalgae
 other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Eelgrass beds are found near the overwater walkway alignment in Bellingham Bay. Transect surveys indicated that by locating the Boulevard Park terminus of the walkway near the existing pier, potential impacts to a narrow band of eelgrass in this location would be minimal. The Cornwall Avenue Landfill terminus of the structure is located to avoid existing eelgrass beds. The walkway itself and associated pilings are located waterward of the existing eelgrass beds at the former Cornwall Avenue Landfill site (Grette Associates 2009).

In addition, macroalgae was consistently found landward of the eelgrass bed surveyed. *Fucus* and *Ulva* were present on most transects, and sparse *Laminaria* was observed further waterward on some transects (Grette Associates 2009).

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site:

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be on or near the site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None proposed.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: harbor seal, California sea lion, harbor porpoise

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: surf smelt, Pacific sand lance

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), Pacific eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain:

Bellingham lies along the Pacific Flyway for migrating waterfowl, so during the migratory season, the Project site could conceivably be frequented by migrating waterfowl. In Bellingham Bay, juvenile salmon are known to migrate along the nearshore.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The overwater walkway has been sited to preserve the existing eelgrass bed. The removal of the pier, wharf, and associated creosote piling will benefit wildlife by improving water quality. Water quality will not be diminished by the proposed piles and structure, which consist of steel piles and a concrete and steel walkway. Overwater shading is minimized through the use of grating integrated into approximately 30% of the total nearshore deck surface; the grating will allow 70% light transmission to the water. The overall design of the walkway avoids abrupt shading edges over the water. Lighting on the walkway will be low voltage, mounted low to the walkway deck, and directed only at the overwater walkway deck, away from the water surface. Removal of the existing wharf at Boulevard Park will also increase the area of an intertidal pocket beach, increasing potential habitat for juvenile salmon and forage fish.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Electrical power will be provided for the proposed overwater walkway lighting.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe:

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The Project would incorporate high-efficiency LED lights.

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe:

Temporary construction-related environmental health hazards that are typically associated with shoreline construction work would occur as a result of this proposal.

The contractor will be responsible for the preparation of a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan to be used for the duration of the Project. The SPCC plan will: 1) identify construction planning elements and recognize potential spill sources in the Action Area; 2) outline the response actions in the event of a spill or release and identify notification and reporting procedures; 3) outline contractor management elements such as personal responsibilities, site security and inspections, and training; and 4) outline what measures shall be taken by the contractor to prevent the release or spread of hazardous materials, either found on-site and encountered during construction but not identified in contract documents, or any hazardous materials that the contractor stores, uses, or generates on the construction site during construction activities. Hazardous materials include but are not limited to gasoline, oils, and chemicals, and are further defined in RCW 70.105.010.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required:

It is not anticipated that additional emergency services would be required at the site.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The contractor would be required to submit a safety plan to the City Department of Parks and Recreation and conduct weekly site safety meetings. Contractors would be required to follow applicable safety regulations.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

No types of noise that may affect this proposal are known. The proposed overwater walkway would run parallel to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) main line, separated by a distance of approximately 500 feet.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site:

Some construction activities (e.g., pile driving) would be expected to result in a short-term and temporary increase in noise levels. Long-term noises associated with the Project would consist of the types of noises typically generated by the usage of this type of facility (e.g., people talking, dogs barking). Long-term noise levels after Project completion are not expected to differ markedly from the noise levels currently resulting from use of the existing Boulevard Park, Pattle Point Trestle, and Taylor Avenue Dock overwater walkways.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Temporary impacts from construction noise, especially pile driving noise, will be controlled through the use of vibratory rather than impact-hammer pile driving methods and will be further attenuated through the use of a bubble curtain. Pile driving will only occur during approved work windows (July 16 to January 21, 2011).

To further mitigate for potential noise impacts, construction of the Project will only occur between the hours of 7 AM and 10 PM as required by the City of Bellingham Municipal Code 10.24.120 – Public Disturbance Noise.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Boulevard Park, located to the south of the Project, is a 14-acre park and is the northernmost connection for an existing overwater walkway system including Taylor Avenue Dock and Pattle Point Trestle. East of the Project area is the BNSF railroad and the South Hill neighborhood that consists primarily of residential properties. North of the Project area is the Bellingham Central Business District, which consists primarily of a mix of industrial and commercial properties. The property north of and adjacent to the Project area is the former Georgia Pacific property (Cornwall Avenue Landfill), which is currently being redeveloped into a multi-use property. Bellingham Bay, to the west of the Project area, is used for commercial and recreational marine activities including boating, fishing, and kayaking.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

An existing wharf and pier are located at the north end of Boulevard Park in the location of the southern terminus of the proposed overwater walkway (Photo 1). The pier is in structurally unsafe condition and is closed to the public. The overwater portion of the pier is supported by pier bents supported by 1-foot by 1-foot timber caps and eight corroded steel H-piles. The overwater portion of the wharf is supported by approximately 87 creosote-treated timber piles. A low concrete wall supports the wharf on the landward side.



Photo 1 – View from Boulevard Park of the existing pier where the southern end of the overwater walkway will land (facing north)

Upland from the Project area, Boulevard Park contains a small performance stage, public restrooms, picnic facilities, parking, trails and 'The Woods' coffee shop. The former Cornwall Avenue Landfill within the Project area contains five derelict creosote-treated piles that are located immediately offshore of the southwest corner of the property.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Demolition of structures would include:

- Removal of a structurally unsafe timber pier, comprised of approximately 877 square feet of timber deck supported by 8 steel H-piles (each 8 inches square)

- Removal of a timber wharf, comprised of approximately 2,455 square feet of timber deck supported by 87 creosote treated piles.
- Removal of nine isolated, creosote treated-timber piles (each 12 inches in diameter)

e. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Industrial/Waterfront Mixed-Use (Cornwall Avenue Landfill end)
and Public (Boulevard Park end)

f. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The Project is located within two different comprehensive plan designations: Public and Industrial/Waterfront Mixed Use.

g. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

The shoreline zone, including existing eelgrass beds within the Project area, is considered environmentally sensitive. Monitoring of these areas will occur before construction and at years 3 and 5 after construction (Anchor 2010c).

h. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No people would reside or work in the completed Project.

i. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

The completed Project would not displace any people.

j. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposed overwater walkway has been identified in several planning documents as an important link in the network of Bellingham's waterfront trail system, including the 2002 *City of Bellingham Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* (COB Parks 2002) and its 2008 update (COB Parks 2008); the 2004 *Waterfront Vision and Framework Plan: Connecting Bellingham with the Bay* (WFG 2004); the 2006 *New Whatcom Preliminary Draft Framework Plan* (COB and POB 2006); the 2009 draft update of the *City of Bellingham Shoreline Master Program* (COB 2009); and the mayor's 2008 *Waterfront Connections Plan* (COB 2008). The Project has also been part of a Bellingham public vote, the third greenways levy, which was approved by voters in 2006. Prior to the vote, in an adopted ordinance, the Bellingham City Council recorded intent to pursue a list of potential greenway projects that included the overwater walkway. The list was assembled by citizens who examined the City's current plans and needs.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing:

The Project would not provide any housing units.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing:

The Project would not eliminate any housing units.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The tallest height of the proposed overwater walkway would be 20 feet above MLLW (the overwater walkway would be approximately the same height as the existing Pattle Point Trestle, which is located to the south of the proposed Project site). The principal exterior building materials would be wood, steel, and concrete.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

A small portion of water views would be obstructed by the structure. However, greater vista water views would be provided from the proposed overwater walkway itself.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

No such measures are proposed.

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The proposal would incorporate walkway lighting. The proposed lighting is a high-efficiency LED fixture that would be placed 8 feet on center, on alternating sides of the overwater walkway. The lighting would be operational during non-daylight hours.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

No existing off-site sources of light or glare that may affect the proposal are known.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Directional LED lighting fixtures will be installed on the posts of the handrails of each walkway span (four per span, two on each side of the span) for a total of 188 LED lights. The light from these fixtures will be low voltage, mounted low to the walkway deck and directed at the overwater walkway deck, away from the water surface.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Designated recreational opportunities in the immediate vicinity include pathways for walking, running, and bicycling. Boulevard Park provides informal recreational opportunities (e.g., Frisbee throwing, kite flying, picnicking, and viewing). The waters in the vicinity provide opportunities for boating.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe:

The proposed overwater walkway could displace several derelict vessels moored within the embayment.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

The purpose of the Project is to increase recreational opportunities and public access to the shoreline. The proposed overwater walkway has been identified as an important link within the Bellingham waterfront trail system in several planning documents.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe:

No places or objects listed or proposed for preservation are known to be on or directly adjacent to the site. While historic piles were identified onsite through a cultural resources assessment, these were determined to be insignificant (Wessen 2010).

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

A cultural resources assessment was conducted in late 2009 and early 2010. Through this assessment, one archaeological site has been identified on the Project site, consisting of old piles that likely once supported the E.K. Woods Mill complex. The assessment noted that the significance of these elements is limited; the piles have been mapped and can therefore be related to any additional Mill complex piles that may be identified in the future. There is no other evidence of the presence of potentially significant archaeological resources in the Project site, nor is there a high likelihood of unknown resources being detected.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Some of the historic piles are in conflict with the planned overwater walkway and will be removed. The cultural resources assessment concluded that this piling removal is not considered an adverse impact and, as such, no additional archaeological resource protection or mitigation measures are needed (Wessen 2010).

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any:

Vehicular access to Boulevard Park is via Bayview Drive. Bayview Drive is accessible from the north via South State Street and from the south via 10th Street.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Boulevard Park is served by Whatcom Transit Authority route number 401. Buses run regularly along South State Street, which runs parallel to the proposed overwater walkway, approximately 550 feet to the southeast.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

The proposed Project would not alter current parking arrangements.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private):

The proposal would not require any new roads or streets, or any improvements to existing roads or streets.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe:

The proposed overwater walkway would run parallel to the BNSF main line, separated by a distance of approximately 500 feet.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur:

The proposed overwater walkway is a pedestrian facility that would be part of a citywide trail system. No increase in peak volumes is anticipated. Timing for peak volumes would be consistent with current patterns.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

No such measures are proposed.

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe:

The Project is not expected to result in an increased need for public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

Not applicable.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Electrical service would be extended from the nearest connection point. Construction activities associated with this electrical service extension would include excavation and backfill for underground primary power from the connection point to the service location.

References

Anchor QEA (Anchor QEA, LLC), 2010a. Biological Assessment: Boulevard Park Overwater Walkway. May 2010.

Anchor QEA, 2010b. Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form. May 2010.

Anchor QEA, 2010c. Boulevard Park Overwater Walkway Mitigation Report. May 2010.

Anchor QEA, 2009. Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form: Boulevard Park Over-Water Walkway Geotechnical Investigation. September 2009.

Grette Associates LLC, 2009. Boulevard Park Overwater Walkway Eelgrass Habitat Memorandum. Prepared for Reid Middleton, Inc. on May 7, 2008 and revised on February 15, 2009.

Landau Associates, 2009. Initial Cultural Resources Evaluation Memo: Phase I – Boulevard Park Shoreline and Overwater Walkway Project. March, 2009.

Reid Middleton (Reid Middleton, Inc.), 2008a. Boulevard Park Shoreline Assessment. April, 2008.

Reid Middleton, 2008b. Boulevard Park Overwater Walkway Eelgrass Survey. July, 2008.

Reid Middleton, 2009a. Final Draft Report: Initial Geotechnical Engineering Evaluation, Boulevard Park Shoreline and Overwater Walkway. February, 2009.

Reid Middleton, 2009b. Feasibility Report: Boulevard Park Shoreline and Overwater Walkway. February, 2009.

USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture), 2010. Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey. Accessed online at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.

Walker Macy, 2008. Bellingham Boulevard Park, Pre-design Landscape Report. August, 2008.

Wessen (Wessen & Associates, Inc.), 2010. An Archaeological Survey of the Boulevard/Cornwall Overwater Pedestrian Walkway Project Area, Bellingham, Washington. Prepared for BergerABAM. January 2010.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:

gm Austin

Date Submitted:

6/11/10

APPENDIX A

DRAWING SHEETS

PROJECT LOCATION



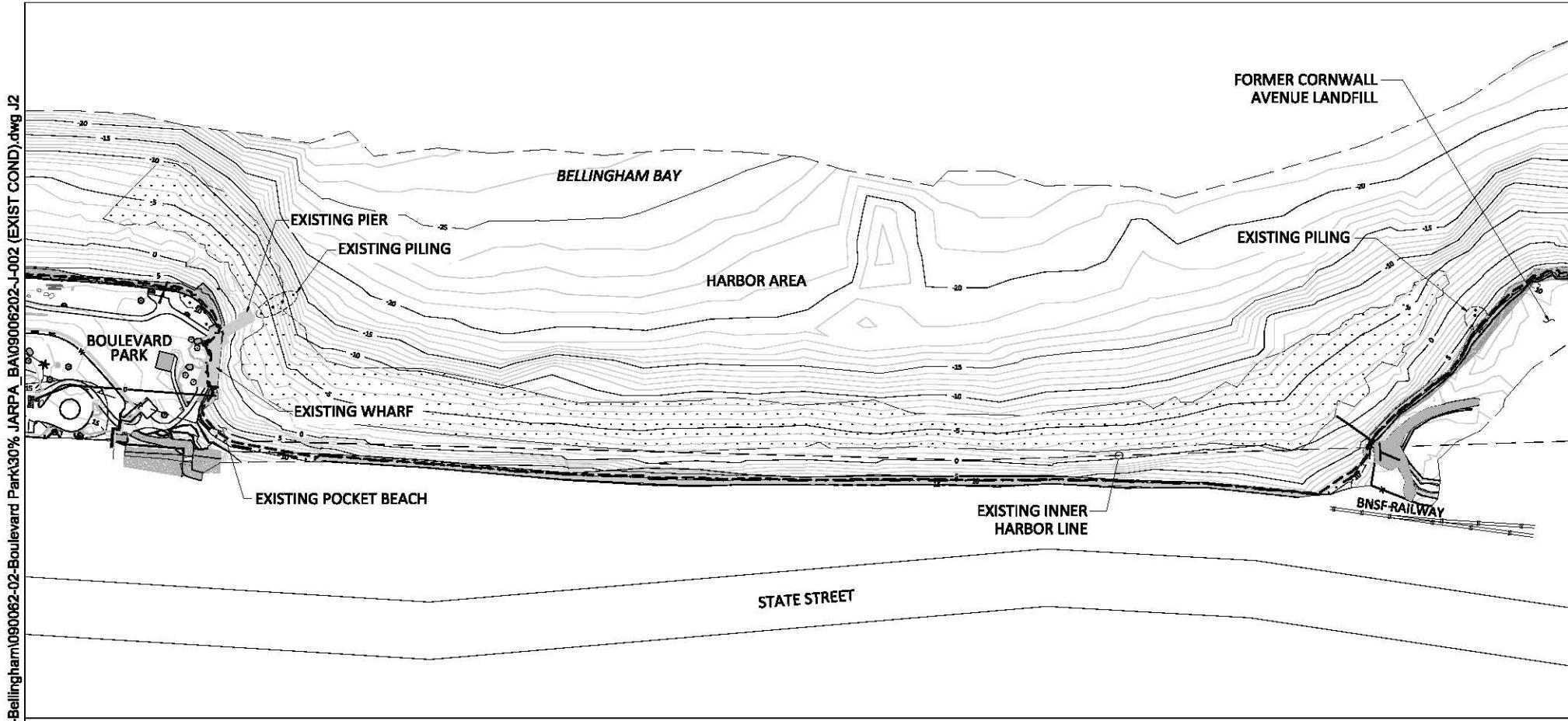
SOURCE: AERIAL FROM GOOGLE EARTH PRO, 2010.

NOT TO SCALE

0 2
SCALE IN MILES

VICINITY MAP

<p>PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS DATUM: MLLW 0.0' LATITUDE: 48°44'07.87"N, LONGITUDE: -122°19'54.95"W S-T-R: 36-38N-2E</p> <p>SITE LOCATION ADDRESS: BOULEVARD PARK, FORMER CORNWALL AVENUE LANDFILL, STATE-OWNED AQUATIC LANDS (LEASE #22-084455) BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225</p>	<p>NAME: BOULEVARD/CORNWALL OVERWATER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY</p> <p>ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS: 1 - CITY OF BELLINGHAM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2 - BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE 3 - PORT OF BELLINGHAM 4 - WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES</p>	<p>PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY IN: BELLINGHAM BAY NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM COUNTY OF: WHATCOM STATE: WASHINGTON</p> <p>DATE: JUNE 2010</p>
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LEGEND:



EXISTING EELGRASS BED

- - - MEAN HIGHER HIGH WATER (+8.51' MLLW)

- - - ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK (+9.51' MLLW)



SCALE IN FEET

SOURCE: DRAWING BY BERGER/ABAM DATED 3/2010.
NOTES: ELEVATION DATUM MLLW

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS

DATUM: MLLW 0.0'

LATITUDE: 48°44'07.87"N, LONGITUDE: -122°19'54.95"W

S-T-R: 22-21N-3E

SITE LOCATION ADDRESS:

BOULEVARD PARK, FORMER CORNWALL AVENUE LANDFILL,
STATE-OWNED AQUATIC LANDS (LEASE #22-084455)
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225NAME: BOULEVARD/CORNWALL OVERWATER PEDESTRIAN
WALKWAY

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

- 1 - CITY OF BELLINGHAM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
- 2 - BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE
- 3 - PORT OF BELLINGHAM
- 4 - WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY

IN: BELLINGHAM BAY

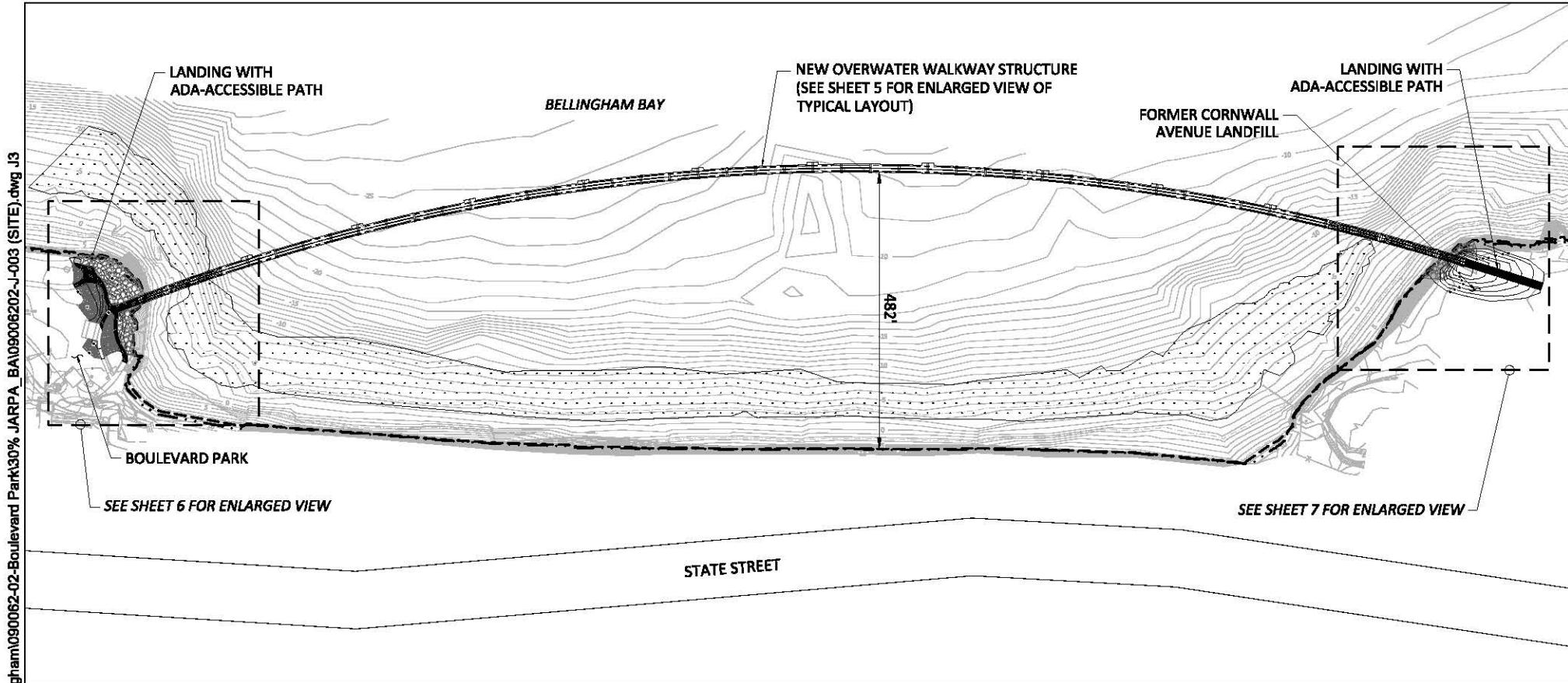
NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM

COUNTY OF: WHATCOM

STATE: WASHINGTON

DATE: JUNE 2010

SHEET: 2 OF 9



SOURCE: DRAWING BY BERGER/ABAM DATED 3/2010.
NOTE: FOR TYPICAL STRUCTURE LAYOUT SEE SHEET 5.

COMPOSITE SITE PLAN

PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS

DATUM: MLLW 0.0'

LATITUDE: 48°44'07.87"N, LONGITUDE: -122°19'54.95"W

S-T-R: 22-21N-3E

SITE LOCATION ADDRESS:

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BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225

NAME: BOULEVARD/CORNWALL OVERWATER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

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- 2 - BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE
- 3 - PORT OF BELLINGHAM
- 4 - WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY

IN: BELLINGHAM BAY

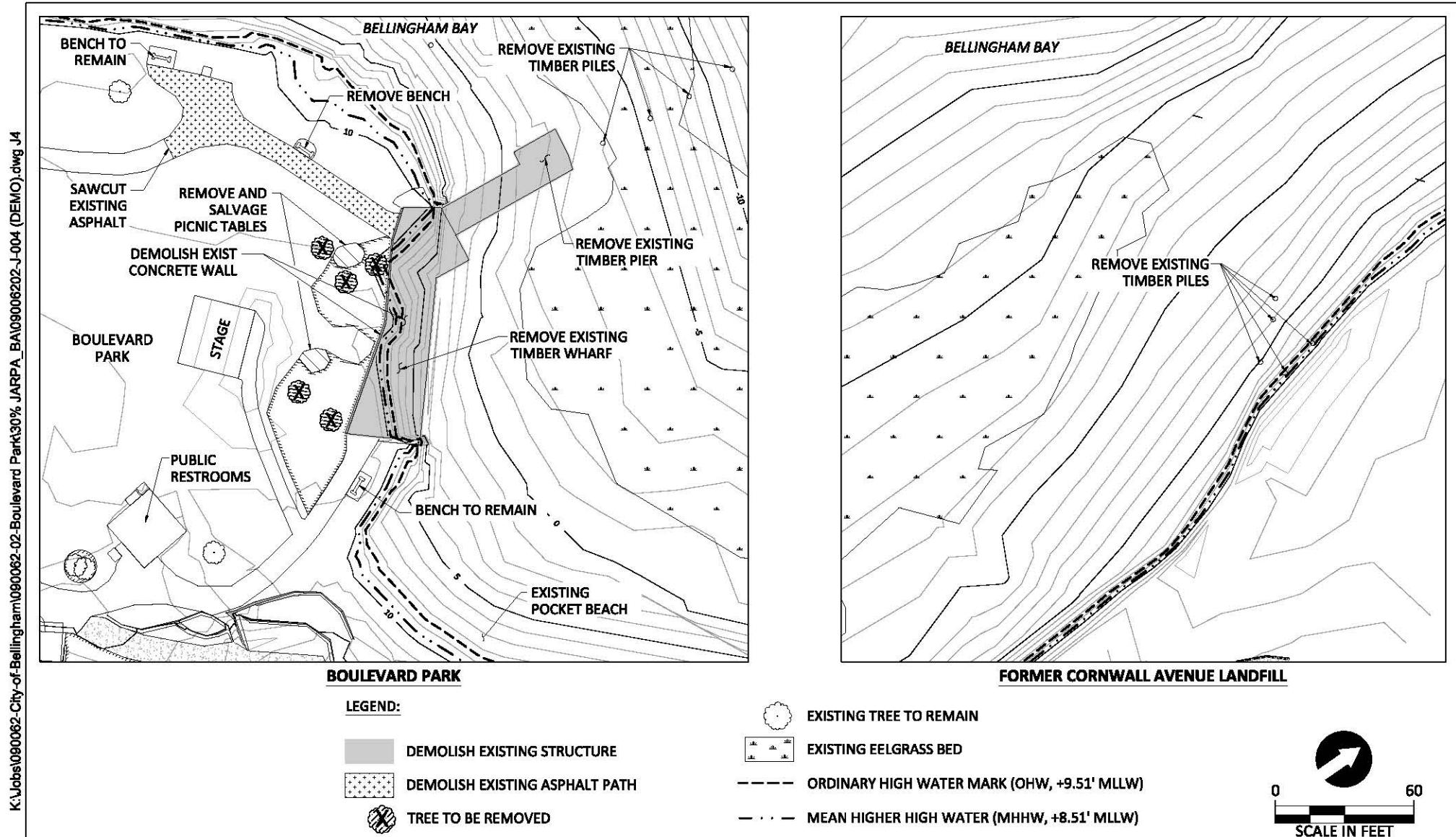
NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM

COUNTY OF: WHATCOM

STATE: WASHINGTON

DATE: JUNE 2010

SHEET: 3 OF 9



SOURCE: DRAWING BY BERGER/ABAM DATED 3/2010.

PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS

DATUM: MLLW 0.0'

LATITUDE: 48°44'07.87"N, LONGITUDE: -122°19'54.95"W

S-T-R: 22-21N-3E

SITE LOCATION ADDRESS:

BOULEVARD PARK, FORMER CORNWALL AVENUE LANDFILL,
STATE-OWNED AQUATIC LANDS (LEASE #22-084455)
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225

DEMOLITION PLAN

NAME: BOULEVARD/CORNWALL OVERWATER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

- 1 - CITY OF BELLINGHAM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
- 2 - BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE
- 3 - PORT OF BELLINGHAM
- 4 - WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY

IN: BELLINGHAM BAY

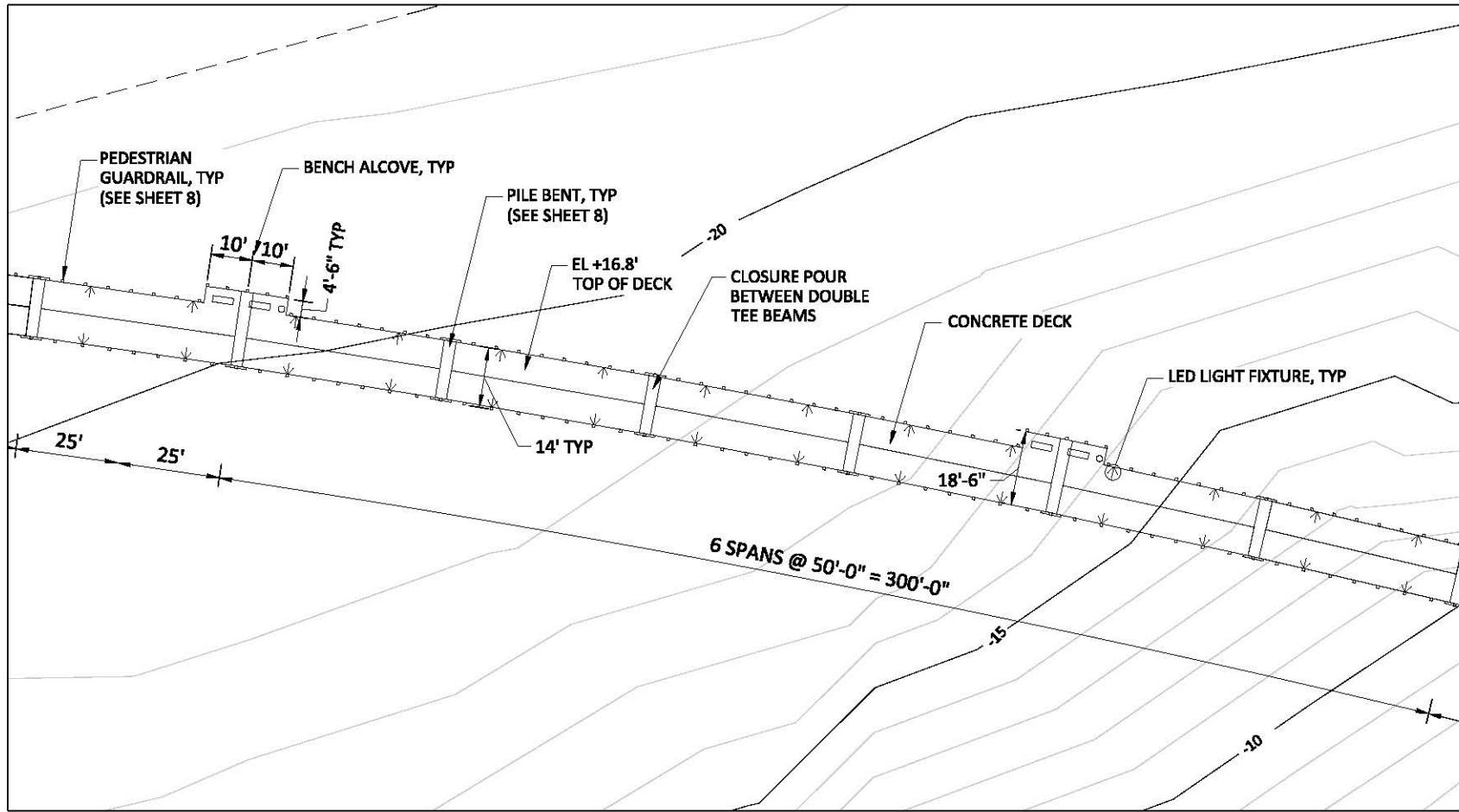
NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM

COUNTY OF: WHATCOM

STATE: WASHINGTON

DATE: JUNE 2010

SHEET: 4 OF 9



OVERWATER WALKWAY TYPICAL LAYOUT (ENLARGED)

SOURCE: DRAWING BY BERGER/ABAM DATED 3/2010.

PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS

DATUM: MLLW 0.0'

LATITUDE: 48°44'07.87"N, LONGITUDE: -122°19'54.95"W

S-T-R: 22-21N-3E

SITE LOCATION ADDRESS:

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BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225

NAME: BOULEVARD/CORNWALL OVERWATER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1 - CITY OF BELLINGHAM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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3 - PORT OF BELLINGHAM
4 - WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY

IN: BELLINGHAM BAY

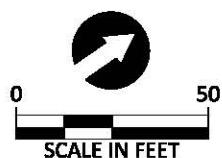
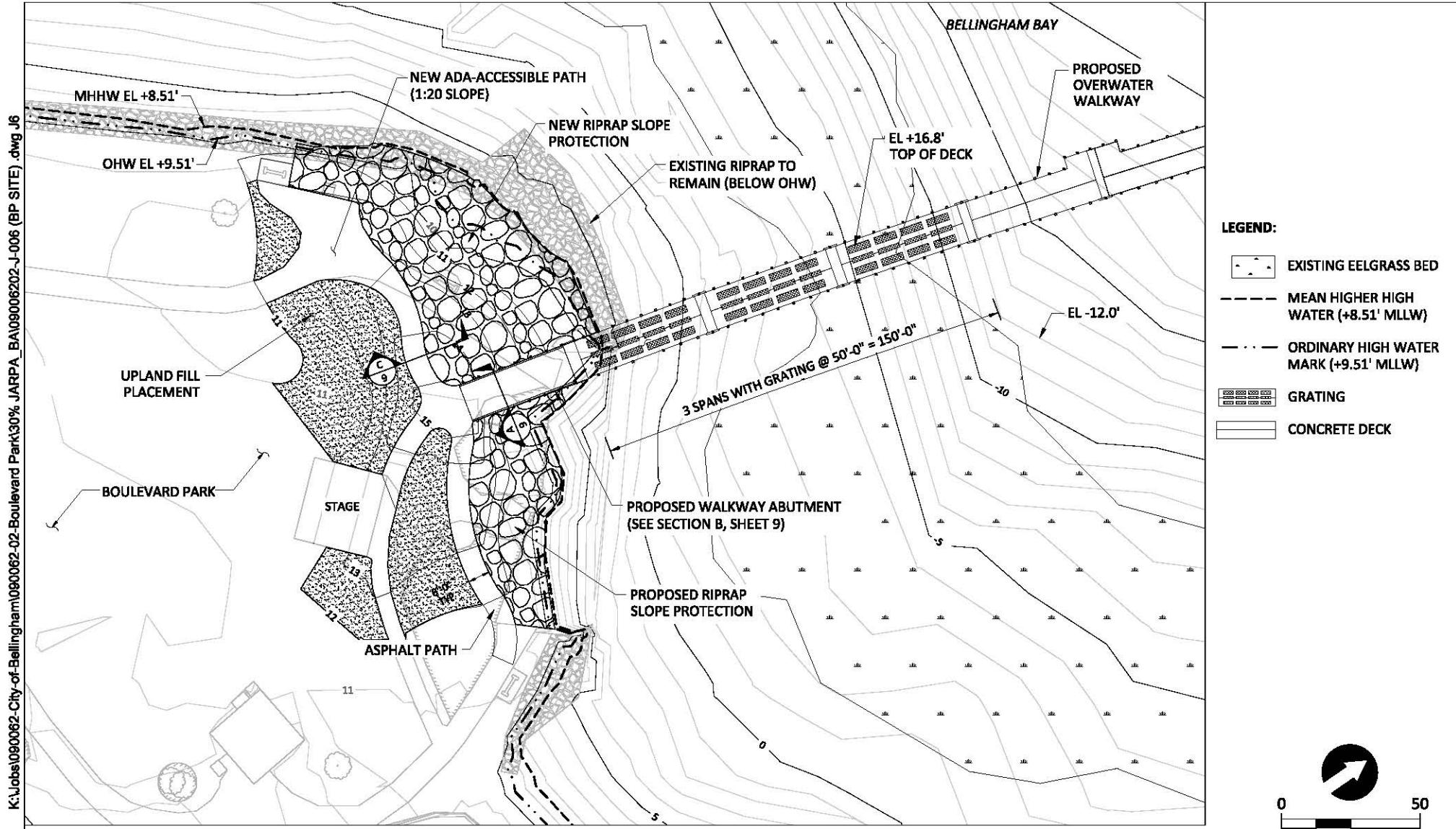
NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM

COUNTY OF: WHATCOM

STATE: WASHINGTON

DATE: JUNE 2010

SHEET: 5 OF 9



SOURCE: DRAWING BY BERGER/ABAM DATED 3/2010.

PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS

DATUM: MLLW 0'

LATITUDE: 48°44'07.87"N, LONGITUDE: -122°19'54.95"W

S-T-R: 22-21N-3E

SITE LOCATION ADDRESS:

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NAME: BOULEVARD/CORNWALL OVERWATER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

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PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY

IN: BELLINGHAM BAY

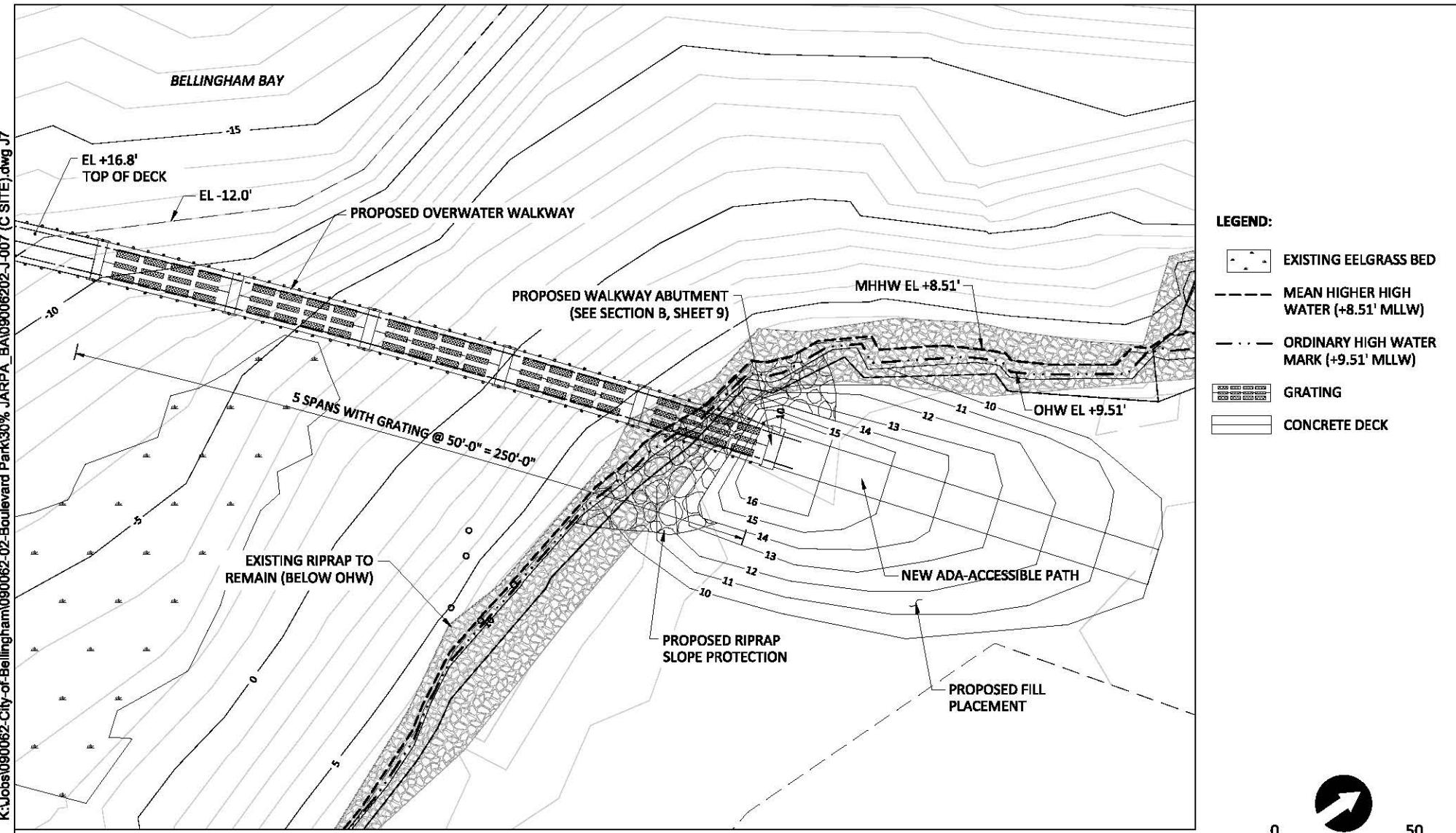
NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM

COUNTY OF: WHATCOM

STATE: WASHINGTON

DATE: JUNE 2010

SHEET: 6 OF 9



FORMER CORNWALL AVENUE LANDFILL ENLARGED SITE PLAN

SOURCE: DRAWING BY BERGER/ABAM DATED 3/2010.

PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS

DATUM: MLLW 0.0'

LATITUDE: 48°44'07.87"N, LONGITUDE: -122°19'54.95"W

S-T-R: 22-21N-3E

SITE LOCATION ADDRESS:

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BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225

NAME: BOULEVARD/CORNWALL OVERWATER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

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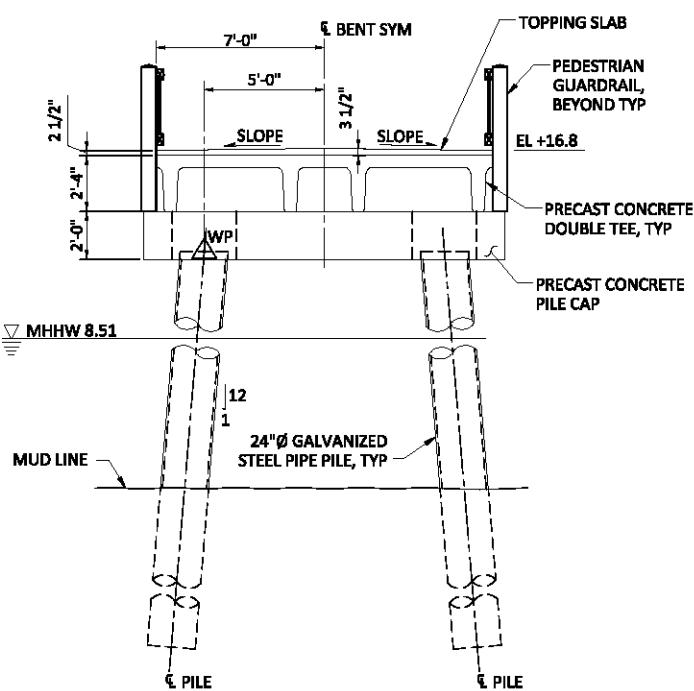
PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY

IN: BELLINGHAM BAY
NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM
COUNTY OF: WHATCOM
STATE: WASHINGTON

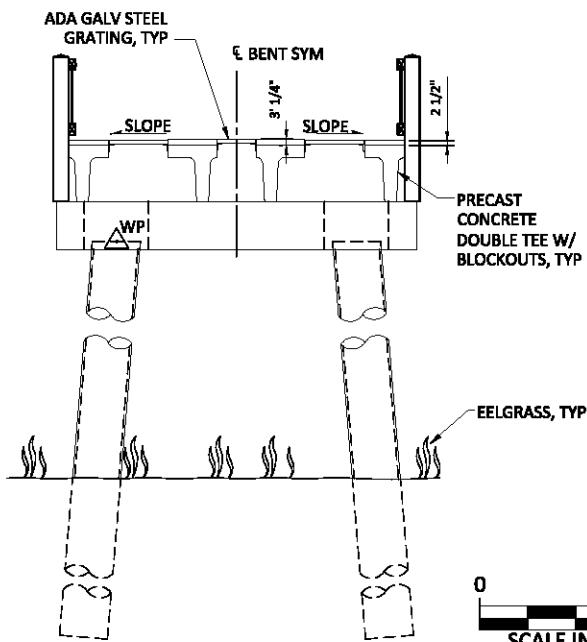
DATE: JUNE 2010

SHEET: 7 OF 9

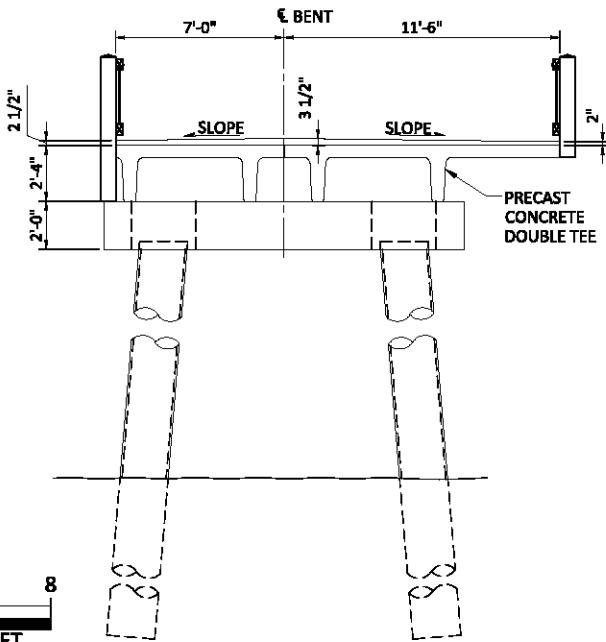
SECTION - TYPICAL BENT



SECTION - TYPICAL BENT WITH GRATING



SECTION - TYPICAL BENT WITH ALCOVE

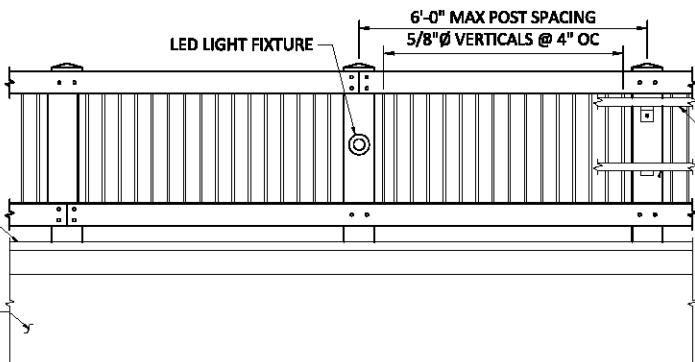


ELEVATION - TYPICAL PEDESTRIAN GUARDRAIL

SOURCE: DRAWING BY
BERGER/ABAM DATED 3/2010.

PURPOSE: IMPROVE PUBLIC SHORELINE ACCESS

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DETAILS

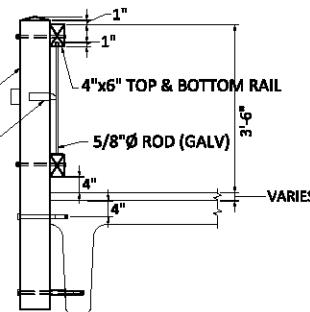
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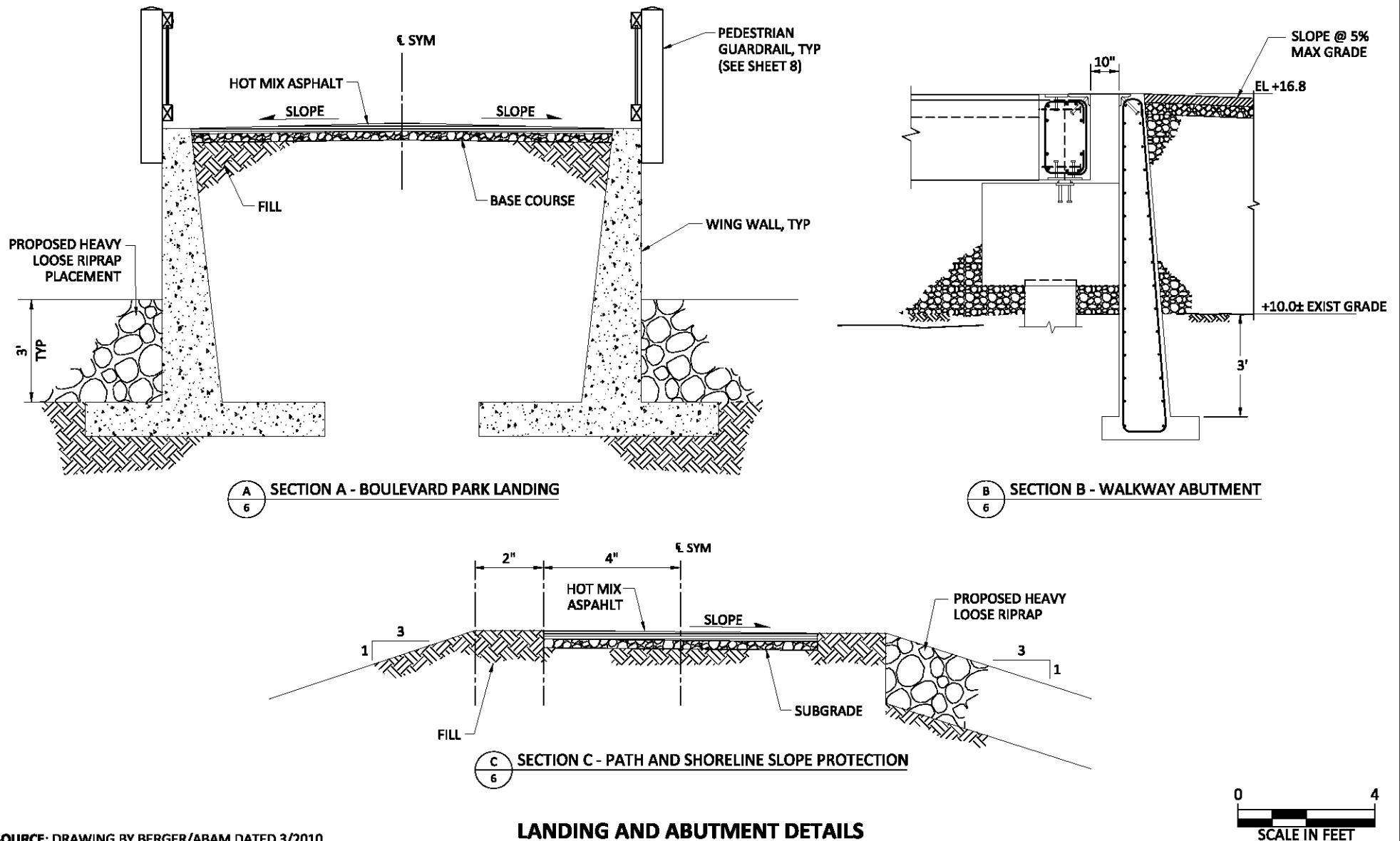
PROPOSED: OVERWATER WALKWAY

IN: BELLINGHAM BAY
NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM
COUNTY OF: WHATCOM
STATE: WASHINGTON

DATE: JUNE 2010



SHEET: 8 OF 9



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NEAR/AT: BELLINGHAM
COUNTY OF: WHATCOM
STATE: WASHINGTON

DATE: JUNE 2010

SHEET: 9 OF 9