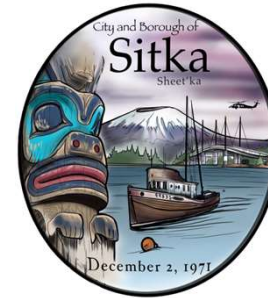


CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

New Sitka Seaplane Base



Environmental Assessment (EA)

Public Meeting

Sitka, Alaska

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Public Meeting Agenda

1 Welcome/Project Team Introductions

2 Project Overview

3 EA Overview

4 Consultations Underway

5 Design and Permitting Phase

6 Comment Period/Schedule

Project Team & Roles

City and Borough of Sitka:

Kelli Cropper, MPM | *Project Manager*

Amy Ainslie | *Planning Director*

Stan Eliason | *Harbor Master*

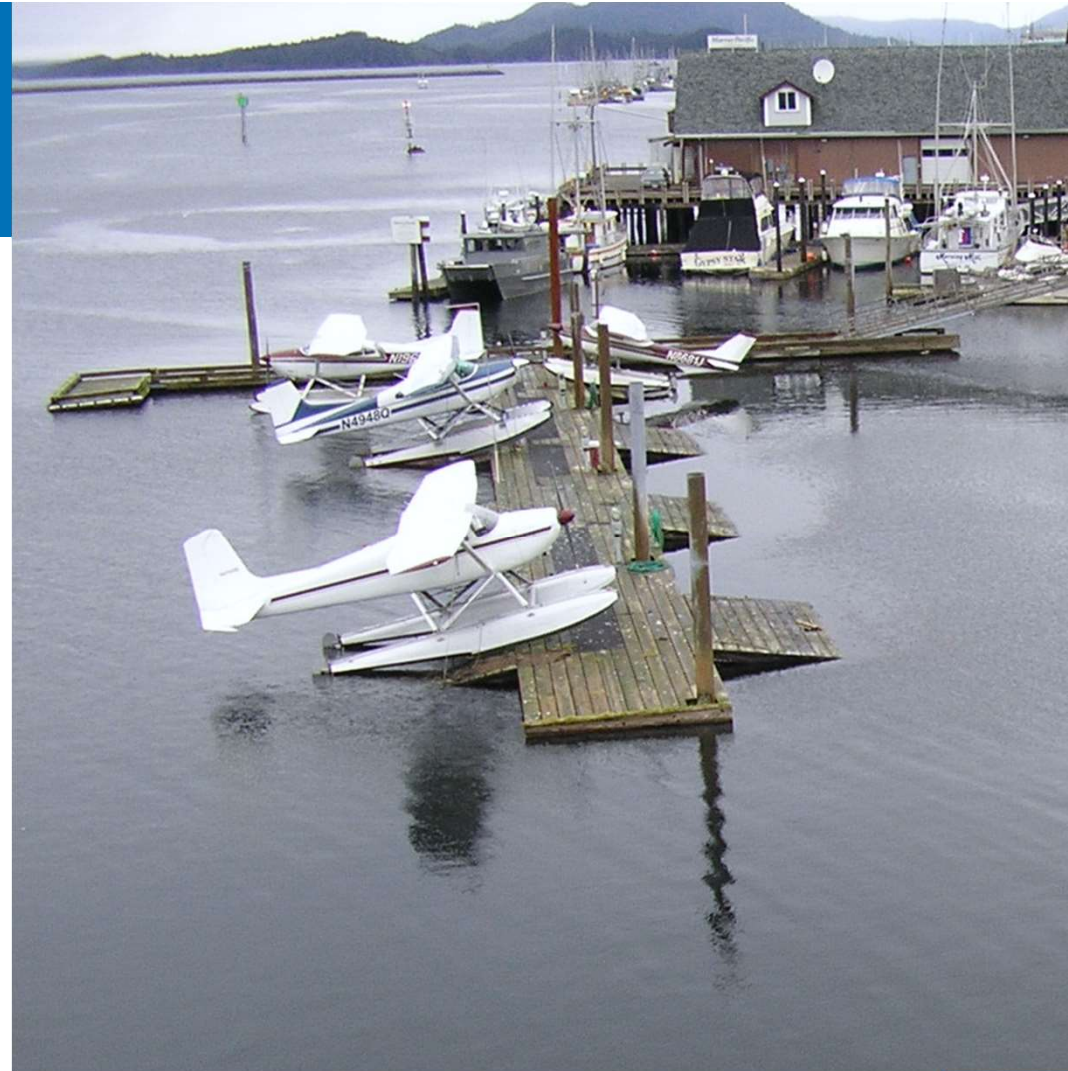
Michael Harmon, PE | *Public Works Director*

John Leach | *Municipal Administrator*

DOWL Team

- Ken Nichols, PE | *Aviation Engineer*
- Maryellen Tuttell, ACIP | *Environmental Planner*
- PND | *Marine Design*
- Solstice | *Marine Biology*
- North 57 | *Survey Support*

Wednesday, February 17, 2021



Project Overview



Purpose & Need

Purpose

Replace existing seaplane base with new facility on Japonski Island

Need

1. Seaplane operations critical transportation element in Southeast Alaska
2. Existing seaplane base is over 65 years old and in poor condition
3. Existing site is constrained and has operational and safety limitations

The purpose of the proposed project is to address capacity, safety, and operational and condition deficiencies at the existing Sitka SPB.



Project History



2000

- Site selection studies began



2002

- Japonski Island site selected
- SPB master plan completed



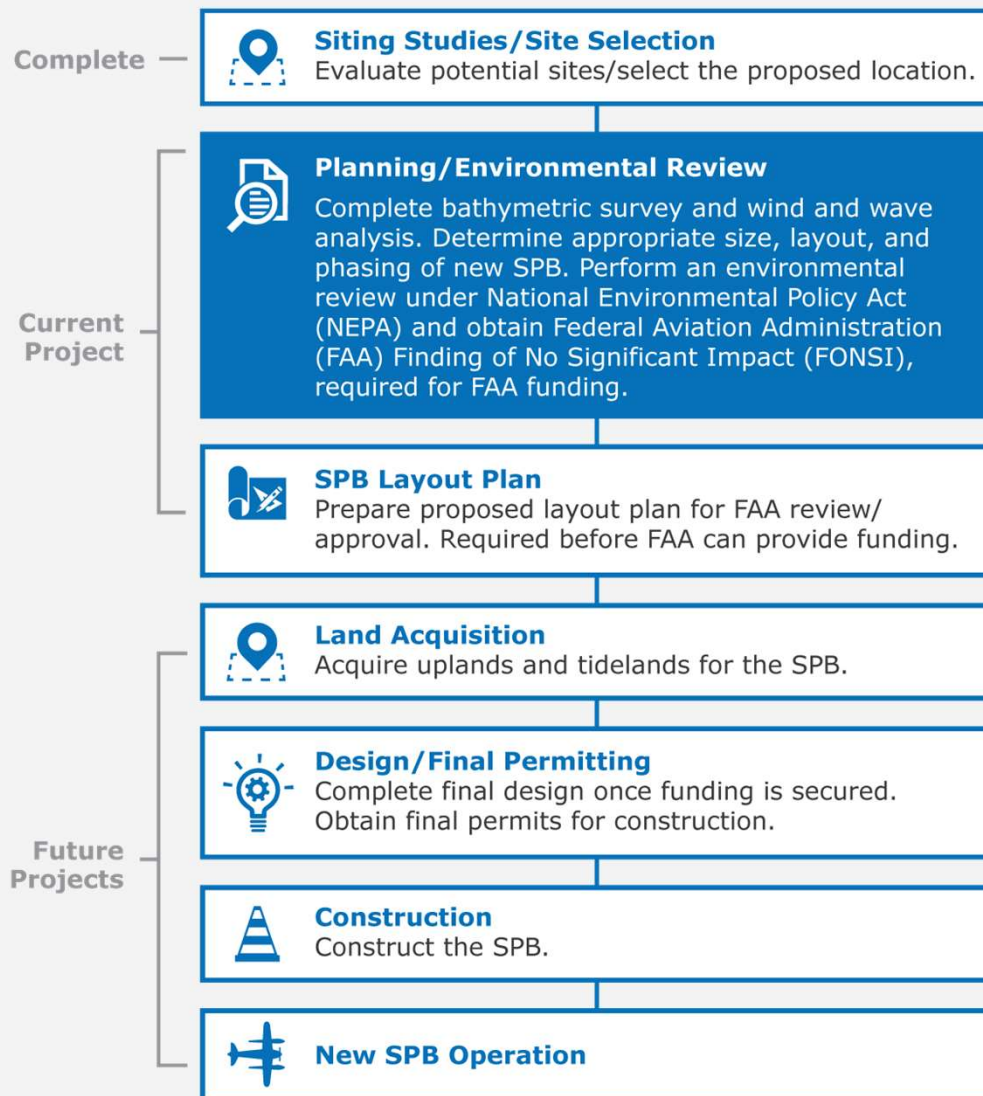
2012

- Sites re-evaluated



2016

- Damage occurs to existing SPB
- Siting study updated



Project Development Process

- Multi-step development process
- FAA grant funding at 93.75%
- Current grant for planning and environmental review
- Future grants for:
 1. *Land acquisition*
 2. *Design*
 3. *Construction/demolition*

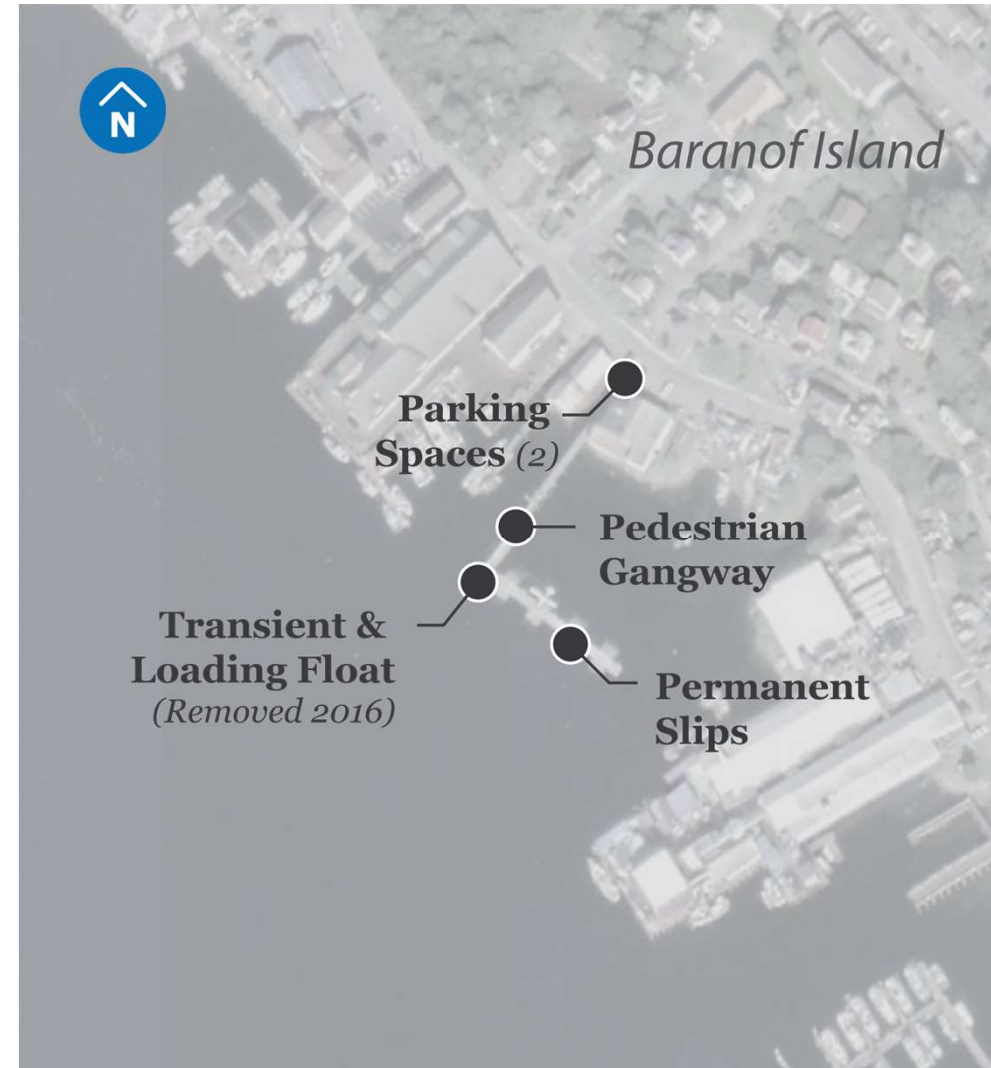
Existing SPB

Features:

- ✓ 8 float slips (4 not accessible at low tide)
- ✓ Access to floats from Katlian Street by elevated gangway/ramp
- ✓ Parking for 2 vehicles on Katlian Street

Deficiencies:

- ✗ At end of useful life/expensive to maintain
- ✗ Insufficient parking for aircraft/vehicles
- ✗ No on-site fueling, aircraft maintenance area, or aircraft pull out ramp
- ✗ Conflicts with boat traffic in narrow channel
- ✗ Conflicts and bird hazards from adjacent seafood processing facility
- ✗ Difficult access to some slips when tide is low



EA Process



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Overview

1. Covers all major federal actions
2. Documentation of project purpose/need
3. Consideration of alternatives
4. Documentation of environmental impacts
5. Consideration of impact minimization/mitigation
6. Requires public involvement

Goals

1. Encourage harmony between people/environment
2. Prevent environmental damage
3. Stimulate the health/welfare of people



EA Process



Scoping

Public/agency input on issues that should be evaluated in the EA.



Alternatives

Describe proposed facility/potential alternatives.



Environmental Consequences

Evaluate the environmental consequences of each alternative.



Draft EA

Prepare a draft EA and receive public and agency comments.



Final EA

Address comments and receive FAA **FONSI**.

Scoping



Sitka SPB Scoping Process

1. Scoping period was December 2019
2. Scoping advertised on radio and in Sitka Sentinel
3. Scoping Meetings held December 10-11, 2019
 - a. *Public meeting*
 - b. *Agency meeting*
 - c. *Pilot meeting*
4. Primary NEPA issues raised during scoping
 - a. *Traffic/Noise impacts on adjacent land uses*
 - b. *Marine impacts – fish, marine mammals, habitat*
 - c. *Cultural resource impacts*



Alternatives





Sitka SPB Alternatives

Primary Issues with Alternative Sites

- Safety Concerns
 - *Wind and wave exposure*
 - *Wildlife hazards near seafood plant outfalls*
 - *Conflicts with other marine or aviation users in takeoff/taxi areas*
- Distance from city facilities and airport
- Lack of potential to construct upland facilities



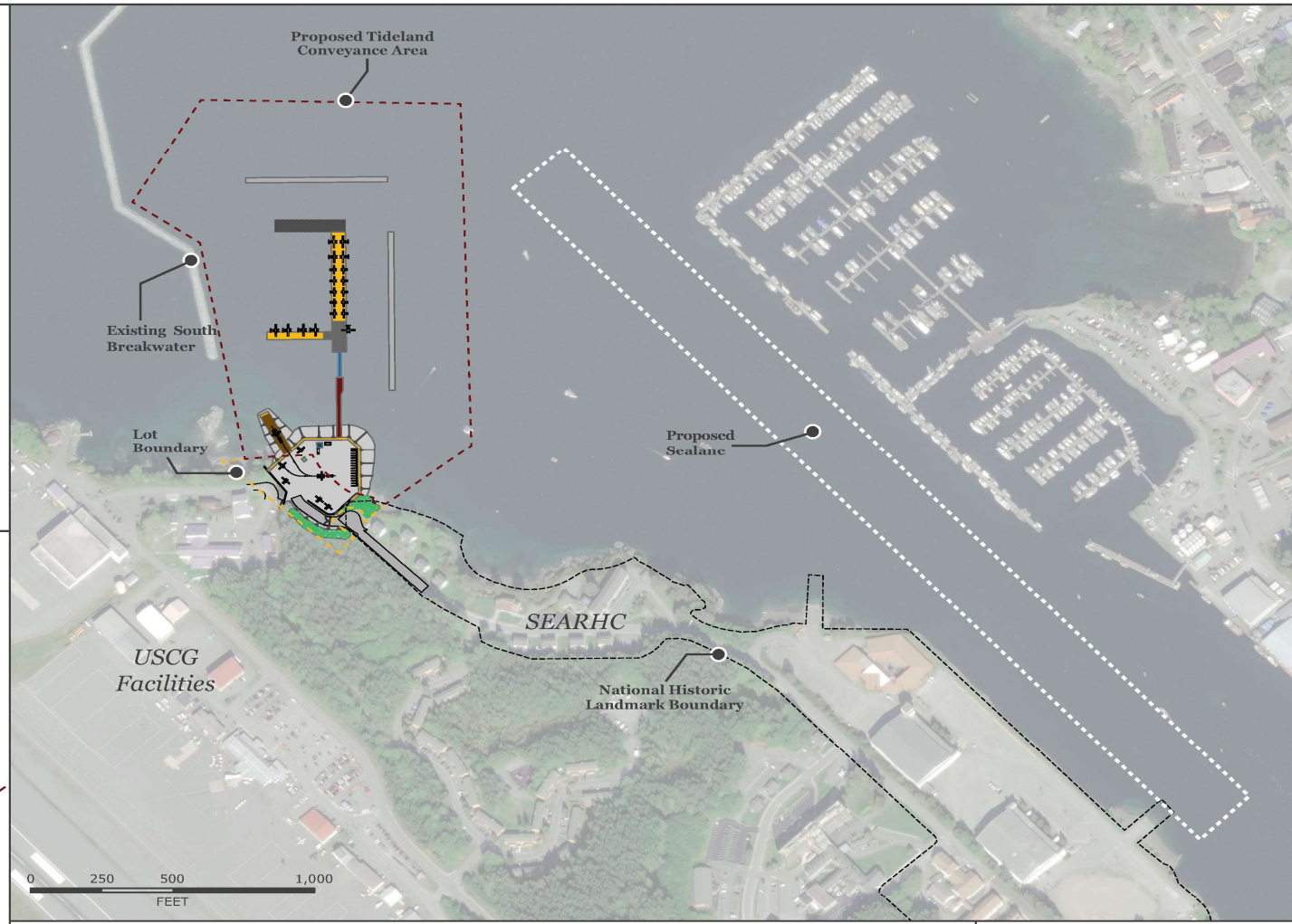
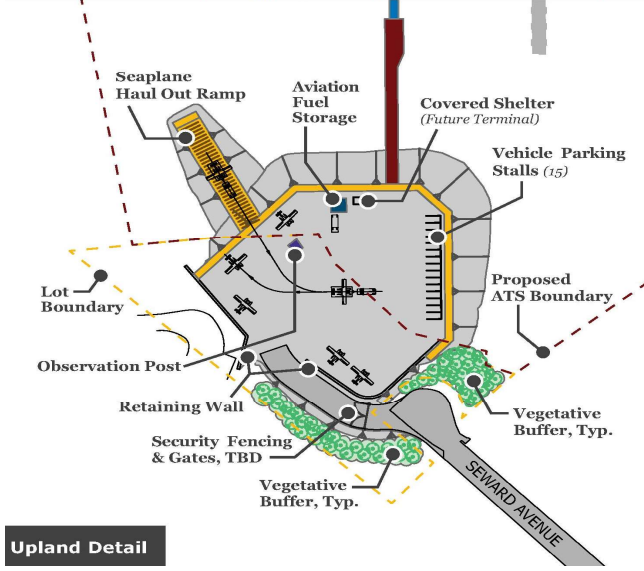
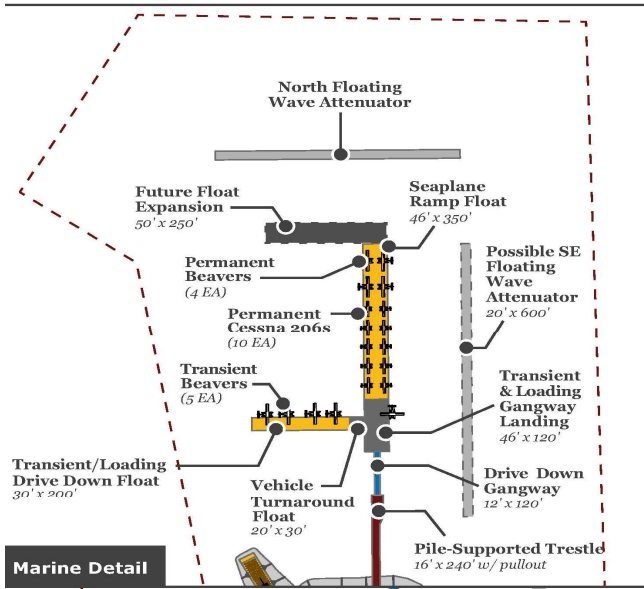
Proposed Action



Sitka SPB Proposed Action

- ✓ Drive-down ramp to the SPB floats
- ✓ Electricity, water/sewer, and lighting
- ✓ Float slips for based seaplanes/ positions for transient seaplanes
- ✓ Future growth accommodation options
- ✓ Haul-out ramp, tiedowns, maintenance facilities
- ✓ Fuel storage and distribution system
- ✓ Covered shelter
- ✓ Security fencing and gate
- ✓ Retaining wall
- ✓ Access road sloping down into site
- ✓ Vegetation buffer



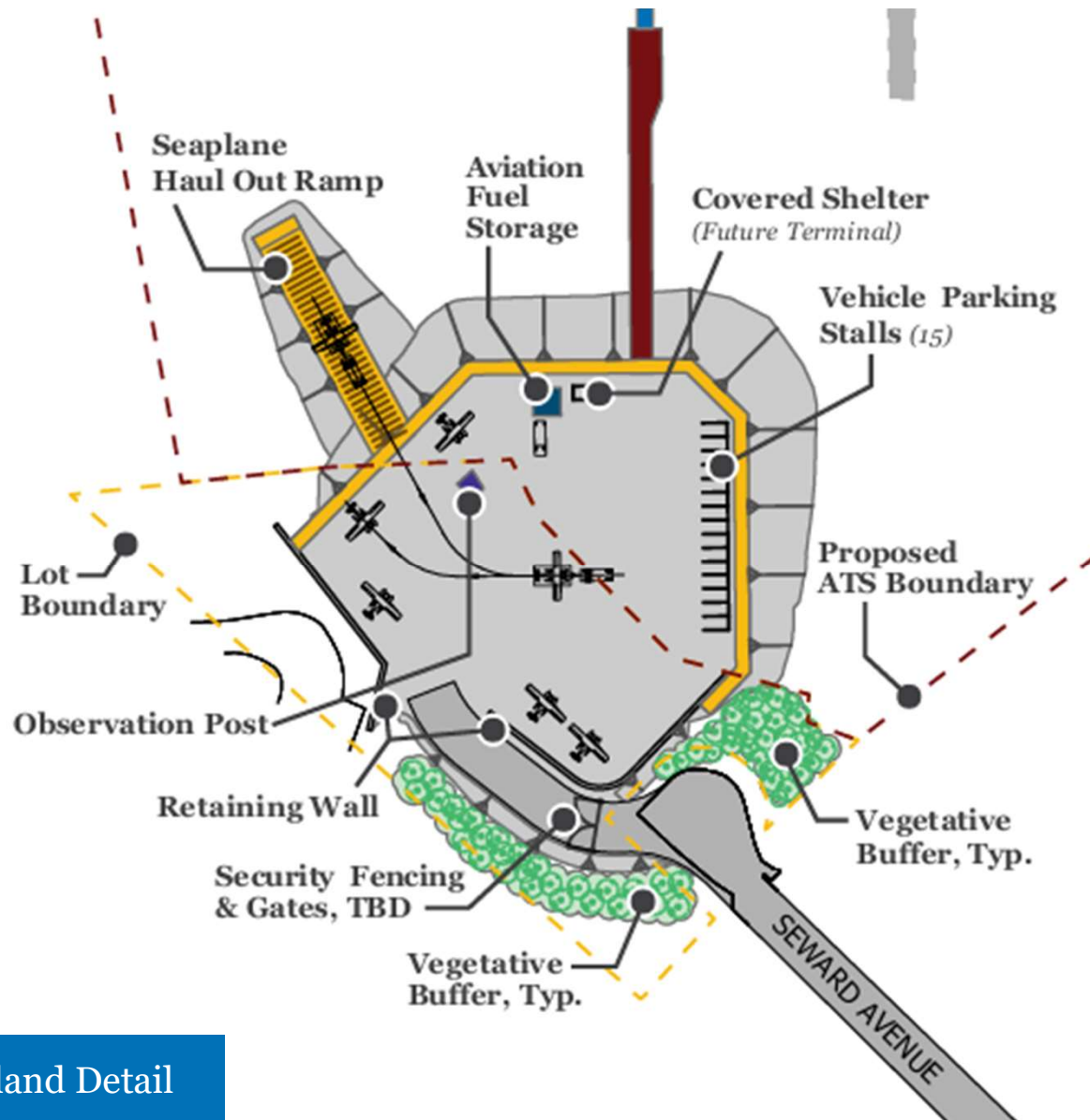


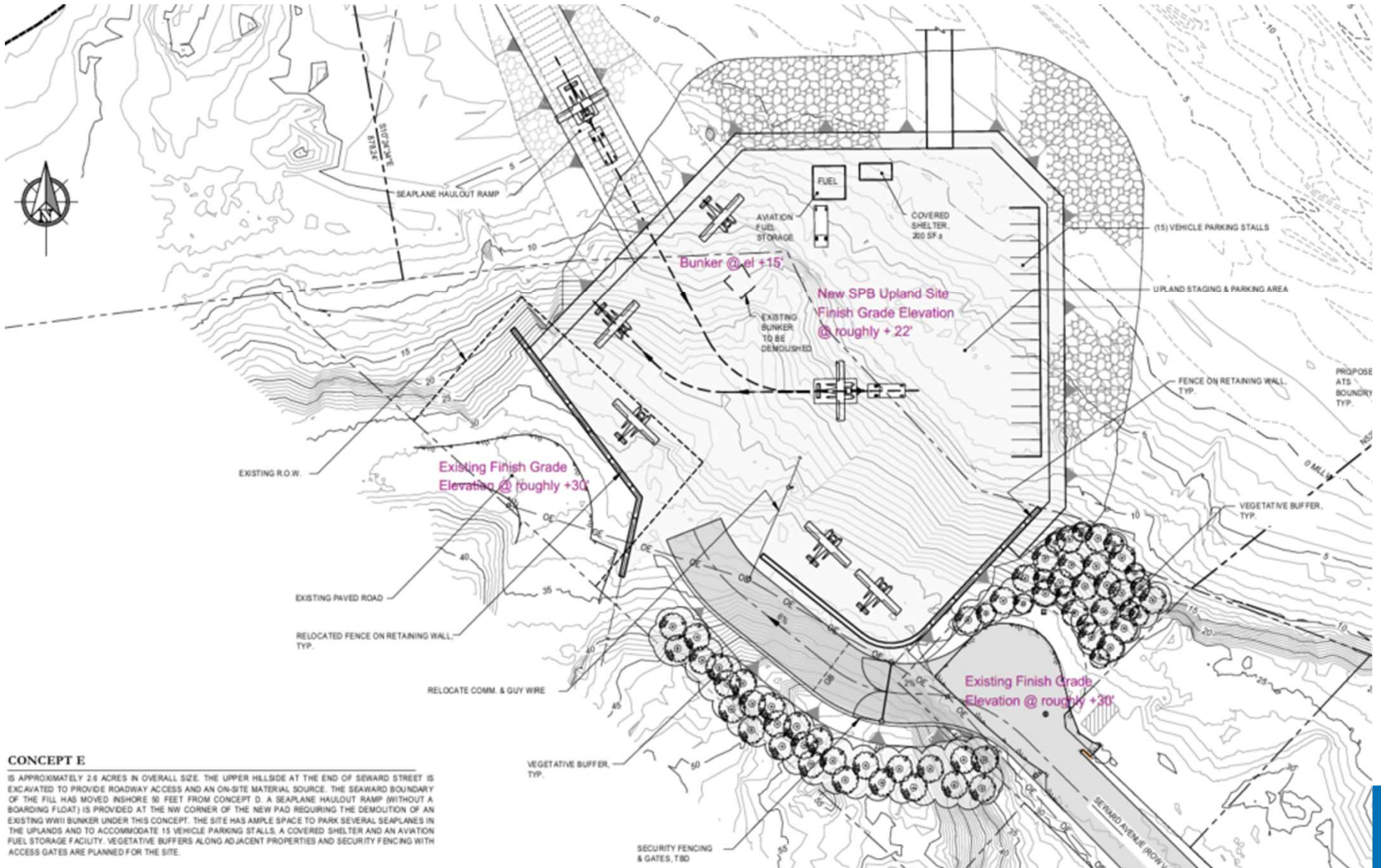
Section 34-35, T55S, R63E, Copper River Meridian



Proposed Action

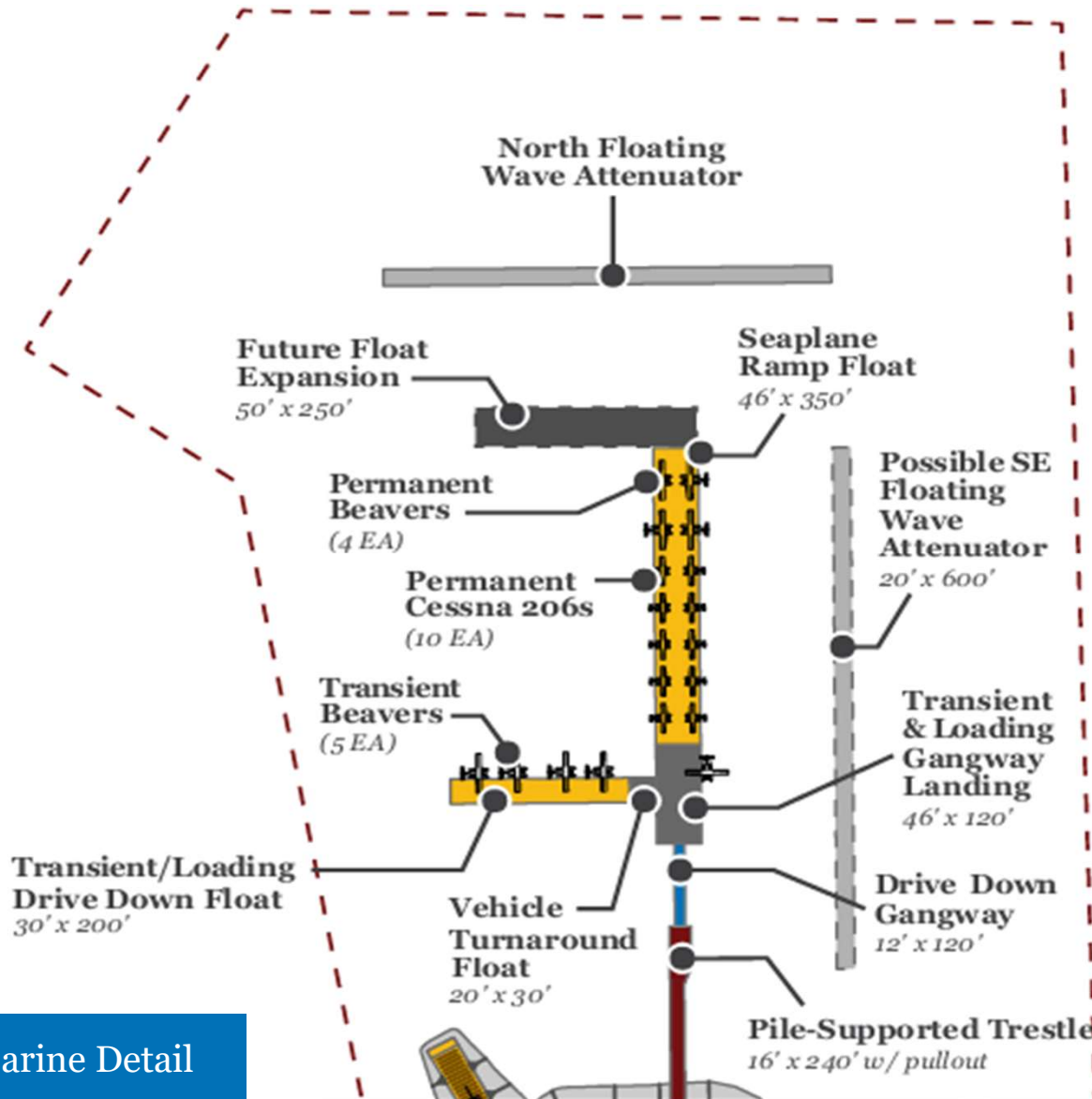
Sitka Seaplane Base
Environmental Assessment





CONCEPT E

IS APPROXIMATELY 2.6 ACRES IN OVERALL SIZE. THE UPPER HILLSIDE AT THE END OF SEWARD STREET IS EXCAVATED TO PROVIDE ROADWAY ACCESS AND AN ON-SITE MATERIAL SOURCE. THE SEAWARD BOUNDARY OF THE FILL HAS MOVED INSHORE 30 FEET FROM CONCEPT D. A SEARLANE HAULOUT RAMP (WITHOUT A BOARDING FLOAT) IS PROVIDED AT THE NW CORNER OF THE NEW PAD REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING WWII BUNKER UNDER THIS CONCEPT. THE SITE HAS AMPLE SPACE TO PARK SEVERAL SEARLANES IN THE UPLANDS AND TO ACCOMMODATE 15 VEHICLE PARKING STALLS, A COVERED SHELTER AND AN AVIATION FUEL STORAGE FACILITY. VEGETATIVE BUFFERS ALONG ADJACENT PROPERTIES AND SECURITY FENCING WITH ACCESS GATES ARE PLANNED FOR THE SITE.



Marine Detail



MARINE CONCEPT NO.7 (MC 7)

IS SIMILAR TO MC 6 HOWEVER THE APPROACH TRESTLE HAS BEEN LENGTHED AND REDUCED IN WIDTH. THE DRIVE DOWN GANGWAY HAS BEEN SHORTENED AND REDUCED IN WIDTH.

USACE BREAKWATER
MAIN HARBOR ENTRANCE

NORTHERLY EXPOSURE

SITKA CHANNEL

USACE BREAKWATER

SEAPLANE OPTION NO.1 SHOWN
OPTION NO.2 ALSO POSSIBLE

PROPOSED ATS BOUNDARY
31.8 ACRES

PERMANENT BEAVERS
(4 EA)

SEAPLANE FLOAT

NORTH FLOATING
WAVE ATTENUATOR

FUTURE FLOAT EXPANSION
50'x250'

EXISTING SOUTH
BREAKWATER

WINDY EXPOSURE

PERMANENT
CESSNA 206s
(10 EA)
20'x30' VEHICLE
TURNAROUND FLOAT

TRANSIENT BEAVERS
(5 EA)

TRANSIENT/LOADING
DOWN FLOAT, 30' x 120'

TRANSIENT & LOADING
GANGWAY LANDING FLOAT, 46' x 120'

DRIVE DOWN GANGWAY
42' x 120'

PILE-SUPPORTED TRESTLE
18' x 241' w/ PULL OUT

SEAPLANE
HAUL
OUT
RAMP

SEAPLANE RAMP FLOAT
46' x 350'

POSSIBLE SE FLOATING
WAVE ATTENUATOR, 20' x 600'

SEAPLANE
TRESTLE
24' x 172'

SEAPLANE
TRESTLE
24' x 172'

SEAPLANE
TRESTLE
24' x 172'

SEAPLANE
TRESTLE
24' x 172'

Hs = 1.4'

Hs = 1.6'

ESE EXPOSURE

Hs = 3.6'

Hs = 2.1'

Hs = 1.6'

UPLANDS
DEVELOPMENT

CONCEPT E SHOWN,
CONCEPTS A,B,C & D
ALSO POSSIBLE

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

BEWARD AVENUE

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

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AIR STATION

U.S.C.G.
AIR STATION

Environmental Consequences



Environmental Consequences

Physical

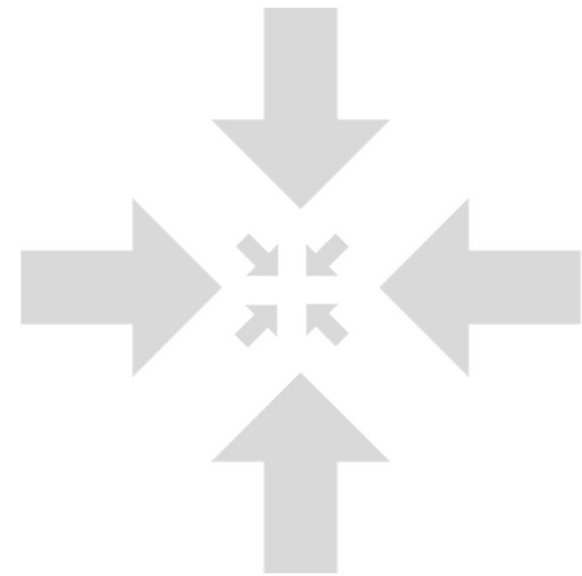
- Requires cut and fill to level site, includes blasting of hillside, fill in small terrestrial wetlands, fill in tidal area/marine waters

Biological

- Affects marine habitats, fish, marine mammals
- Affects terrestrial vegetation and wetlands

Social/Cultural

- Supports local and regional transportation system and economy
- Increased noise and traffic levels along Seward Avenue
- Removes observation post located on site



Marine Environment

- Fill in marine waters reduces EFH habitat by 1.47 acres
- Dock and floats impact (shadow) 1.34 acres of EFH and marine mammal habitat
- Pile driving and other construction noise impacts marine mammals, including:
 - *Humpback whales (threatened)*
 - *Steller sea lions (endangered)*
 - *Sea otters, harbor seals, killer whales*



Historic Resources

Sitka Naval Operating Base and Coastal Defenses National Historic Landmark

- WWII structures located throughout coastal Alaska
- Observation post not recorded
- Consultation underway on eligibility for National Register of Historic Places and potential mitigation required for adverse effects on it



Land Use & Noise

- Construction noise including blasting and pile driving
 - Temporary construction effects
- Increased vehicle traffic and traffic noise on Seward Avenue
 - Estimated at 10-12 one-way vehicle trips/day
- Increased seaplane takeoff/landing noise in channel
 - Noise would primarily occur during summer
 - Average noise levels would not exceed guidance level for compatibility with educational and health care uses



Noise Analysis

Receptor ID	Receptor Name	Elevation (ft)	Noise Level (dB)	Metric
1	Mt. Edgecumbe High School	15	64	DNL
2	Mt. Edgecumbe Dormitory	21	57	DNL
3	SEARHC Hospital – Existing	21	52	DNL
4	SEARHC Hospital – Proposed	21	49	DNL
5	SEARHC Community Health Services	20	54	DNL
6	Building 1200-1202	11	55	DNL

Permits, Reviews, & Approvals

Agency	Permit/Approval	Law
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	MMPA Consultation Section 7 Consultation EFH Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Mammal Protection Act Endangered Species Act Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	ESA Section 7 Consultation Bald Eagle Take Permit MBTA Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endangered Species Act Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Migratory Bird Treaty Act
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	NHPA Section 106 Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Historic Preservation Act
United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)	Section 4(f) Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Transportation Act
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Section 404/Section 10 Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Water Act/Rivers and Harbors Act
United States Coast Guard (USCG)	Section 10 Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers and Harbors Act

Stay Involved



What We Need From You

Comments can be submitted to: SitkaSPB@dowl.com

1. Please provide comments on:
 - a. Purpose and Need for the Project
 - b. Project Alternatives that were or should have been considered
 - c. Environmental effects that are not adequately addressed
 - d. Mitigation measures that may reduce the adverse effects of the Project
2. Please submit comments by **February 28, 2021**.



Overall Project Schedule

Milestones	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
EA/FONSI		█					
Airport Planning		█					
Seaplane Base Layout Plan		█					
Design, Permitting, Bidding			█				
Land Acquisition, Acquisition Grant		█					
Construction					█		
Operation							→

Remember...

**Submit comments by
February 28, 2021**

Project Team:

SitkaSPB@dowl.com



**Join the
Mailing List**

Send an email to
SitkaSPB@dowl.com