



May 18, 2026

Mr. Steve Rybolt
Senior Environmental Program Manager
Port of Seattle

Re: Request for 90-Day Extension to SAMP SEPA Draft EIS Comment Period

Mr. Rybolt:

On behalf of the Cities of SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines ("Cities"), we are writing to respectfully request that the Port of Seattle extend the public and agency comment period for the Sustainable Airport Master Plan Draft SEPA Environmental Impact Statement to 90 days.

The Cities appreciate the Port's work to advance the SEPA environmental review process and acknowledge the importance of providing meaningful opportunities for public, agency, and jurisdictional review. However, given the scope, technical complexity, and significant implications of the SAMP, the Cities believe that no less than 90 days will be needed for the Cities to adequately review, digest, and provide thorough and useful comments on the Draft EIS.

The SAMP Draft SEPA EIS will evaluate a substantial program of airport-related improvements that have implications for surface transportation, noise, air quality, land use, public health, construction impacts, stormwater, cumulative impacts, and quality of life. These are not abstract or regional issues for the Cities; they directly affect our communities, our residents, businesses, transportation network, public facilities, and long-term planning responsibilities. A full review requires coordination across multiple departments in each city, technical consultants, legal counsel, neighboring jurisdictions, elected officials, and community stakeholders.

The requested comment period is warranted for several practical and substantive reasons.

First, the review period will overlap with significant regional preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The Cities, our residential and business communities, the Port, regional transportation agencies, public safety partners, and neighboring jurisdictions are already engaged in intensive coordination related to airport operations, visitor movement, transportation management, public safety, and regional readiness. These efforts require substantial attention and are directly connected to the same transportation and airport systems evaluated in the SAMP Draft SEPA EIS.

Second, the Draft SEPA EIS requires review in the context of recent and ongoing regional planning work, including each City's 2044 Comprehensive Plan, transportation plans, regional transportation planning, and ongoing coordination with the Port and neighboring jurisdictions. The Cities and our communities need adequate time to compare the Draft SEPA EIS assumptions, mitigation proposals, transportation analysis, and cumulative impact findings against these planning documents and technical tools.

Third, the Draft SEPA EIS follows a NEPA process that raised significant unresolved concerns for the Cities, including the treatment of cumulative impacts, the relationship between near-term and long-term airport development, surface transportation mitigation, aviation noise, air pollution, and the separation of NEPA and SEPA review. As noted in prior SAMP correspondence, the Cities have consistently raised concerns regarding (1) the adequacy of the environmental review framework and (2) the need to evaluate airport growth and related infrastructure impacts comprehensively.

Fourth, the review period will fall at the start of the summer season, when our community members, city staff, consultants, and elected officials are affected by scheduled vacations, reduced meeting availability, and holiday-related scheduling constraints. This limits the ability of the Cities to convene the necessary internal and interjurisdictional discussions, brief decision-makers, and prepare a complete technical response. The Cities believe that this minor extension of the Port's EIS process is offset by efficiencies gained by having the local jurisdictions provide coordinated input and joint comments.

Finally, an extension to 90 days would support a more transparent and effective public process. The communities most affected by airport activity deserve sufficient time to understand the Draft SEPA EIS, evaluate its findings, and provide meaningful comments. Given the length and technical nature of the document, additional time would improve the quality of public and agency input and reduce the risk that important issues are overlooked.

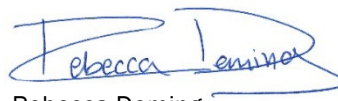
For these reasons, the Cities respectfully requests that the Port extend the SAMP Draft SEPA EIS comment period to 90 days. This extension would provide the Cities, neighboring jurisdictions, community members, agencies, and other stakeholders a more reasonable opportunity to review the Draft SEPA EIS and submit substantive comments on a proposal of significant regional and local importance.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The Cities remain committed to continued coordination with the Port and other regional partners on the SAMP environmental review process.

Sincerely,



Jenn Kester
Interim Director Community
and Economic Development
SEPA Responsible Official
City of SeaTac



Rebecca Deming
Community Development
Director
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City of Des Moines



[Liz Stead \(May 18, 2026 14:04:00 PDT\)](#)

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Final Audit Report

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