



JOINT LETTER

City of Burien | City of Des Moines | City of SeaTac

July 16, 2026

Port of Seattle Commissioners
2711 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Port Commissioners:

Last month, the city councils of Burien, Des Moines, and SeaTac spoke with one united voice to demand more time for our shared constituencies to review, digest, and provide thorough and useful comments on the Sustainable Airport Master Plan's State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

After years of delay, more than 6,000 pages full of complex, technical language was suddenly made publicly available in the midst of one of the busiest periods our region has seen in recent history, with a deadline of only 60 calendar days to understand and comment on it.

Three independent grounds support extension of the comment period.

First, the DEIS presents issues of extraordinary technical complexity across multiple specialized disciplines that cannot all be meaningfully evaluated and commented on in 60 days. Washington's SEPA rules do not prescribe a maximum comment period for EIS documents; the Port retains discretion to set a period appropriate to the document's complexity. The choice of 60 days for a document of this scale and technical complexity does not reflect the exercise of that discretion in a manner consistent with the purpose of environmental review.

Second, the DEIS and its appendices together constitute a document of enormous volume, with core analytical content fragmented across interrelated chapters and technical appendices that must be read and cross-referenced in their entirety to understand their significance.

Third, the Port has failed to include in the publicly available DEIS record (or timely provide the Cities with) the underlying data, modelling inputs and outputs, key analytical documentation, and finalized regulatory determinations upon which many of the DEIS's conclusions depend — making complete review within 60 days structurally impossible.

Each of these grounds independently warrants an extension.

If City staff have been working tirelessly with teams of consultants to review and respond to this DEIS with only a few days left to go, how can our community members, especially those who have much fewer resources and capacity due in part to the same socio-economic burdens (clearly identified in the Port's own Equity Index) that this plan could exacerbate if unmitigated, be expected to provide detailed comments? For these communities, the DEIS is not an abstract regulatory document; it will determine the nature, extent, and enforceability of environmental protections that govern their quality of life for decades.

The Port's equity statement vows to identify and dismantle barriers "to ensure that historically oppressed communities, particularly communities of color, have access to the resources they need to thrive."



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You have an opportunity to dismantle a barrier right now. *This comment period must be extended to no less than 120 days.*

We must also collectively acknowledge the reality that the cumulative outcome of these projects *will* have significant impacts on the communities surrounding the airport, and our shared constituencies deserve to see a good faith attempt by those who serve them to address and mitigate.

We are requesting time and acknowledgment, and we are opening our door wide for collaboration. We owe that much to our communities.

Sincerely,

Bob Larson
Burien Interim City Manager

Katherine Caffrey
Des Moines City Manager

Jonathan Young
SeaTac City Manager