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ENVIRONMENTAL
HEARINGS OFFICE

POLLUTION CONTROL HEARINGS BOARD
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

4 AIRPORT COMMUNITIES) 5 COALITION,) 6 Appellant,) 7 v.) 8 STATE OF WASHINGTON,) 9 DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY; and) 10 THE PORT OF SEATTLE,) 11 Respondents.) <hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 0;"/>) No. 01-160)) DECLARATION OF AMANDA) AZOUS ON LATE ATTACHMENTS) TO STOCKDALE DECLARATION)) (Section 401 Certification No.) 1996-4-02325 and CZMA) concurrency statement, issued August) 10, 2001, Reissued September 21,) 2001, under No. 1996-4-02325) (Amended-1))
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Amanda Azous declares as follows:

- 14 1. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify, and have personal
15 knowledge of the facts stated herein.
- 16 2. In my last declaration dated October 10th, 2001 I pointed out that the
17 one page Attachment to Erik Stockdale's declaration labeled as Attachment 1 was
18 incorrectly identified as wetland water level data. I understand that in oral
19 arguments before the Board, on October 15, Ecology submitted additional pages,
20 which it acknowledged were not part of the original attachment. I have reviewed
21 the additional pages submitted on October 15th and have the following supplemental
22 comments to my prior declarations of September 11th and October.10th.

DECLARATION OF AMANDA AZOUS ON
LATE ATTACHMENTS TO STOCKDALE
DECLARATION - 1

HELSELL FETTERMAN LLP
1500 Puget Sound Plaza
1325 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-2509

Rachael Paschal Osborn
Attorney at Law
2421 West Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

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3. The additional pages of the attachment are spreadsheets showing water levels in groundwater wells located in the airport's project area. The data provided in the attachment shows measurements of both surface and deep-water aquifers. A number of the monitoring wells, labeled in the attachment as the West Wall Area, are measuring water levels in aquifers that are producing wetlands and others are measuring groundwater levels too deep to produce wetlands. No map was provided to show the locations of these monitoring wells so it is not possible to determine the relevance of the well monitoring *locations* in relationship to protection of wetland hydrology.

4. Some of the data provided in the Attachment 1 additions illustrate the kind of water level data that would be needed to establish a baseline hydroperiod for mitigation of wetland hydrologic functions. However, the actual data provided remains flawed and the core issues remain: (1) The Port has not provided baseline monitoring data that will give reasonable assurance for defining pre-construction conditions. (2) The performance standards the Port is obligated to meet in the 401 conditions do not reflect historical conditions in remaining wetlands and, therefore, the standards are inadequate to insure the functions of remaining wetlands will be protected.

5. The Attachment 1 additions confirm the Port began monitoring wetland hydrology well after it began altering watershed conditions. The earliest monitoring date shown in these data is March of 1999, however, the overwhelming

HELSELL FETTERMAN LLP	Rachael Paschal Osborn
1500 Puget Sound Plaza	Attorney at Law
1325 Fourth Avenue	2421 West Mission Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-2509	Spokane, WA 99201

1 majority of the wells were monitored only in 2000 and 2001. I know from personal
2 observation that land alterations were occurring prior to 2000 so the monitoring
3 would not be reflective of pre-construction conditions.

4 6. The Attachment 1 additions also confirm that the performance
5 standard specified in the 401 conditions do not accurately reflect hydrology for the
6 length of season, groundwater elevations and amount of inundation historically
7 contributed by many of these wetlands. The Port's data for several wells including
8 HC99-B37, HC00-B121, HC00-B123, HC00-B130 and HC00-B132, indicate that
9 groundwater was at or within six inches of the ground surface *during June, July and*
10 *often as late as October* in 2000, the only months and year for which dry season
11 hydrology was provided. Yet the performance standard required by the 401 for the
12 wetland areas these wells are monitoring only requires that that there "be
13 groundwater within 10 inches of the soil surface between *March and mid-June* in
14 years of normal rainfall where organic soils dominate and from *March to mid-April*
15 where mineral soils dominate". The kind of wetland protected by the 401 condition
16 for maintaining wetland hydrology will have a far reduced level of functioning than
17 many of the wetlands described by the Port's hydrologic monitoring. The wetland
18 hydrology performance standards designated by the 401 permit are inadequate to
19 protect wetlands because the season required for providing hydrology is several
20 months shorter than it should be to protect wetland functions.
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DECLARATION OF AMANDA AZOUS ON
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HELSELL FETTERMAN LLP
1500 Puget Sound Plaza
1325 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-2509

Rachael Paschal Osborn
Attorney at Law
2421 West Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

AR 006368

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7. The Attachment 1 additions confirm that the 401 conditions specify performance standards for wetland hydrology that will not protect the functions of remaining wetlands. The lack of hydrologic data gathered under pre-construction conditions precludes the development of hydrologic performance standards that will ensure no loss of wetland functions within what is left.

8. Moreover, continued monitoring of wetlands as their watersheds are undergoing alterations in size and character, as contemplated in the 401 conditions, will not solve this problem, which has been created by the Port's failure to perform pre-construction hydrologic monitoring. Using monitoring data that is obtained from wetlands that are undergoing continuing alterations to their watersheds to develop hydrologic performance standards is not generally accepted as appropriate professional wetland practice. What is needed is an immediate cessation of all further alterations to the Port's Third Runway project area. Wetland hydrology would then need to be monitored for at least a year to establish a detailed picture of wetland hydroperiods under static conditions. Once a baseline is established for existing disturbed watershed conditions, the data could be compared to anecdotal observations of pre-construction wetland hydrology documented in the first wetland surveys of 1994 and 1995. Using both sources of hydrologic information, it may be possible to define performance standards for wetland hydrology that better reflect historical (true pre-construction) wetland functions and provide reasonable assurance that wetland functions will be fully mitigated. Anything less, such as the

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HELSELL FETTERMAN LLP
1500 Puget Sound Plaza
1325 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-2509

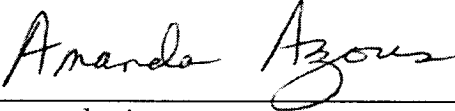
Rachael Paschal Osborn
Attorney at Law
2421 West Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

AR 006369

1 Port's proposal to monitor while they alter the landscape, is not going to provide
2 data necessary for reasonable assurance that beneficial uses are protected.

3 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington
4 that the foregoing is true and correct.

5 DATED this 18 day of October, 2001, at Seattle, Washington.

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Amanda Azous

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DECLARATION OF AMANDA AZOUS ON
LATE ATTACHMENTS TO STOCKDALE
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HELSELL FETTERMAN LLP
1500 Puget Sound Plaza
1325 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-2509

Rachael Paschal Osborn
Attorney at Law
2421 West Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

AR 006370