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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ON BEHALF  
OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE  
INTERIOR; THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
THROUGH THE WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY;  
MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE;  
SUQUAMISH TRIBE,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LYNDEN, INC.; KNIK CONSTRUCTION CO.,  
INC; DOUGLAS MANAGEMENT COMPANY;  
ALASKA MARINE LINES, INC.; SWAN BAY  
HOLDINGS, INC.; BERING MARINE CORP.;  
7100 FIRST AVENUE S SEATTLE, LLC; 5615  
WEST MARGINAL WAY SW SEATTLE, LLC;  
5600 WEST MARGINAL WAY SW SEATTLE,  
LLC; LTI, INC.; LYNDEN TRANSPORT, INC.  
(F/K/A LYNDEN TRANSFER, INC.);  
ALAGNAK HOLDINGS, LLC.,

Defendants.

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Case No. cv-23-00101

CONSENT DECREE

CONSENT DECREE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

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CONSENT DECREE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1  
2 The United States of America (“United States”), on behalf of the National Oceanic and  
3 Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) and the United States Department of the Interior  
4 through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the State of Washington (the “State”) through the  
5 Washington State Department of Ecology; the Suquamish Tribe; and the Muckleshoot Indian  
6 Tribe (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), have filed a complaint in this case against Defendants: Lynden,  
7 Inc.; Knik Construction Co., Inc.; Douglas Management Company; Alaska Marine Lines, Inc.;  
8 Swan Bay Holdings, Inc.; Bering Marine Corp.; 7100 First Avenue S Seattle, LLC; 5615 West  
9 Marginal Way SW Seattle, LLC; 5600 West Marginal Way SW Seattle, LLC; LTI, Inc.; Lynden  
10 Transport, Inc. (f/k/a Lynden Transfer, Inc.); and Alagnak Holdings, LLC, (collectively,  
11 “Defendants”) pursuant to Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response,  
12 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. § 9607; the  
13 Model Toxics Control Act (“MTCA”), RCW 70A.305; Section 311 of the Clean Water Act  
14 (“CWA”), 33 U.S.C. § 1321; and Section 1002(b)(2)(A) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990  
15 (“OPA”), 33 U.S.C. § 2702(b)(2)(A), for Covered Natural Resource Damages as a result of  
16 releases of hazardous substances and discharges of oil into the Lower Duwamish River (“LDR”)  
17 and/or Elliott Bay (as defined below). The Lower Duwamish River is an urban waterway in and  
18 near Seattle, Washington, which flows into Elliott Bay and has been subject to considerable  
19 levels of industrial use throughout its history and into the present. This Consent Decree (the  
20 “Decree”) addresses the claims asserted in the Complaint against the Defendants.  
21  
22  
23  
24

**II. BACKGROUND**

25  
26 A. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the United States  
27 Department of the Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Washington

1 Department of Ecology on behalf of the State of Washington; the Suquamish Tribe, and the  
2 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (collectively, “the Trustees” and, individually, a “Trustee”), under the  
3 authority of Section 107(f) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(f), 40 C.F.R. Part 300, subpart G,  
4 and RCW 70A.305.040(2), serve as trustees for natural resources for the assessment and  
5 recovery of damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources and the services  
6 provided by those injured resources under their trusteeship.  
7

8 B. Investigations conducted by the Trustees and others detected hazardous  
9 substances in the sediments, soils and groundwater of the Lower Duwamish River, including  
10 but not limited to arsenic, antimony, cadmium, chromium, copper, mercury, nickel, lead, zinc,  
11 bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, tributyltin (“TBT”),  
12 polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Overall, the  
13 Trustees have documented the presence of over 30 hazardous substances in the sediments of the  
14 LDR.  
15

16 C. The Trustees began assessing damages to natural resources in the LDR in 1990  
17 by finding that hazardous substances had been released into the LDR; that natural resources had  
18 likely been injured by the releases; that data sufficient to pursue a natural resource damage  
19 assessment were available or could likely be obtained at a reasonable cost; and that, without  
20 further action, future response activities would not adequately remedy the resource injuries.  
21 *See, e.g.*, NOAA, Lower Duwamish River Sediment Characterization Study Report (Dec. 10,  
22 1998); Elliott Bay Trustee Council, Pre-Assessment Screen for LDR (December 2009); NOAA,  
23 Final Lower Duwamish River NRDA Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental  
24 Impact Statement (July 2013); and Final Lower Duwamish River NRDA: Injury Assessment  
25 Plan (March 2019).  
26  
27

28 CONSENT DECREE

1 D. Although the Trustees have initiated but not yet completed a natural resource  
2 damage assessment for the LDR, the Trustees have developed and analyzed information  
3 sufficient to support settlements that are fair, reasonable and in the public interest.

4 E. At various times, Defendants owned and/or operated, or continue to own and/or  
5 operate, three properties located along the LDR: 5600 West Marginal Way SW (from about  
6 1989 to the present); 5615 West Marginal Way SW (from about 1970 to the present); and 7100  
7 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South (from about 1977 to the present). Activities at these properties prior to and  
8 during the Defendants' periods of ownership and operation included ship berthing, ship  
9 dismantling, vehicle washing, barge loading and unloading, use of underground storage tanks,  
10 and use of creosote treated wood and pilings. The activities at these properties have resulted in  
11 releases of hazardous substances, including but not limited to, PAHs, TBT, bis(2-ethylhexyl)  
12 phthalate, and phenol, to the LDR.

15 F. Plaintiffs allege in the Complaint that Defendants owned and/or operated facilities  
16 on, adjacent to, or near the LDR at the time of the disposal of hazardous substances within the  
17 meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 9607 and RCW 70A.305.040. Plaintiffs allege that hazardous substances  
18 have been released and oil discharged to the LDR from the facilities owned and/operated by  
19 Defendants, identified in Appendix A, through direct discharge or other process discharges that  
20 have flowed to the LDR. The alleged discharges were to "navigable waters" or "adjoining  
21 shorelines" within the meaning of Section 1002(a) of OPA, 33 U.S.C. § 2702(a), and Section  
22 311(b)(3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(3). Plaintiffs also allege that investigations have  
23 detected hazardous substances in soils, groundwater and/or sediments on or in the property or  
24 facilities, and some of these same hazardous substances are found in the sediments of the LDR.

27 Plaintiffs further allege that hazardous substances released to the LDR from the facilities owned

1 and/or operated by Defendants identified in Appendix A have caused injury to, destruction of  
2 and loss of natural resources in the LDR under Plaintiffs' trusteeship, including fish, shellfish,  
3 birds, sediments, and resources of cultural significance. Plaintiffs allege that each of them and  
4 the public have suffered the loss of natural resource services (including ecological services as  
5 well as direct and passive human-use losses) as a consequence of those injuries.  
6

7 G. To facilitate resolving natural resource damage claims, relying upon the results of  
8 remedial investigations, regulatory standards, and scientific literature, the Trustees developed an  
9 estimate of the amount of injury to natural resources that had occurred as a result of releases of  
10 hazardous substances and discharges of oil to the LDR. The Trustees quantified the effects of the  
11 injuries in terms of the losses of ecological services over affected areas of the LDR and over  
12 time, discounted to a present value. Plaintiffs used the term discounted service acre-years  
13 ("DSAYs") to describe both the scale of the injuries, and the amount of habitat restoration they  
14 are seeking to compensate for the injuries. At this time, for purposes of early settlements,  
15 including this Decree, the Trustees' estimated total number of DSAYs for the LDR is 5,278.  
16

17 H. Plaintiffs assert that hazardous substance releases to the LDR have become  
18 dispersed and commingled to the extent that the effects of releases or discharges of one  
19 potentially responsible party ("PRP") cannot be readily distinguished from another's. Plaintiffs  
20 further assert that the circumstances of the LDR contamination make all PRPs who contributed  
21 to the contamination jointly and severally liable for all injuries to natural resources that have  
22 resulted from the contamination. As a consequence, Plaintiffs assert the right to recover for  
23 damages and associated damage assessment costs from any Lower Duwamish River PRP.  
24

25 Without prejudice to their position and solely for purposes of facilitating early settlements with  
26 individual PRPs, the Trustee Council developed a streamlined process for allocating natural  
27

1 resource damages liability among the PRPs. The Plaintiffs determined that settling with  
2 Defendants for a portion of the natural resource damages attributable to all LDR sources would  
3 result in a fair and equitable resolution of Plaintiffs' claims. Taking into consideration prior  
4 settlements with other PRPs who bore some liability for hazardous substance contamination of  
5 the LDR and releases of hazardous substances and oil by non-settling parties, Plaintiffs agreed  
6 to settle their claims against Defendants as provided in this Consent Decree. Plaintiffs  
7 determined based upon the facts regarding Defendants' ownership and operations, and other  
8 equitable factors, that Defendants account for 15 of the total estimated DSAYs for the LDR.

9  
10 I. Defendants do not admit any liability to Plaintiffs arising out of the transactions  
11 or occurrences alleged in the Complaint and the matters alleged in this Decree.  
12

13 J. Plaintiffs and Defendants (collectively, the "Parties" and, individually, a "Party")  
14 agree that neither Plaintiffs nor Defendants will use this settlement (including the terms of this  
15 Decree and the basis for the compromise contained in other documents filed in this action in  
16 support of this Decree) in any other forum, whether in litigation, administrative proceedings,  
17 formal or informal negotiations, or otherwise, to resolve, attempt to resolve, or in any way  
18 influence the resolution of, other claims between Plaintiffs and Defendants in the LDR (as  
19 defined below); provided, however, that this provision does not limit Plaintiffs or Defendants  
20 from using otherwise available factual information referenced in documents filed in support of  
21 this Decree. The restriction in the preceding sentence applies to, but is not limited to, claims  
22 other than Covered Natural Resources Damages that the United States (on behalf of the United  
23 States Environmental Protection Agency) and the State may have against Defendants under  
24 CERCLA, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (as amended by the Resource Conservation and  
25 Recovery Act), 42 U.S.C. § 6901 *et seq.*, or MTCA in the LDR.  
26  
27

28 CONSENT DECREE

1 K. The Parties agree, and this Court by entering this Consent Decree finds, that this  
2 Decree has been negotiated by the Parties in good faith, that settlement of this matter will avoid  
3 prolonged and complicated litigation between the Parties, that this Decree will expedite the  
4 restoration and protection of natural resources at and near the Lower Duwamish River, that the  
5 funding of restoration by the Defendants constitutes appropriate action necessary to protect and  
6 restore the natural resources allegedly injured by releases or threatened releases of hazardous  
7 substances by the Defendants, and that this Decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed:

10 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28  
12 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1345 and 1367, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(b), and 33 U.S.C. § 2717(b). The Court has  
13 personal jurisdiction over the Parties. Solely for the purposes of this Decree and the underlying  
14 Complaint, the Parties waive all objections and defenses that they may have to jurisdiction of the  
15 Court or to venue in this District. The Parties may not challenge the terms of this Decree or this  
16 Court's jurisdiction to enter and enforce this Decree.  
17  
18

19 **IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

20 2. This Decree is binding upon the United States, the State, the Suquamish Tribe, the  
21 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and the Defendants and their successors and assigns. Any change in  
22 ownership or corporate or other legal status, including but not limited to any transfer of assets or  
23 real or personal property, will in no way alter the status or responsibilities of Defendants under  
24 this Decree.  
25

26 3. The Complaint states claims against the Defendants upon which relief may be  
27 granted. Nothing in this Decree shall be construed as an admission of liability by Defendants for



1 any claims or allegations made in the Complaint or in this Decree. This Decree shall not be used  
2 as evidence of Defendants' alleged liability in any action or proceeding other than an action or  
3 proceeding to enforce the terms of this Decree.

4 **V. DEFINITIONS**

5 4. Unless otherwise expressly provided, terms used in this Decree that are defined in  
6 CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA have the meanings assigned to them in  
7 CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever the terms listed below are used in this Decree or in  
8 any attached appendix, the following definitions will apply:

9 a. "CERCLA" means the Comprehensive Environmental Response,  
10 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, *et seq.*

11 b. "Consent Decree" or "Decree" means this Consent Decree, including  
12 Appendices A and B.

13 c. "Covered Natural Resource Damages" means damages, including costs of  
14 damage assessment, recoverable under Section 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607; Chapter  
15 70A.305 RCW; Section 311 of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. § 1321; and Section  
16 1002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 ("OPA"), 33 U.S.C. § 2702(b) and any other statutory or  
17 common law, for injury to, destruction of, loss of, loss of use of, or impairment of Natural  
18 Resources, including, but not limited to: (i) the costs of assessing such injury, destruction, or  
19 loss or impairment of natural resources; (ii) the costs of restoration, rehabilitation, or  
20 replacement of injured or lost natural resources or of acquisition of equivalent resources; (iii) the  
21 costs of planning such restoration activities; (iv) compensation for injury, destruction, loss,  
22 impairment, diminution in value, or loss of use of natural resources; and (v) each of the  
23 categories of recoverable damages described in 43 C.F.R. § 11.15, and applicable State or tribal

1 law, resulting from releases of hazardous substances or discharges of oil to the LDR and/or  
2 Elliott Bay, or adjoining shorelines, where such release or discharge occurred on or before the  
3 Effective Date of this Consent Decree, at or from the properties owned or operated by  
4 Defendants, respectively, identified in Appendix A. Damages, injury to, destruction of, loss of,  
5 loss of use of, or impairment of Natural Resources resulting from releases of hazardous  
6 substances or discharges of oil originating from Defendants' operations or activities outside of  
7 the properties identified for each Defendant in Appendix A are not included in Covered Natural  
8 Resource Damages, even if those hazardous substances or discharges of oil reach the LDR by  
9 flowing over, under, or through any portion of the properties identified in Appendix A.

11 d. "Day" means a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this  
12 Consent Decree, where the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period of  
13 time will run until the close of business of the next working day. "Working day" means a day  
14 other than a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday.

16 e. "Defendants" shall mean Lynden, Inc.; Knik Construction Co., Inc.;  
17 Douglas Management Company; Alaska Marine Lines, Inc.; Swan Bay Holdings, Inc.; Bering  
18 Marine Corp.; 7100 First Avenue S Seattle, LLC; 5615 West Marginal Way SW Seattle, LLC;  
19 5600 West Marginal Way SW Seattle, LLC; LTI, Inc.; Lynden Transport, Inc. (f/k/a Lynden  
20 Transfer, Inc.); and Alagnak Holdings, LLC.

22 f. "Discounted Service-Acre Year" (DSAY) means the amount of a specific  
23 suite of ecological services determined to be produced per acre of a given type of habitat over a  
24 period of years, the total of which are discounted to a present value.

1           g.       “Effective Date” shall be the date on which this Consent Decree is entered  
2 by the Court, or, if the Court instead issues an order approving the Consent Decree, the date of  
3 such order.

4           h.       “Elliott Bay” means any portion of Elliott Bay (including the shoreline,  
5 intertidal and subtidal areas, tributaries, estuaries and bottom sediments) in the State of  
6 Washington where hazardous substances originating from the locations identified in the  
7 definition of Covered Natural Resource Damages have come to be located.  
8

9           i.       “Lower Duwamish River” or “LDR” means any portion of the Duwamish  
10 Waterway (including the shoreline, intertidal areas, tributaries, estuaries and bottom sediments)  
11 in the State of Washington where hazardous substances originating from the property identified  
12 in the definition of Covered Natural Resource Damages have come to be located. The LDR  
13 includes the in-waterway portions of three Superfund Sites: the Harbor Island Superfund Site  
14 (located south of downtown Seattle, Washington, including the East Waterway and West  
15 Waterway that flow from the south end of Harbor Island north to Elliott Bay), the Lower  
16 Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site (approximately five miles of the Duwamish River from the  
17 southern tip of Harbor Island south to the area around the Norfolk Combined Sewer  
18 Overflow/Storm Drain in Tukwila, Washington), and the Lockheed West Superfund Site (areas  
19 in and around the site formerly known as Lockheed Shipyard No. 2, located near the confluence  
20 of the West Waterway and Elliott Bay).  
21  
22

23           j.       “MTCA” means the Model Toxics Control Act, RCW 70A.305.

24           k.       “Natural Resources” means that definition as provided in 42 U.S.C. §  
25 9601(16).  
26

1           l.       “Parties” means the United States, the State of Washington, the  
2 Suquamish Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and Defendants.

3           m.       “Plaintiffs” means the United States, the State of Washington, the  
4 Suquamish Tribe, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

5           n.       “Trustees” mean the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;  
6 the United States Department of the Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the  
7 Washington State Department of Ecology, on behalf of the State of Washington; the Suquamish  
8 Tribe; and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

9           o.       “United States” shall mean the United States of America and each  
10 department, agency and instrumentality of the United States, including the United States  
11 Department of Commerce and the United States Department of the Interior.  
12

13  
14           **VI.     PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENT COSTS AND NATURAL RESOURCE**  
15           **DAMAGES; PURCHASE OF RESTORATION CREDITS**

16           **A.     Reimbursement of Assessment Costs**

17           5.       Payment for Past Assessment Costs Incurred by the United States.

18           Within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Decree, Defendants shall pay a  
19 total of \$31,528.35 to the United States for assessment costs incurred by the United  
20 States. Payment shall be made by FedWire Electronic Funds Transfer (“EFT”) to the U.S.  
21 Department of Justice account, in accordance with instructions provided to Defendants by the  
22 Financial Litigation Unit (“FLU”) of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District  
23 of Washington after the Effective Date. The payment instructions provided by the FLU will  
24 include a Consolidated Debt Collection System (“CDCS”) number, which Defendants shall use  
25  
26  
27

1 to identify all payments required to be made in accordance with this Consent Decree. The FLU  
2 will provide the payment instructions to:

3 Tesia Walker  
4 Assistant Treasurer  
5 Lynden Incorporated  
6 18000 International Blvd., Suite 800  
7 Seattle, WA 98188  
8 [Tesia@lynden.com](mailto:Tesia@lynden.com)

9 with a copy to:

10 Everett H. Billingslea  
11 General Counsel  
12 Lynden Incorporated  
13 18000 International Blvd., Suite 800  
14 Seattle, WA 98188  
15 [ehb@lynden.com](mailto:ehb@lynden.com)

16 on behalf of Defendants. Defendants may change the individuals to receive payment instructions  
17 on their behalf by providing written notice of such change to the United States in accordance  
18 with Section XIII (Notices). Of the total amount to be paid by Defendants pursuant to this  
19 Paragraph:

- 20 (a) \$2,641.60 shall be deposited in the DOI NRDAR Fund, to be applied toward  
21 natural resource damage assessment costs incurred by DOI.
- 22 (b) \$28,886.75 shall be deposited in the NOAA DARR Fund, to be applied toward  
23 natural resource damage assessment costs incurred by NOAA.

24 6. At the time of each payment pursuant to Paragraph 5, Defendants will send notice  
25 that payment has been made to the United States in accordance with Section XIII (Notices). Such  
26

1 notice will reference Lower Duwamish River NRDA, DOJ case number 90-11-3-07227/5, and  
2 the civil action number.

3 **B. Payment of Natural Resource Damages**

4 7. Within thirty days of the Effective Date of this Decree, Defendants will pay to the  
5 Trustees \$556,250 for Covered Natural Resource Damages. Payment shall be made by EFT to  
6 the U.S. Department of Justice account in accordance with Paragraph 5. The payment shall be  
7 disbursed to a segregated sub-account within the NRDAR Fund (“Elliott Bay/Lower Duwamish  
8 River Account”) to be managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior for the joint benefit and  
9 use of the Trustees to pay for natural resource restoration projects to be jointly selected by the  
10 Trustees.  
11 Trustees.

12 **C. Purchase of Restoration Credits**

13 8. As contemplated by this Consent Decree, and as required by the Consent Decree  
14 entered on May 7, 2021 in *United States, et al. v. City of Seattle*, Civ. No. 14-1486  
15 (W.D.Wash.) (Doc. No. 31), a restoration project developer, Bluefield Holdings, Inc., has  
16 constructed and is completing development of a restoration project, known as Restoration  
17 Project One, along the Lower Duwamish River on behalf of LDR PRPs, including Defendants  
18 and the City of Seattle, for the purpose of, *inter alia*, resolving the liability of the PRPs for  
19 natural resource damages. *See* Appendix B (Letter from Bluefield Holdings, Inc.).

20 9. In addition to paying cash to resolve their liabilities to the Trustees, Defendants  
21 agree to fund a portion of Restoration Project One by purchasing restoration credits equivalent  
22 to 10.55 DSAYs from Bluefield Holdings, Inc. Within 30 days of the Effective Date of this  
23 Consent Decree, Defendants shall provide documentation of the purchase of the credits for  
24  
25  
26  
27

1 10.55 DSAYS to the Trustees. Defendants also agree that they shall retire the restoration credits  
2 and may not sell or transfer the restoration credits to any other party.

3 10. Bluefield Holdings, Inc. acknowledges in the letter attached to this Consent  
4 Decree at Appendix B that, pursuant to the consent decree entered in *United States, et al. v. City*  
5 *of Seattle*, No. 16-1486 (W.D. Wash.), Bluefield Holdings, Inc. is obligated to, *inter alia*,  
6 operate and maintain, perform adaptive management, and fund permanent stewardship for  
7 Restoration Project One to maintain its ecological value, as determined by the Trustees, which  
8 includes ecological value that serves as the basis for the DSAY-equivalent restoration credits  
9 purchased by the Defendants in settlement of this action. Bluefield Holdings, Inc. further  
10 acknowledges in the letter attached to this Consent Decree at Appendix B that the Trustees, in  
11 entering into this Consent Decree, are relying on performance by Bluefield Holdings, Inc. of its  
12 obligations in the consent decree entered in *United States, et al. v. City of Seattle*.  
13  
14

15 **VII. STIPULATED PENALTIES AND INTEREST**

16 11. Defendants shall pay a stipulated penalty of \$5,000 per day that each payment  
17 pursuant to Paragraphs 5 and 7 is not made by the required due date.  
18

19 a. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after the payment is due, and  
20 shall continue to accrue through the final day the payment is made. Plaintiffs may give  
21 Defendants written notification of the late payment. Plaintiffs may send Defendants a written  
22 demand for the payment of stipulated penalties. However, penalties shall accrue as provided in  
23 this Paragraph regardless of whether Plaintiffs have notified Defendants of a late payment.  
24

25 b. All payments for stipulated penalties and interest for late payments to the  
26 United States under this Paragraph will be deposited by EFT to the United States Treasury in  
27 accordance with Paragraph 5. At the time of each payment, Defendants will send notice that

1 payment has been made to the United States in accordance with Section XIII (Notices). This  
2 notice will reference Lower Duwamish River NRDA, DOJ Case Number 90-11-3-07227/5, and  
3 the civil action number.

4 c. All penalties accruing under this Section shall be due and payable within  
5 thirty days of Defendants' receipt from Plaintiffs of a demand for payment of the penalties.  
6

7 12. If Defendants fail to pay stipulated penalties when due, Plaintiffs may institute  
8 proceedings to collect the penalties, as well as interest. Defendants shall pay interest on the  
9 unpaid balance, which shall begin to accrue on the day after payment is due.

10 13. If Plaintiffs bring a motion or a separate action in court to enforce this Decree and  
11 prevail, Plaintiffs shall be entitled to recover from Defendants their reasonable costs of such  
12 motion or action, including, but not limited to, costs of attorney time.  
13

14 14. Payments made under this Section are in addition to any other remedies or  
15 sanctions available to Plaintiffs by virtue of Defendants' failure to comply with the requirements  
16 of this Decree.  
17

18 15. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, Plaintiffs may, in their  
19 unreviewable discretion, waive payment of any portion of the stipulated penalties that have  
20 accrued pursuant to this Decree. Payment of stipulated penalties does not excuse Defendants  
21 from payment as required by Section VI (Payment of Assessment Costs and Purchase of  
22 Restoration Credits) or from performance of any other requirement of this Decree.  
23

#### 24 **VIII. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY PLAINTIFFS**

25 16. Except as specifically provided in Section IX (Reservations of Rights) below,  
26 Plaintiffs covenant not to sue or to take administrative action against Defendants pursuant to  
27 Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a); RCW 70A.305.040; RCW 90.48.367(5);  
28



1 Section 311 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1321; Section 1002(a) of the Oil  
2 Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), 33 U.S.C. § 2702(a); or any applicable tribal law, to recover  
3 Covered Natural Resource Damages. This Covenant Not to Sue will take effect upon receipt of  
4 Defendants' complete payments pursuant to Sections VI.A & B (Reimbursement of Assessment  
5 Costs and Payment of Natural Resource Damages). This Covenant Not to Sue is conditioned  
6 upon the satisfactory performance by Defendants of their obligations under this Decree. This  
7 Covenant Not to Sue extends only to Defendants and their successors and assigns, and does not  
8 extend to any other person.  
9

10 **IX. RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS**

11 17. Plaintiffs reserve, and this Decree is without prejudice to, all rights against  
12 Defendants with respect to all matters not expressly included within the Covenant Not to Sue by  
13 Plaintiffs in Section VIII. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Decree, Plaintiffs reserve  
14 all rights against Defendants with respect to:  
15

16 a. liability for any other costs, including without limitation, costs of response  
17 incurred or to be incurred by the United States, the State, or the Tribes under any federal or State  
18 statute or tribal law that are not within the definition of Covered Natural Resource Damages;  
19

20 b. liability for damages to Natural Resources (including assessment costs) as  
21 defined in 42 U.S.C. § 9601(6), (16) that are not within the definition of Covered Natural  
22 Resource Damages;  
23

24 c. liability for damages to Natural Resources (including assessment costs) as  
25 defined in 42 U.S.C. § 9601(6), (16) within the Lower Duwamish River and/or Elliott Bay  
26 resulting from new releases of hazardous substances or discharges of oil from Defendants'  
27 property and/or operations after the Effective Date of this Consent Decree;

1           d.       liability for damages to Natural Resources (including assessment costs) as  
2 defined in 42 U.S.C. § 9601(6), (16) based upon Defendants' transportation, treatment, storage,  
3 or disposal, or the arrangement for the transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of  
4 hazardous substances at or in connection with the Lower Duwamish River, after the Effective  
5 Date of this Decree;

6           e.       liability for injunctive relief or administrative order enforcement under  
7 any federal or State statute;

8           f.       liability under Section 107(a)(4)(D), 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a)(4)(D), for costs  
9 of any health assessment or health effects study carried out under 42 U.S.C. § 9604(i);

10           g.       additional claims for Covered Natural Resource Damages if conditions,  
11 factors or information in the Lower Duwamish River and/or Elliott Bay, not known to the  
12 Trustees as of the Effective Date, are discovered that, together with any other relevant  
13 information, indicate that there is a threat to the environment, or injury to, destruction of, or loss  
14 of Natural Resources of a type unknown, or of a magnitude significantly greater than was  
15 known, as of the Effective Date of this Decree (for purposes of this Subparagraph, information  
16 known to the Trustees shall consist of any information in the files of, or otherwise in the  
17 possession of, any one of the individual Trustees, or their contractors or consultants who worked  
18 on the Trustees' natural resource damages assessment and liability allocation projects);

19           h.       criminal liability to the United States or State; and

20           i.       liability for failure of a Defendant to satisfy the requirements of this  
21 Decree.

**X. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY DEFENDANTS**

1  
2 18. Defendants covenant not to sue and agree not to assert any claims or causes of  
3 action against the United States, the State, the Suquamish Tribe, and the Muckleshoot Indian  
4 Tribe, or their contractors or employees, relating to Covered Natural Resource Damages,  
5 including, but not limited to:

6 a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement of any payment for  
7 Covered Natural Resource Damages from the Hazardous Substance Superfund based on  
8 CERCLA Sections 107, 111, 112, 113, or any other provision of law; or

9 b. any claim against the United States, the State, or the Tribes pursuant to  
10 Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, relating to Covered Natural  
11 Resource Damages.  
12

13  
14 **XI. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT; CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION**

15 19. Nothing in this Decree shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any  
16 cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Decree. Each of the Parties expressly reserves  
17 any and all rights (including, but not limited to, pursuant to Section 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C.  
18 § 9613), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action each Party may have with respect to  
19 any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Lower Duwamish River against  
20 any person not a Party hereto. Nothing in this Decree diminishes the right of the United States,  
21 pursuant to Section 113(f)(2) and (3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2)-(3), to pursue any  
22 such persons to obtain additional relief (including response action, response costs, and natural  
23 resource damages) and to enter into settlements that give rise to contribution protection pursuant  
24 to Section 113(f)(2).  
25  
26  
27

1           20.     The Parties agree, and by entering this Decree this Court finds, that this settlement  
2 constitutes a judicially-approved settlement pursuant to which Defendants have, as of the  
3 Effective Date, resolved their liability to the United States within the meaning of Section  
4 113(f)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2), and are entitled, as of the Effective Date, to  
5 protection from contribution actions or claims as provided by CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2),  
6 and RCW 70A.305.040(4)(d), or as may be otherwise provided by law, for Covered Natural  
7 Resource Damages. However, if Plaintiffs exercise their rights under the reservations in Section  
8 IX (Reservation of Rights), other than in Paragraphs 17(h) (criminal liability) and 17(i) (failure  
9 to satisfy a requirement of this Decree), the contribution protection afforded by this Decree will  
10 no longer include those natural resource damages that are within the scope of the exercised  
11 reservation.  
12

13  
14           21.     Defendants agree that they will notify Plaintiffs in writing no later than sixty (60)  
15 days before bringing a suit or claim for contribution for Covered Natural Resource Damages.  
16 Defendants also will notify Plaintiffs of any settlement of its claims (regardless of whether the  
17 claim is filed or unfiled) for contribution for Covered Natural Resource Damages. Defendants  
18 also agree that they will notify Plaintiffs in writing within ten (10) days of service of a complaint  
19 or claim upon Defendants relating to a suit or claim for contribution for Covered Natural  
20 Resource Damages. In addition, Defendants will notify Plaintiffs within ten (10) days of service  
21 or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment and within ten (10) days of receipt of any order  
22 from a court setting a case for trial for matters related to this Decree.  
23  
24

25           22.     In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by a Plaintiff(s)  
26 for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other appropriate relief other than Covered  
27 Natural Resource Damages, Defendants shall not assert, nor may it maintain, any defense or

1 claim based upon the principles of waiver, res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion,  
2 claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised by Plaintiffs  
3 in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case; provided,  
4 however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the covenants not to sue set  
5 forth in Paragraphs 16 and 18.

6  
7 **XII. RETENTION OF RECORDS**

8 23. Until ten (10) years after Defendants' payments to Plaintiffs pursuant to  
9 Paragraphs 5 and 7, Defendants shall preserve and retain all non-identical copies of records and  
10 documents (including records or documents in electronic form) now in their possession or  
11 control or which come into their possession or control that relate in any manner to their liability  
12 or the liability of any other person under CERCLA with respect to the Lower Duwamish River.  
13 The above record retention requirement shall apply regardless of any corporate retention policy  
14 to the contrary.

15  
16 24. At the conclusion of these document retention periods, Defendants shall notify the  
17 Plaintiffs at least ninety (90) days prior to the destruction of any such records or documents, and,  
18 upon written request by Plaintiffs, and except as provided in Paragraph 25 (Privileged and  
19 Protected Claims), Defendants shall deliver any such non-privileged records or documents to  
20 Plaintiffs.

21  
22 25. Privileged and Protected Claims. Defendants may assert that certain documents,  
23 records and other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other  
24 privilege recognized by federal law. If Defendants assert such a privilege, they shall provide  
25 Plaintiffs with the following: (1) the title of the document, record, or information; (2) the date of  
26 the document, record, or information; (3) the name and title of the author of the document,  
27



1 7600 Sand Point Way, NE  
2 Seattle, WA 98115  
3 Erika.wells@usdoj.gov

4 As to NOAA:

5 Joseph Edgell  
6 NOAA Office of General Counsel  
7 7600 Sand Point Way, NE  
8 Seattle, WA 98115  
9 Joseph.Edgell@noaa.gov

10 Rachel Ramos  
11 NOAA Office of General Counsel  
12 501 W. Ocean Blvd.  
13 Suite 4470  
14 Long Beach, CA 90802  
15 Rachel.ramos@noaa.gov

16 Marla Steinhoff  
17 Regional Resource Coordinator  
18 Office of Response and Restoration  
19 Assessment and Restoration Division  
20 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg. 1,  
21 Seattle, WA 98115-6349  
22 Marla.steinhoff@noaa.gov

23 As to the United States Department of the Interior:

24 Clare Cragan  
25 U.S. Department of the Interior  
26 Office of the Solicitor  
27 755 Parfet St., Suite 151  
28 Lakewood, CO 80215  
clare.cragan@sol.doi.gov

Jeff Krausmann  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503-1263  
Jeff\_krausmann@fws.gov

CONSENT DECREE

1 As to the State:

2 John Level  
3 Assistant Attorney General  
4 2425 Bristol Court S.W.  
5 P.O. Box 40117  
6 Olympia, WA 98504 0117  
7 John.level@atg.wa.gov

8 As to the Suquamish Tribe:

9 Melody Allen  
10 Suquamish Tribe  
11 Office of Tribal Attorney  
12 P.O. Box 498  
13 Suquamish, WA 98392-0498  
14 mallen@Suquamish.nsn.us

15 As to the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe:

16 Robert L Otsea, Jr. and Trent Crable  
17 Office of the Tribal Attorney  
18 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe  
19 39015 172nd Avenue S.E.  
20 Auburn, WA 98002  
21 Trent.crable@muckleshoot.nsn.us

22 As to Defendants:

23 Everett H. Billingslea  
24 General Counsel  
25 Lynden Incorporated  
26 18000 International Blvd., Suite 800  
27 Seattle, WA 98188  
28 [ehb@lynden.com](mailto:ehb@lynden.com)

with a copy to [notices@lynden.com](mailto:notices@lynden.com)

CONSENT DECREE



**XIV. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

1  
2 28. This Court retains jurisdiction over both the subject matter of this Consent  
3 Decree and the Parties for the duration of the performance of the terms and provisions of this  
4 Consent Decree for the purpose of enabling any of the Parties to apply to the Court at any time  
5 for such further order, direction, and relief as may be necessary or appropriate for the  
6 construction of this Consent Decree, or to effectuate or enforce compliance with its terms.  
7

**XV. 26 U.S.C. SECTION 162(f)(2)(A)(ii) IDENTIFICATION**

8  
9 29. For purposes of the identification requirement in Section 162(f)(2)(A)(ii) of the  
10 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. §162(f)(2)(A)(ii), and 26 C.F.R. § 1.162-21(b)(2)(iii)(A),  
11 performance by Defendants of Section XII (Retention Of Records), Paragraphs 23, 24, and  
12 26, and the payments plus interest and purchase of credits made in Section VI (Payment of  
13 Assessment Costs and Natural Resource Damages; Purchase of Restoration Credits), Paragraphs  
14 5-7 & 9, are restitution, remediation, or required to come into compliance with law.  
15

**XVI. LODGING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

16  
17  
18 30. This Decree will be lodged with the Court for a period of not less than thirty (30)  
19 days for public notice and comment. Plaintiffs each reserve the right to withdraw or withhold  
20 their consent if the comments regarding the Decree disclose facts or considerations that indicate  
21 this Decree is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Defendants consent to the entry of this  
22 Decree without further notice.  
23

24 31. If for any reason this Court does not approve this Decree in the form presented,  
25 this Decree may be voided at the sole discretion of any Party, and the terms of the agreement  
26 may not be used as evidence in any litigation among the Parties.  
27

**XVII. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE**

1  
2 32. The Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources  
3 Division of the United States Department of Justice and each undersigned representative of the  
4 State, the Suquamish Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and Defendants certifies that he or  
5 she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Decree and to execute and bind  
6 legally the Party that he or she represents to this document.  
7

8 33. Defendants agree not to oppose entry of this Decree by this Court or to challenge  
9 any provision of this Decree unless any Plaintiff has notified Defendants in writing that it no  
10 longer supports entry of the Decree.  
11

12 34. Defendants will identify on the attached signature page the name and address of  
13 an agent who is authorized to accept service of process by mail on behalf of each of them with  
14 respect to all matters relating to this Decree. Defendants agree to accept service in that manner  
15 and to waive the formal service requirements set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
16 Procedure and any applicable local rules of this Court, including but not limited to service of a  
17 summons. Defendants need not file an answer to the complaint in this action unless or until the  
18 Court expressly declines to enter this Decree.  
19

**XVIII. FINAL JUDGMENT**

20  
21 35. Upon approval and entry of this Consent Decree by the Court, this Consent  
22 Decree shall constitute a final judgment between and among the United States, the State, the  
23 Suquamish Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and Defendants. The Court finds that there is  
24 no just reason for delay and therefore enters this judgment as a final judgment under Fed. R. Civ.  
25 P. 54 and 58.  
26  
27

1 SO ORDERED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

2

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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CONSENT DECREE

1 Signature Page for Consent Decree regarding the Lower Duwamish River

2 *U.S., et al., v. Lynden, Inc., et al.*

3  
4 **FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

5  
6  
7  
8 Date: 11/16/22

9 TODD KIM  
Assistant Attorney General  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

10  
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12  
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14  
15 


16 ERIKA M. WELLS, OSBA# 055004  
Senior Counsel  
Environmental Enforcement Section  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
c/o NOAA Damage Assessment  
7600 Sand Point Way, NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
(202) 532-3258  
[Erika.wells@usdoj.gov](mailto:Erika.wells@usdoj.gov)

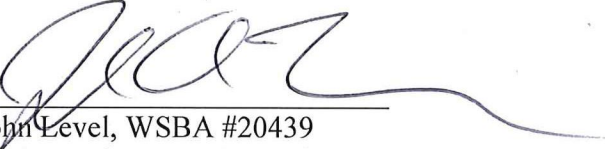
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Signature Page for Consent Decree regarding the Lower Duwamish River

*U.S., et al., v. Lynden, Inc., et al.*

**FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:**

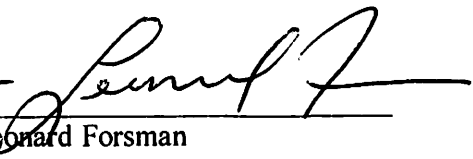
Date: 9/29/22   
Barry Rogowski  
Toxic Cleanup Program Manager  
Department of Ecology

Date: 9/29/22   
John Level, WSBA #20439  
Assistant Attorney General  
2425 Bristol Court S.W.  
P.O. Box 40117 Olympia,  
WA 98504 0117

1 Signature Page for Consent Decree regarding the Lower Duwamish River

2 *U.S., et al., v. Lynden, Inc., et al.*

3 **FOR THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE:**

4  
5  
6 Date: 2/25/22 

7 Leonard Forsman  
8 Chairman  
9 Suquamish Tribe  
10 Post Office Box 498  
11 Suquamish, Washington 98392

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CONSENT DECREE


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

1 Signature Page for Consent Decree regarding the Lower Duwamish River

2 *U.S., et al., v. Lynden, Inc., et al.*

3 **FOR THE MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE:**

4  
5  
6 Date: 12/6/22

  
7 Jaison Elkins  
8 Chairperson  
9 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe  
39015 172<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.E.  
Auburn, WA 98092-9763

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28 CONSENT DECREE

- 29 -

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

1 Signature Page for Consent Decree regarding the Lower Duwamish River

2 *U.S., et al., v. Lynden, Inc., et al.*

3  
4 **FOR THE DEFENDANTS**

5  
6  
7 Date: 7.21.22

  
Everett H. Billingslea

9 Senior Vice President and Secretary  
10 Lynden, Inc.

11 Secretary  
12 Knik Construction Co, Inc.

13 Secretary  
14 Douglas Management Company

15 Secretary  
16 Alaska Marine Lines, Inc.

17 Assistant Secretary  
18 Swan Bay Holdings, Inc.

19 Secretary  
20 Bering Marine Corp.


21 Manager  
22 5615 West Marginal Way SW Seattle, LLC

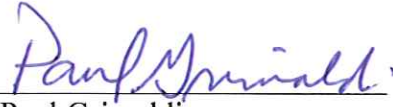
23 Manager  
24 5600 West Marginal Way SW Seattle, LLC

25 Secretary  
26 Alagnak Holdings, LLC



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Date: 7/15/2022   
Jason Jansen  
President  
LTI, Inc.

Date: 7/21/22   
Paul Grimaldi  
President  
Lynden Transport, Inc. (F/K/A Lynden Transfer, Inc.)