

September 22, 2006

**HAND DELIVERED**

Ms. Kate Stenberg  
WSDOT Environmental Manager  
Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project Office  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Re: Comments on SR 99: Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project,  
*Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement*

Dear Ms. Stenberg:

The Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District (PFD) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the *supplemental* draft Environmental Impact Statement ("supplemental draft EIS") for the SR 99 Project (the "Project"). The PFD commented previously on the draft EIS, by letter dated June 8, 2004.

**L-012-001** While the PFD continues to be supportive of the transportation and infrastructure improvements to be provided by the Project, the PFD is concerned that the supplemental draft EIS still does not adequately analyze alternatives, impacts and mitigation measures for the southern portion of the Project. While the supplemental draft EIS narrows the range of alternatives evaluated and incorporates numerous design changes and new construction plans, the PFD believes that additional analysis is required for the alternatives, impacts and mitigation measures relating to the south portion of the project.

**L-012-002** In particular, the PFD is concerned that the overcrossings and connections from the SR 99 Project to SR 519 at S. Atlantic Street and S. Royal Brougham Way have not been fully studied. To the extent that these intersections have been studied, much of the analysis appears to be based on designs that have since been modified. For example, Appendix W to the supplemental draft EIS contains detailed drawings of the Alternatives and Options, and it includes drawings for the Atlantic Street and Royal Brougham intersections. However, those

**L-012-001**

This Final EIS includes additional analysis of refined designs for the southern end of the project and more detailed discussion on construction impacts and mitigation measures.

**L-012-002**

Construction has started on the S. Holgate to S. King Street Viaduct Replacement Project. This project is part of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program. The S. Holgate to S. King Street Viaduct Replacement Project will build a new section of SR 99 that will have three lanes in each direction south of S. Royal Brougham Way and new on- and off-ramps near the stadiums. A new S. Atlantic Street overcrossing will improve connections between the Port of Seattle and major freeways by allowing traffic to bypass passing trains. As requested by this comment several face-to-face meetings were held with the PFD and Seattle Mariners as project designs and construction plans proceeded. Information provided during these meetings was helpful and incorporated into the project to the extent practical.

**L-012-002** drawings show an aerial interchange at Atlantic Street, rather than the at-grade Atlantic Street that we understand has replaced it. Similarly there have been major changes to the Royal Brougham interchange that are not appropriately reflected in the Appendix W design drawings. To the extent that these outdated drawings were used for the analysis of impacts and potential mitigation measures, both the drawings and the analysis will need to be updated in the final EIS.

We understand that complicated roadway projects like this one are often in an almost constant state of revision, especially when they are part of a larger roadway network that is itself changing (e.g., the SR 519 connection). But we are concerned that the impacts of construction and potential mitigation measures be evaluated in more detail. We appreciate the additional information and detail on the three construction plans evaluated in the supplemental EIS, but for a project of this complexity development of the mitigation plan should include one-on-one meetings with key affected stakeholders. Those stakeholders, at a minimum, should include the PFD and our tenant, the Seattle Mariners.

**L-012-003** We appreciate that you have identified the need to provide further public and agency review of mitigation elements (*see, e.g.,* Chapter 7, Question 23), and we look forward to participating in that process. We have been working effectively with WSDOT and the City of Seattle on such issues as they relate to the SR 519 project, and we look forward to working with the same parties on the SR 99 project.

**L-012-004** As a spectator sports facility and pedestrian venue, the continued success of Safeco Field turns in large part on our baseball fans and patron's ability to access our facility. We understand that facility access will be affected during much of Project construction, but we would like to continue to work with you regarding the details of mitigation planning. Areas of particular concern for the PFD that we trust will be addressed in the final EIS include all of the following:

- Pedestrian access and pedestrian safety
- Automobile ingress and egress
- Transit access and impacts of closures
- Detour route information
- Parking (on-street and off); parking loss and parking mitigation
- Height/View impacts from the Atlantic Street and Royal Brougham interchanges
- Noise impacts on Safeco Field
- Light, glare, vibration and dust impacts (during construction and operation)

### **L-012-003**

Thank you. Your organization's input has been a valuable part of the project development process.

### **L-012-004**

As you are aware, the project and proposed build alternatives have changed substantially since these comments were submitted in 2006. Please see the Final EIS for updated information on the proposed alternative, their effects, and proposed mitigation.

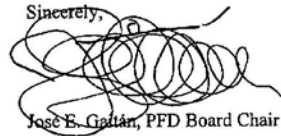
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L-012-004

- Mitigation commitments, during Project construction and thereafter

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working cooperatively with WSDOT and the City of Seattle as you study further the impacts, alternatives and mitigation measures described in this letter. If you would like to arrange a meeting with the PFD, please contact Kevin Callan our Executive Director. Kevin can be reached at (206) 664-3076 or (206) 767-7800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose B. Gattán", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Jose B. Gattán, PFD Board Chair

cc: PFD Board Members  
Kevin Callan, Executive Director  
Clyde MacIver, Seattle Mariners