



SASHA VISCONTY

Senior Principal Policy & Planning Specialist

Sasha Visconty has more than 26 years of experience in regulatory compliance in Washington State, focusing primarily on marine infrastructure and transportation development projects. She has extensive familiarity with environmental regulations including: Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation, U.S Army Corps of Engineers permits; state and local permitting; environmental compliance; and National/State Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA/SEPA) documentation. She is also well versed in cultural resources (Section 106) and Tribal treaty fishing agreements. Sasha specializes in developing environmental strategies that integrate the environmental process into planning, design, and construction. She frequently works with project proponents during design to identify permit considerations to minimize permit or constructability schedule delays. In addition, Sasha has extensive and positive working relationships with resource agencies. She is known for her expertise managing blended teams composed of agency and consultant staff.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

State Route (SR) 160/Faultleroy Terminal – Trestle and Transfer Span Replacement Project, Washington State Ferries (WSF), Seattle, WA. *Tribal Coordination and Environmental Strategy Support.* Washington State Ferries is addressing seismic deficiencies at the Faultleroy Ferry Terminal in West Seattle. The project is entering a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and future review through the NEPA process. Sasha is supporting Tribal government-to-government consultation and engagement in the PEL process. She also provides strategic environmental review support for the project.

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extension (WSBLE) Sound Transit, Seattle, WA. *Tribal Engagement / ESA Strategist / Permit Support.* The WSBLE project will construct a light rail line across the Duwamish River and Salmon Bay and will include new bridge structures in Tribal treaty fishing areas for the Suquamish and Muckleshoot Tribes. Sasha is providing strategic expertise on Tribal consultation, ESA consultation, aquatic resources and ecosystems support, state and federal permitting, and marine mammal compliance support. Sasha led preparation of a permitting plan for the project. She also prepared a Tribal Consultation Plan integrated with the overall project environmental impact statement and permitting schedule and helps guide the team on treaty fishing considerations, working to ensure that the Tribal outreach occurs before alternatives are removed from consideration or selected as preferred. She is implementing Tribal outreach activities that are outlined in the Tribal Consultation Plan.

Tacoma Dome Link Light Rail Project, Sound Transit, Pierce and King Counties, WA. *Tribal Engagement and Ecosystems Support.* This project will add 10 miles of mostly elevated tracks between Federal Way and Tacoma and will include 4 new light rail stations in the south Federal Way, Fife, East Tacoma/Portland Avenue and Tacoma Dome areas. This new light rail service will transect the Puyallup Tribe of Indians reservation and the project has the potential to affect natural resources, treaty fishing activities, and economic interests of the Tribe. Sasha prepared the project Tribal Consultation Plan identifying engagement and resolution approaches that are integrated with project environmental and design. She established tracking tools and provides support and materials for meetings with Tribal staff and the Tribal Council. She also presented the consultation approach to the Federal Transit Administration, the lead federal agency. She established and managed a team to orchestrate all elements and topics of the program that coordinate with different departments within Tribal government. In addition, Sasha provides ecosystems and ESA support on the project.

State Route (SR) 509 Completion Project, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Des Moines, WA. *Tribal Engagement and Environmental Support.* Sasha provides program support on this project to construct a 3.3-mile new roadway that will extend SR 509 to I-5 in King County. Sasha prepared a draft agreement on off-site culvert replacement between WSDOT and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians on an



EDUCATION

Master of Marine Affairs, University of Washington, 1997
B.A., Editorial Journalism / Environmental Policy, University of Washington, 1993

EXPERTISE

Endangered Species Act Compliance
NEPA/SEPA Documentation
Tribal Treaty Rights
Environmental Compliance and Permitting
Environmental Project Management
Marine and Nearshore Ecology Regulatory Requirements

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Qualified Senior Writer for Biological Assessment, WSDOT



innovative off-site mitigation approach. She worked closely with the WSDOT Attorney General's office, headquarters, and program executives to ensure statewide consistency on addressing Injunction culverts. Sasha also prepared the ESA documentation. The project included work over Des Moines Creek and several other streams and wetlands. Issues included stormwater runoff calculations for new and retrofitted road surfaces, and surveys for marbled murrelets. Sasha worked closely with WSDOT's biology program as well as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the consultation. Sasha currently provides environmental management oversight for ESA reinitiation, NEPA re-evaluations, culvert replacement, off-site mitigation, and Tribal consultation.

Growth Management Act (GMA) Collaborative Roadmap—Phase III Recommendations, Washington State Department of Commerce, Washington State. *Tribal Engagement.* Sasha is part of the team developing recommendations for reforms to Washington state's growth policy framework, including the GMA, SEPA, and other related statutes. This work is building on the "GMA Collaborative Roadmap" frameworks developed in prior years. Sasha is responsible for managing Tribal engagement and inclusion for the project.

Comprehensive Plan Update, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Tacoma, WA. *Plan Update Author.* Sasha's work on this project includes research and collaboration with the prime consultant and the Tribe's guidance team and historic preservation office to deliver the cultural resources chapter of an Existing Conditions Report and Comprehensive Plan. Cultural resource protection is the backbone of this plan and differentiates it from many other Tribal and non-Tribal comprehensive plans. Sasha is working with the Tribe to develop a cultural resources vision for the Comprehensive Plan.

Fire Station 5 Float Replacement Project, City of Seattle Financial and Administrative Service, Seattle, WA. *Environmental Lead.* Sasha is leading ESA, permitting, mitigation strategy, and Tribal consultation for modernization of the Fire Station 5 float in Elliott Bay. She provided the environmental strategy; prepared local, state, and federal permit applications and ESA documentation; and completed the National Marine Fisheries Service's Conservation Calculator. The project includes off-site mitigation for additional overwater structure, and Sasha managed the macroalgae surveys and the mitigation strategy for aquatic impacts. Several regulatory changes involving ESA, mitigation, and state permits occurred during the project. Sasha used her existing agency relationships and regulatory understanding to repackage project elements to maintain project schedule. She coordinated completion of a MOA between the City of Seattle and Washington State Ferries (WSF) on use of a WSF-owned pier as mitigation for increased overwater structure for the Fire Station 5 project. She was responsible for final environmental close out for the project.

SR 520 Floating Bridge Replacement and HOV Program, WSDOT, Seattle to Redmond, WA, and Aberdeen, WA. *Tribal Engagement and Environmental Support.* Sasha developed the SR 520 ESA and Tribal Consultation Plans at the staff, policy, and executive levels for the SR 520 Floating Bridge Replacement Project across Lake Washington and the Pontoon Construction Site in Aberdeen. She supported Tribal treaty negotiations on both projects and drafted settlement agreements for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and the Quinault Indian Tribe. For example, the pontoon project involved orchestrating outreach with Tribes having both a cultural resources interest and those with usual and accustomed fishing grounds in the project area, and managing and coordinating with multiple subject matter experts in areas including cultural resources, fishing, government relations, and Tribal employment in developing and executing the Tribal program.

Seattle Terminal Building and North Trestle Replacement, Washington State Ferries, Seattle, WA. *Environmental Oversight.* Sasha provided environmental strategy, Tribal engagement, permitting, regulatory compliance, and schedule oversight and support for NEPA/SEPA, ESA, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Tribal treaty fishing discussions, permits, and habitat mitigation for the reconstruction of the Seattle Ferry Terminal at Colman Dock. She coordinated the efforts of the project environmental discipline leads with the WSF environmental management team as they intersected with Tribal interest areas. She also managed macroalgae and dive survey at the site. Sasha successfully delivered ESA and permitting despite significant design changes caused by an aggressive schedule in which the construction date was moved up. She supported the complex Tribal consultation with the Muckleshoot and Suquamish Tribes, and prepared draft treaty fishing agreements and Operations Protocols.

Duwamish Waterway 26-kV Circuits Horizontal Directional Drilling Project, Seattle City Light, Seattle, WA. *Environmental Lead.* SCL is considering 3 crossing locations for construction of 2 horizontal directional drilling (HDD) circuit crossings beneath the Duwamish River and siting 4 electrical vaults, 1 for each circuit on each side of the waterway. SCL is considering 3 crossing locations for the conduit and upland electrical vaults and appurtenances. Sasha evaluated environmental approvals, permits, and outstanding environmental issues needing further investigation to assist SCL with its site feasibility assessment. The analysis compared the relative permitting complexity between alternatives to inform future phases of the project. Confluence prepared a report to outline the 3 alternatives and major issues associated with each. The report provided a comparative analysis of required federal and state environmental permits and approvals to help SCL select an alternative.