

<b>Project Name</b>	Suspension of annual gravel augmentation for 2017. Settlement Article 10: Gravel Augmentation.
<b>Date Proposal Submitted</b>	8/31/2017
<b>Date of Requested Decision</b>	9/07/2017
<b>Completed By</b>	Florian Leischner

**FTC Decision and Justification**

**Proposed Decision or Consideration**

Approve the suspension of the annual gravel augmentation for 2017 until summer of 2018 to allow for improved access to the river. The 500 cubic yards (yards<sup>3</sup>) of gravel placement required for 2017 will be made up in 2018; therefore the 2018 augmentation will total 1000 yards<sup>3</sup>.

**Background**

As per Settlement Article 10 of the Cowlitz license. Tacoma must annually place 500 yards<sup>3</sup> of gravel sized ½-inch to 4 inches near the river downstream of the Barrier Dam. Gravel was augmented annually since 2006 and placed on the right bank downstream of the barrier dam for natural recruitment to the channel. Due to insufficient magnitude and frequency of high winter flow events that can transport a majority of the material annually, gravel has been accumulating on the bank faster than being transported downstream.

The gravel has been placed on the north bank in an area of low hydraulic energy. In contrast, the south bank is where the main thalweg of the river is located. Efforts are underway to re-establish driving access to the south bank through WA State Department of Natural Resources forestry land.

It is assumed that access for gravel trucks to unload material on the south bank will be available by spring of 2018.

In addition, alternative placement strategies are being developed such as in-stream rather than bank placement and alternate locations downstream. Drafting of such alternatives and approvals will occur over the next nine months and are not ready for 2017.

Placing the majority of the material on the south bank, and/or changing the placement strategy altogether, should increase the dispersion rate of spawning material to downstream locations where they can benefit the naturally spawning salmon.

**Coordination Need**

The FTC will be updated on the progress of re-establishing driving access to the south bank and any alternative strategies.

**Summary of Potential Impacts**

No placement of gravel along the Cowlitz River bank near Barrier Dam for 2017. Make-up will occur in 2018, which will total 1000 yards<sup>3</sup>.

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