

For Immediate Release

Friday, September 6, 2002

Contact: Kelly Evans – 206-790-0276

Airport Communities Coalition Statement on Port's Appeal of PCHB Third Runway Decision

PORT ATTACKS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD AND POLLUTION CONTROLS FOR THIRD RUNWAY

Seattle: The Port of Seattle today launched a sweeping attack in King County Superior Court on the important environmental protections imposed on the third runway project by the State Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB). In its lawsuit, the Port also attacked the role and authority of the PCHB itself. The Port announced its action in a late Friday afternoon press release.

The Port attack follows the PCHB's August 12 decision that the Port's Third Runway project could proceed – but only if it complied with stringent conditions imposed by the Board to protect water quality. When the Board's 139 page decision was first issued, the Port declared victory: "We got our permit, the stay was lifted" said Sea-Tac spokesperson Bob Parker.

However, since then the Port demanded that the Board reconsider its decision on one key environmental control (preventing importation of contaminated fill for the runway project) saying that it would make construction of the third runway "impossible". It recently dropped that reconsideration request, clearing the way for today's attack in court on the Board and the pollution controls it placed on the project. Today's sweeping appeal of the PCHB ruling seeks to gut 8 of the 16 environmental protections imposed by the PCHB.

The Airport Communities Coalition has predicted many times that the third runway project could not proceed if the Port was required to comply with environmental protection laws, particularly those guarding against water pollution. The ACC was therefore pleased with the aspects of the PCHB decision that required the Port to comply with anti-pollution laws. The Port's latest attack confirms again that the Port cannot build the Third Runway and comply with environmental protection laws.

The appealed filed today marks the third time the Port has turned to the legal system to weaken or set aside important environmental protections for the third runway project.

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