Port Drayage & NWSA Breakbulk Congestion Playbook for Valley Importers

Pillar: Closure Playbook | **Basis:** Operational Playbook | **Primary Source:** NWSA / WSDOT | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

How valley space manufacturers manage container demurrage, Tacoma breakbulk heavy-lift windows, and I-5/SR 167 drayage bottlenecks across NWSA's 3.16M-TEU gateway.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Clear customs, ITAR/EAR import licenses, and USDA/EPA TSCA checks 72 hours before vessel berthing at Seattle or Tacoma.

• For Tacoma breakbulk (East Blair 1 / Terminal 7), secure WSDOT OSOW and superload permits before the ship arrives—port storage fees escalate rapidly.

• Use night-gate drayage appointments whenever available to bypass peak daytime I-5/Fife congestion until SR 167 Stage 2b opens in 2029.

NWSA Import Continuity Checklist

Stage	Bottleneck	Playbook Action
Pre-Arrival (T-72h)	Customs / ITAR hold	File entry & broker release early
Berth Discharge	Breakbulk OSOW permit lag	Pre-approve WSDOT route before arrival
Inland Drayage	SR 167 flood / I-5 peak	Book night gates + upland drop yard

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Maintain an upland drop-yard agreement in Fife or SeaTac so containers can pull off terminal free-time even if a Kent dock is flood-isolated.

• Track NWSA terminal gate alerts during winter windstorms.

• Verify container seal integrity on arrival for AS9100D receiving inspection.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Auburn WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/auburn-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Supply-Chain & Procurement Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-procurement-lead-desk-brief/

• **Ground Systems Continuity Exposure:** https://bcesg.org/wa-ground-systems-satcom-continuity-exposure/

• **NWSA Cargo Statistics (2025 TEUs):** https://www.nwseaportalliance.com/about-us/cargo-statistics

• **NWSA Terminals & Breakbulk Operations:** https://www.nwseaportalliance.com/cargo-operations/terminals

• **WSDOT Puget Sound Gateway / SR 167:**
https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/puget-sound-gateway-program

Provenance Note: Grounded in NWSA 2025 TEU volume (3,156,598 TEUs) and Tacoma East Blair 1 / Terminal 7 breakbulk records.