

November 9, 2017
Project Number 17029

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Ripple Design Studio
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Response to Public Comment and Mitigation Plan Peer Review Comments

Critical Area Determinations: CAO17-0008 & CAO17-009
8375 & 8379 E Mercer Way – Mercer Island, Washington

Jeff,

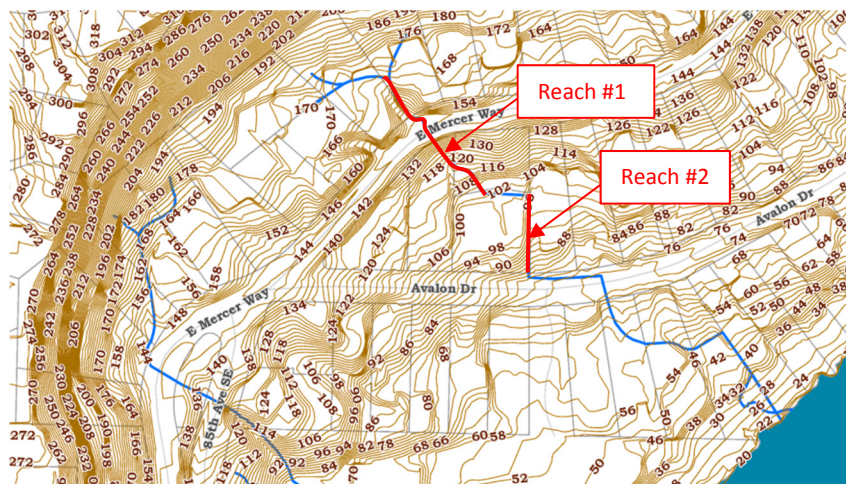
This letter responds to the recent public comment and peer review recommendations that you have received from the City of Mercer Island regarding CAO17-008 and CAO 17-009. This letter should be reviewed in conjunction with the revised mitigation plan and critical area study.

Public Comments:

1. Karen Walter - Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division (September 13, 2017 @ 2:59:07PM)
 1. Additional data regarding stream gradient.

Response: Total stream length is approximately 1,250 feet. There are two stream reaches that exceed a 20% gradient for a total of 253 feet, or 28% of total stream length. Figure 1 shows the location, length, and average gradient for the stream reaches used to determine the watercourse as non-fish bearing. The non-fish bearing determination is consistent with prior City of Mercer Island critical area mapping and supported by recent determinations made regarding the project by City of Mercer Island peer review consultants.

Figure 1 – Mercer Island GIS Map Showing Stream Gradients



Reach #1
283 feet @ 21%

Reach #2
70 feet @ 28%

- b) Restoration of Wetland A to more natural condition.

Response: *Wetland A is a small (2,178 sf) landscape pond located at the base of a slope. Aerial photographs show that the pond has been in existence for over 30 years.*

*As part of the proposed project, existing improvements and impervious surfaces located within the reduced buffer will be removed, existing soils will be decompacted and amended, non-native plants and noxious weeds will be controlled, and dense native plantings will be installed. Although most of the work will occur within the reduced buffer, non-native plants and noxious weeds will also be controlled and dense native plantings will be installed within the non-ponded portion of the wetland. The proposed project will retain the ponded portions of the wetland, which include a dense native emergent plant community dominated by small fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*), spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*), and mannagrass (*Glyceria sp.*).*

Based on the presence of wetland seeps and surrounding topography, it is likely that natural conditions for Wetland A would include a narrow band of hillside seeps that concentrate and form the origin of Watercourse A. Restoration of the existing wetland to this condition would require removal of the pond outlet to reduce water levels, filling the ponded portions of the wetland to raise ground surface elevations, and recontouring the buffer to match the filled pond areas. This more extensive restoration would likely yield in a net reduction in wetland area and no increase in critical area functioning relative to the proposed project. This would be in part because the pond in its current configuration is likely larger than the original wetland, the pond includes a habitat type that is unique to the local area, and the pond provides baseflow support to Watercourse A similar to a natural headwater wetland.

2. Roger Shantz (letter dated 10/25/2017)

- a) Silt and effluent in stream due to proposed buffer enhancement.

Response: *The mitigation plan has been revised to include coir logs along the wetland edge during construction. Coir logs are a biodegradable fiber roll erosion control product that will be used as a temporary perimeter sediment control. The logs will be installed prior to the removal of existing surface improvements and will remain in place until mulch has been applied as the final site stabilization measure.*

- b) Retaining large cherry laurels.

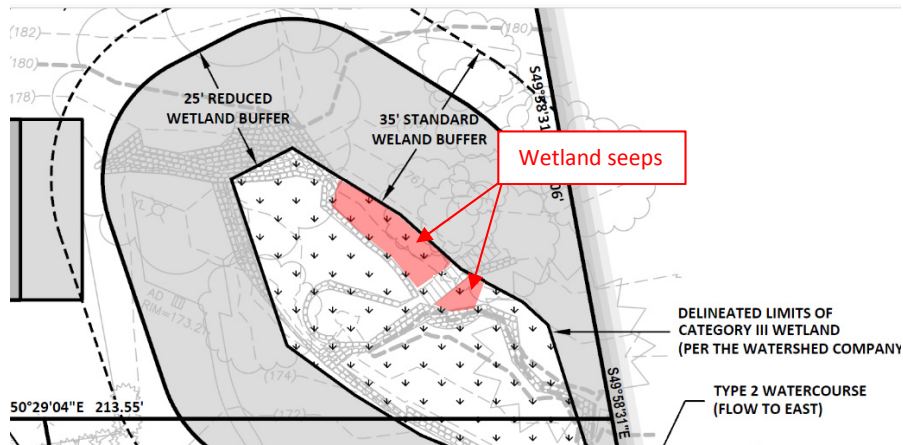
Response: *The mitigation plan has been revised to retain all cherry laurels that are rooted on the Shantz parcel.*

Peer Review Recommendations:

- a) Location of seeps within Wetland A.

Response: *Wetland seeps are located on the north side of Wetland A between the permanent pond and the delineated wetland limits. Figure 2 shows the location of seeps within Wetland A.*

Figure 2 – Location of Wetland Seeps within Wetland A



- b) Increase tree spacing to at least 8 feet apart.

Response: The planting plan has been revised to show a minimum tree spacing of 8 feet and the plant schedule has been revised to require a minimum tree spacing of 8 feet.

- c) Remove blackberry and other invasive species from wetland or wetland boundary

Response: The mitigation plan has been revised to require removal of all Class "A", "B", and "C" noxious weeds (including non-regulated "B" and "C" noxious weeds and "Weeds of Concern" identified on the latest King County noxious weed list from both the wetland and buffer.

I trust that this letter meets your present needs. If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this letter or require additional assistance with this project, please do not hesitate to call me at (425) 677-7166 or email me at psuper@evergreenarc.com.

Sincerely,

EVERGREEN AQUATIC RESOURCE CONSULTANTS, LLC
Issaquah, Washington

Peter P. Super
Professional Wetland Scientist