

October 11, 2018

Mr. Ron Beresky  
8100 SE 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mercer Island, WA 98075

Re: 8100 Retaining Wall Project – Tree Impact Report

Dear Mr. Beresky:

Yesterday at your request, we inspected the three subject trees close to the upcoming retaining wall construction project along the west perimeter of your property. The slope behind the existing house is extremely steep and at risk of eroding.

The subject trees are located south of the proposed project area. These are three semi-mature to mature bigleaf maple. All are in fairly good condition displaying normal vigor and past growth. Two of the subject trees may be slightly impacted by the proposed work. The limit of required excavation will be roughly 10' north of the trunk face of these trees.

The proposed work, although within the drip-lines of Trees #1 and #2, is not expected to have any significant impact on long-term health or stability. Very few roots are expected to exist within the proposed area of excavation, due to prior existing improvements and slope. If any roots are encountered, they can be safely pruned away to provide work clearance without having any consequential impacts on tree health or stability. Before backfilling new walls, any encountered roots will be properly pruned clean at sound tissue.

### Description

The subject trees are located on a City owned vacant tract. The area of the tract behind the subject residence is comprised of excessively steep slopes and is unbuildable. The subject trees are located southwest of the subject residence and within a close proximity of it. Tree #2 is located very close to the property line and is considered a shared or boundary line tree. See photos below.

### Methodology

The tree assessment procedure involves the examination of many factors:

- The crown of the tree is examined for current vigor. This is comprised of inspecting the crown (foliage, buds and branches) for color, density, form, and annual shoot growth, limb dieback and disease.
- The bole or main stem of the tree is inspected for decay, which includes cavities, wounds, fruiting bodies of decay (conks or mushrooms), seams, insects, bleeding, callus development,

broken or dead tops, structural defects and unnatural leans. Structural defects include crooks, forks with V-shaped crotches, multiple attachments, and excessive sweep.

- The root collar and roots are inspected for the presence of decay, insects and/or damage, as well as if they have been injured, undermined or exposed, or original grade has been altered.

Inspection method included examining the trees with binoculars and sounding the trunk with a mallet. No invasive methods were utilized unless described in the sections below. The assessment is limited to a TRAQ Level 2 Assessment; a visual inspection from the ground. A Tree Condition Summary Table is attached which describes tree specific information. The attached map depicts the approximate location of the subject trees. The attached survey map shows accurate drip-lines and the approximate location of new retaining wall.

### Observations

All three subject bigleaf maples trees are in fairly good condition. They have developed typical form and structure for single stem specimens. Vigor is good compared to other specimens around the Puget Sound Region. Leaves are of normal size and color with no indicators of foliar or pest issues. Trees are sound and free of any outward indicators of significant internal decay. There is an old seam on the lower trunk of Tree #1 on the south side which is not uncommon. There is a significant amount of reaction wood or adaptive growth around the seam indicating good vigor.

The trees are situated at the top of an excessively steep slope. The ground cover around the trees is comprised of dense salal. The slopes immediately surrounding the subject trees appear stable.

### Discussion

The proposed impact northeast of the subject trees at the toe of slope is not expected to be of any consequence. The limit of proposed significant excavation is just over 10' from the trunk face of Tree #1. The new wall will be tied into the existing keystone wall at the top of the slope but significant excavation is not required here since slopes are stable in this area. See pictures below. The total loss of root mass from either tree is expected to be less than 5%. Very few roots are expected to exist within the proposed area of excavation, due to prior existing improvements and slope.

### Recommendations

If any roots are encountered during wall excavation work, they shall be properly pruned prior to backfilling. Roots shall be pruned with a sharp saw at sound tissue, where the bark is undamaged and completely intact with the root. This will allow the cut root to better seal off any potential decay and ultimately sprout new growth.

*There is no warranty suggested for any of the trees subject to this report. Weather, latent tree conditions, and future man-caused activities could cause physiologic changes and deteriorating tree condition. Over time, deteriorating tree conditions may appear and there may be conditions, which are not now visible which, could cause tree failure. This report or the verbal comments made at the*

*site in no way warrant the structural stability or long term condition of any tree, but represent my opinion based on the observations made.*

*Trees in any condition standing within reach of improvements or human use areas may represent hazards that could lead to damage or injury.*

Please call if you have any questions or we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Bob Layton  
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-2714A  
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

**Subject Trees**





New retaining wall to tie in with existing wall northeast of subject trees



Subject trees #2 and #3 looking south





Subject trees looking north

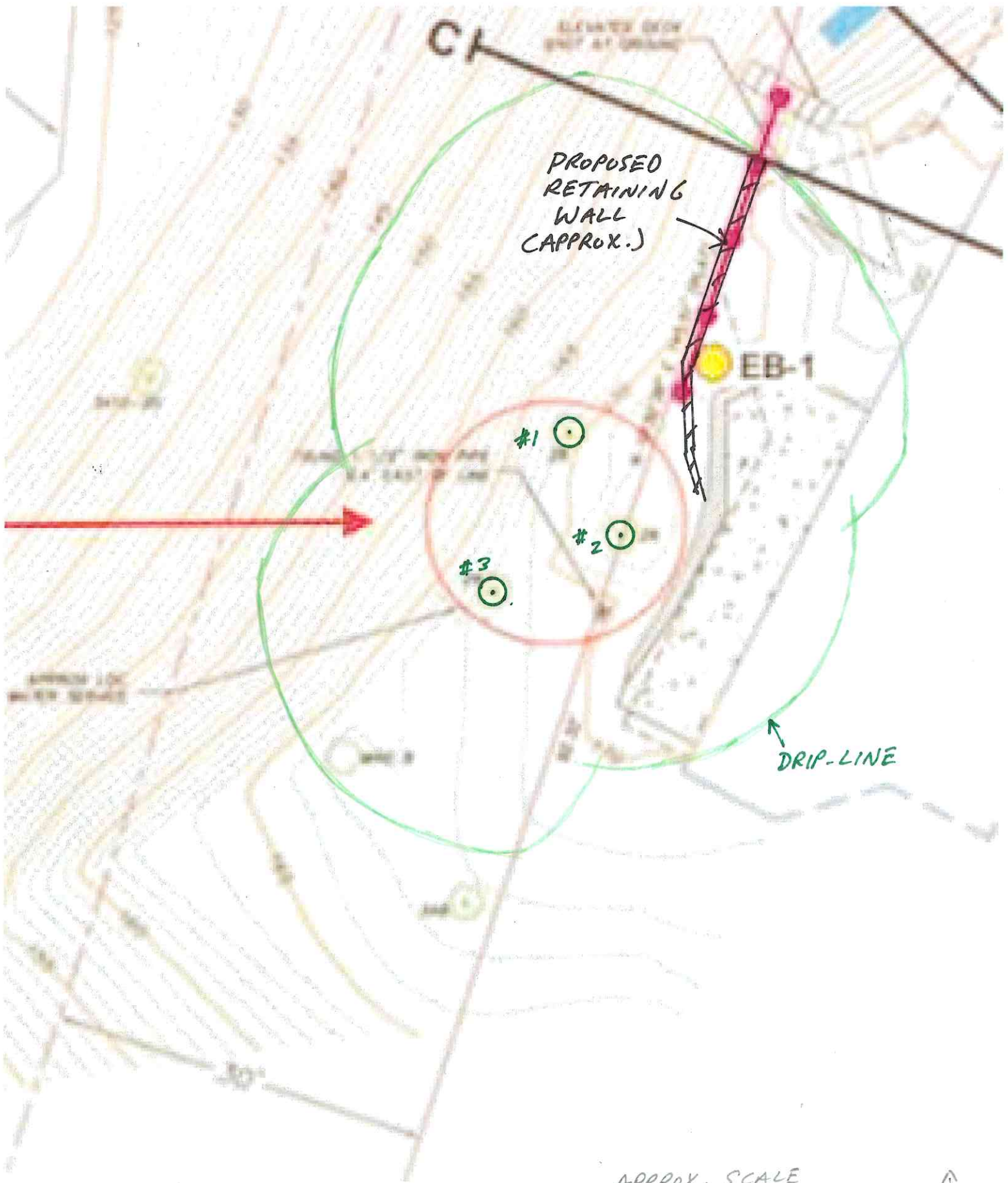


Upper crowns of subject trees









PROPOSED  
RETAINING  
WALL  
(APPROX.)

EB-1

#1

#2

#3

DRIP-LINE

APPROX. SCALE  
1" = 10'







Pictometry, King County, King County

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Date: 10/11/2018

Notes:

