City of Mercer Island April 3, 2020

9611 SE 36th Street

Mercer Island, WA 98040-3732

Attn: Ms. Nichole Gaudette

 Senior Planner

Regarding - CAO-19-019

Nicole,

See attached updated memo.  Below are additional responses from our Biologist.

Recommendation 3

ESA recommended changing the plantings to species they believe will do better in this location.  The planting mix was discussed with the owners and the plants in the plan are approved by the owners and are native species meeting code requirements.  Both species are found equally in wet areas and uplands and will likely do well in the with the south facing aspect of the slope at this project.  These species will also allow the planting contractor to distribute plantings around the site where drier areas exist.  We previously changed the planting mix to match a system that does not have an under drain and will not change it further based on ESAs recommendations because we do not believe the change to be warranted.  In addition, the Knopf’s are warranting the plantings for a period of 5 years.  If the plantings do not survive, they will be replaced with suitable species for this site.

Recommendation 4

We are not sure why ESA is recommending a change to the monitoring frequency.  We believe that 3 years would be ample monitoring to complete this project to assure vegetation will be stabilized and adding the 5th year is more than what should be recommended for this project.  The additional years of monitoring are usually required for projects that have a replacement of functions and values that need to be proven to offset impacts due to project activities.  The impacts on this site were caused by an act of nature and where not the fault of the property owners.  Regardless, we have changed the monitoring period to the full 5 years but do not believe this length of monitoring is warranted for this situation.

Recommendation 5 -

These minor revisions are completed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Harbor Consulting Engineers, Inc

Megan Campbell, AIA