



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON

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1/13/2023

Mr. Ryan Harriman
Planning Manager
City of Mercer Island
9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Re: Mitigation sequencing for Sub Basin 22.1 Watercourse Stabilization Project

Dear Mr. Harriman

This is to address the mitigation sequencing for the Sub Basin 22.1 Watercourse Stabilization project as per MICC 19.07.100. I hope you will find that the proposed project aims to minimize impact and at the same time enhance the environment.

A. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.

The purpose of this project is to reduce downcutting in the channel due to erosion at high flows. The project site has experienced significant downcutting in a narrow watercourse, resulting in the formation of near vertical banks. The site is lined by steep side slopes. This project intends to introduce bio-engineered materials to the existing bed by utilizing logs, rock weir, large woody debris, and streambed sediment, which are to reduce erosion by slowing flow and decreasing shear stress on the channel bottom. After evaluating methods of construction and available resources, physically accessing the site is necessary. Impact to the site will largely be from construction access and staging activities.

B. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.

The watercourse reach is approximately 250 LF in length. Site access will be limited to and from the ROW area off West Merce Way. During construction, any existing flow will be temporarily by-passed.

The project intends to limit activity, as much as possible, to the channel bed extents. By doing so, the project will raise the bed elevation, limiting stresses on existing steep banks, while maintaining existing vegetation to the extent feasible. This will also allow the project site to recover faster, given the limited impact. The aquatic environment should

immediately recover once the channel is re-activated, with the increased complexity of the channel bottom allowing for greater uplift potential in the future.

C. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.

The project itself aims to repair, rehab, and restore the affected environment caused by active erosion.

Also, when preparing the access and staging areas, weed and pest species located within those areas will be removed. All removed weed and pest species plant material shall be disposed of at a legal off-site disposal site. New native plants will be planted at the end of the project.

D. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.

Impacting action will halt when the project is completed. During construction, contractor shall:

- The Contractor shall be responsible for the protection and preservation of all existing native vegetation including trees, shrubs, and other objects outside of the project limits of the staging areas and access paths.
- Contractor shall not clear vegetation greater than 6" in diameter without prior Engineer approval (inside the project limits).
- Any existing trees >6" DBH exist in close proximity to the staging area and access routes and shall be protected from damage per the tree protection details shown on the Plans to prevent equipment from coming in contact with the trees; vehicles and/or heavy equipment may not travel within the dripline. Any removal of limbs required to establish and maintain access shall be flagged for review and approval by Engineer or Representative before any limbs are removed.
- Any existing tree or shrub located outside of the staging areas and access paths that are damaged or destroyed during construction shall be replaced in like type and size as indicated by the Engineer.

E. Compensating for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments.

The project is to introduce materials to raise the existing bed to a more sustainable level with natural materials like, logs, rock weirs, large woody debris and streambed sediment.

F. [Not used]

Please feel free to reach out to me for any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Gu, CIP Project Manager

City of Mercer Island