



Cobalt Geosciences, LLC  
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May 1, 2023

Gan Chen  
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**RE: Geotechnical Letter**  
Illegal Grading Mitigation  
7445 W. Mercer Way  
Mercer Island, Washington

In accordance with your authorization, Cobalt Geosciences, LLC has prepared this letter to discuss recent unpermitted grading and fill placement at the site.

We visited the property in April 2023 to observe the current site conditions. We previously provided geotechnical support for landslide mitigation work at the property. This work included GeoWeb placement over a landslide scarp in the western portion of the site.

During our recent visits, we note areas of grading and fill placement east, north, and west of the residence in upland areas (not on steep slope/scarp). We observed a timber 'wall' near the northwest corner of the residence and below a deck. Most fills were 2 to 3.5 feet in thickness with local areas north of the residence with minimal fill (0 to 12 inches). Northeast of the residence, about 2 feet of fill was placed over a short rockery, likely to provide equipment access to the western portion of the site.

There are brick patio areas below the deck and in yard areas west of the residence. We are not aware if this was pre-existing or part of the recent grading activities.

The project includes removal of fill and mitigation of unpermitted graded areas with plantings and landscaping systems.

A silt fence should be in place around the affected areas as soon as possible. Once allowed, we recommend removal of fill, timber walls, and other imported materials associated with the unpermitted work. Once this is confirmed, exposed soils should be re-surfaced to a condition similar to what was present prior this work.

Note that we do not anticipate the need for structural fill placement meeting specific compaction requirements as it appears that fill was placed over existing areas and not excavated into the subsurface soils. We anticipate that this will include grasses/lawn areas, new plantings, and permanent bark/mulch/composed beds.

Provided the fill is fully removed and surfaces are landscaped with grasses, plantings, and other surfaces, the risk of landslide activity at the site and adjacent areas will be consistent with what was present prior to the work occurring.

## **Closure**

The information presented herein is based upon professional interpretation utilizing standard practices and a degree of conservatism deemed proper for this project. We emphasize that this report is valid for this project as outlined above and for the current site conditions and should not be used for any other site.

Sincerely,

**Cobalt Geosciences, LLC**



5/1/2023

Phil Haberman, PE, LG, LEG  
Principal

PH/sc