

Date: January 22, 2026

To: Jeff Almeter (jeffrey@rippledesignstudio.com)

From: Daniel Buker

Re: CAO25-027 - 5419 96th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

On January 22, 2026, I visited the project site to review the cracks in the retaining wall that were mentioned in the geotechnical report and subsequently mentioned in the Critical Areas review letter dated January 16, 2026.

I observed several hairline cracks in the south retaining wall that are consistent with shrinkage cracking. In addition, there appears to be one crack near the southeast corner of the wall that runs diagonally. This crack is very thin and starts at the top of the wall but does not appear to continue the full height of the wall. The crack does not appear to be opening and therefore I do not believe that it is indicative of significant movement of the wall. In general, the wall appears to be in good condition.

Based on these observations, I believe that the wall is stable and suitable to support the proposed addition.

Sincerely,



Daniel Buker, PE, SE