



November 1, 2024

Roger Kuykendall

Gray & Osborne, Inc.

3710 168th Street NE, Bldg. B, Suite 210

Arlington, WA 98223

RE: MERCER ISLAND SUBBASIN 25.B – WATERCOURSE STABILIZATION, REVIEW LETTER

Facet Reference: 2203.0271.00

Dear Roger:

This letter represents our review of Gray and Osborne's (G&O) plan set and Critical Area Report (CAR) for the above-referenced project, located on parcels 2574900075 and 2574900070. Facet provided a wetland and watercourse delineation report for this project (DCG/Watershed, Oct 2022). Review findings specifically addressing wetland and watercourse impacts are presented below.

Project Summary

The City of Mercer Island Public Works Department is proposing improvements to a section of the watercourse located in Sub-Basin 25b to stabilize the channel and reduce erosion. The proposed project location is the section of the watercourse that extends from 84th Avenue Southeast to Forest Avenue Southeast, as shown in Figure 1 of the CAR. The proposed channel restoration includes the regrading and reconstruction of the channel, filling the incised areas, placing plantings along the stream channel banks and installing large woody debris.

G&O has produced a 60% plan set for this project as well as a Critical Area Report describing potential project impacts to critical areas and how the project adheres to MICC 19.07 - Environment.

Peer Review Findings

The project plans and CAR adequately addresses MICC 19.07.180.E – Mitigation Requirements. The CAR discusses how project mitigation measures will achieve equivalent or greater ecological function through reduction of stream erosion, removal of invasive vegetation, and planting of native vegetation at ratio of 1:1 to mitigate for temporary wetland buffer impacts. The current buffer is moderately functioning with large areas of invasive vegetation including Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) thickets and minimal native shrub and groundcover vegetation. Habitat will be improved through vegetative enhancement, providing native species that native wildlife are adapted to for food, cover and refuge. Water quality will be improved from the reduction in erosion and density of native stems over relatively sparse stem density beneath blackberry thickets. Hydrologic function will improve also

due to increased native species stem density and because water will be slowed by the in-channel improvements. The CAR report also properly addresses MICC 19.07.100 – Mitigation Sequencing.

Species composition, quantities of plants, container sizes, and plant spacing are adequate across the streamside, upland, and temporary easement planting areas as shown in the project plans.

Please call if you have any questions or if we can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Heltzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

Peter Heltzel, MSc, CFP
Fisheries Biologist / Wetland Ecologist