



# CITY OF EDMONDS

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DAVE EARLING  
MAYOR

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Engineering Division

December 15, 2015

Jason Wilkinson  
Actions and Funding Coordinator  
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)  
201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

**SUBJECT: WRIA 8 Review Comments  
Willow Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study**

Dear Jason,

Thank you to the members of the WRIA 8 technical committee for the time and effort in preparing comments on the aforementioned document.

We appreciate your overall assessment of the draft report. The following provides responses to the numbered comments in your December 2, 2015 letter:

- 1) The City agrees that the current uncertainty related to potential soil contamination should be addressed. Since the Unocal property is still under a Department of Ecology cleanup action, access to the site to reduce the uncertainty is not available at this time. Section 2.6.4 of the report recommends sampling and analysis along the daylighted channel excavation areas on the Unocal property to reduce the uncertainty. The City will pursue this at the earliest possible time in the design process. The results of the sampling and analysis may show that a liner is not needed for the daylighted channel or that it is only needed for a portion of the channel.  
  
Section 6.6 also recommends sediment and water quality data collection along the upper, City-owned, marsh and tidal channel excavation areas. The current plan is to collect sediment and water quality data along the proposed upper marsh tidal channel excavations in 2016.
- 2) The City will modify Section 15 of the report to include discussion of water temperature expectations in the future channel. The flow regime and riparian conditions along the mostly bare, daylighted channel will shift from a shallow, mixed tidal and stream flow condition, to a predominately tidal flow condition with dense riparian vegetation. The tidal flows, in combination with riparian plantings and large woody debris habitat cover will result in lower water temperatures than the observed shallow flows from the streams in the marsh.
- 3) The City is working very closely with Washington State Ferries Division on the future of the Edmonds Crossing project and how it may impact this project. Ferries and the City are

exploring the idea of a joint development agreement so both the parties are able to implement their project in a manner that meets everyone's needs.

- 4) The segment of the current Willow Creek pipe that parallels Admiral Way is owned by the Port of Edmonds and the City "rents" the pipe to run water through it. The City is in negotiation with the Port on the future of the aging pipe. The pipe segment running through Marina Beach Park is owned by the City. Plugging and/or screening its entrance are options being discussed.
- 5) After a robust public process, it was the desire of the community to continue to maintain a dog park in its current location. The design of the park allows for a wider buffer, and fencing to mitigate the conflicts of dogs and the channel.
- 6) Again, during the robust public process, the community identified the desire for two pedestrian bridges. The second, downstream bridge was added as "optional" dependent upon the budget and future studies.
- 7) We agree that using mechanical and biological methods for cattail removal are preferable over herbicides. In the design phase we will consider a range of alternative methods for cattail and invasive species removal and control. These include digging or pulling out plants, cutting below the mud or water line, mowing, inundation and flooding with tidal saltwater, or herbicide applications. An integrated pest or invasive species management plan will be developed at the design phase of the project.

Thank you again for your comments. The City looks forward to working with you on the next phase of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Shuster", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry Shuster, P.E.,  
Stormwater Engineering Program Manager

cc: Josh Lambert, Outdoor Grants Manager, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Recreation and Conservation Office  
Carrie Hite, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Service Manager, City of Edmonds  
Dave Cline, Project Manager, Shannon & Wilson  
Keeley O'Connell, Senior Project Manager, EarthCorps