



CITY OF EDMONDS

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DAVE EARLING
MAYOR

April 26, 2019

Recreation Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501
Willow Creek Daylighting Conceptual Design, #14-1299

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Edmonds (COE) has been working with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) since mid-2015 to clarify the status of the Edmonds Crossing Project (relocating the existing ferry terminal). The City's is requesting approval from WSDOT to daylight Willow creek across what will be the State's property once escrow closes on the purchase of an approximately 8 acre parcel. All of the payments necessary to purchase the property have been made. Under the real estate purchase and sale agreement between DOT and Chevron. DOT will take formal title to the site after the Department of Ecology agrees that certain water quality sampling results have been achieved. At that point the on-going site clean-up will be designated as "complete".

The City is in the close-out phase of an extensive Feasibility Study for the Daylighting project. This study developed several different design concepts, each of which could potentially cross the future state property using one of several different alignments. Over the last two years the City and DOT have come to an understanding regarding which of these alignments and cross sections work best with any potential future transportation uses DOT might entertain.

DOT understands that the City needs to receive written approval of an agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the terms, timing, and substance of what each party (the City and DOT) would do once the formal property transfer from Chevron to DOT takes place. In addition, DOT also understands that the City needs a Landowner Acknowledge completed in order for the City to be competitive in the grant funds cycles.. All of these elements will be spelled out in an MOU.

The City and DOT have met every 3-6 months over the past two years to negotiate this, and discuss its implications for both DOT and the City. Most recently, DOT and the City exchanged e-mails on Tuesday 4/23/2019 where specific draft language was exchanged. This has involved lawyers, technical staff, consultants and policy makers. As a result it has taken a great deal of time to get to this point where conceptual agreement has been reached on several key points. We still have a number of details to finalize but both parties are working well together and both acknowledge the importance of getting this done in a way that adequately protects DOT's transportation investments in the site while still allowing all the benefits of a daylighted Willow Creek system to be achieved.

Sincerely,

David O. Earling
Mayor