

## **Valwork Joint Venture**

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March 9, 2001:

Ms. Christi Amrine  
Planning Department  
City of Sultan, WA 98294

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City of Sultan  
Planning Dept.

Re: Plat of Willow Trace

Dear Ms. Amrine,

Following our meeting with the City and the Tulalip Tribes on February 23, 2001 my partners and I have had several meetings with parties involved in the original planning process and development work of Willow Trace. There is very strong evidence from the information gathered at these meetings there has been no area of encroachment by Valwork 2000 in its development work. I know that you are aware that all of the relevant agencies, including the Tulalip Tribes, were kept fully informed at all stages of the application process for this Plat. The City approved the Plat and included conditions that recognized the legitimate concerns raised by the agencies that made comments. Harmsen & Associates, the surveying & engineering firm who did most of the planning work for Valwork, are well respected for their professional and conscientious approach to planning and code compliance, as are the firms who did the hydraulic studies, traffic studies and the studies connected with the lot elevations above the 100-year flood level. The County Biologist, Randy Middaugh, came to us highly recommended by the City, and his report was accepted by the City as part of the original application.

#### First Meeting with Harmsen & Associates

In response to the meeting that we had with Harmsen and Associates David McMullen, who was the Engineering Manager for this project, has written the enclosed letter. The surveyor in charge of this project has been on vacation, but his assistants have already begun to assemble the records from the original survey. Within a short time they are confident that they will be able to establish the exact location of the flagging that was placed by Randy Middaugh following his wetlands survey and then to support the accuracy of their compliance to codes.

#### Second Meeting with J.E. Work & Public Works Department

The second meeting was with Connie Dunn and Gary Keeley of the City of Sultan

Department of Public Works and Doug Work, the President of J.E. Work. The subject of this meeting was the alleged wetland in the large park off Gohr Road. Once again this area was carefully surveyed and no work was performed within the silt fence that was erected on the north side of the creek to protect the stream from this work. The area was used as a borrow pit for gravel in Gohr Road and topsoil from other areas replaced this to give a better grass area for the park.

Following objections from a neighbor, this part of the project was surveyed twice. Representatives from Fisheries and the City, amongst others came out to supervise the work and establish that it complied with the approved plans and relevant codes. The City's wetland maps were consulted and it was clearly understood that a hydraulic permit had been issued for the replacement of the crumbling culvert where the wetland involved with the stream crosses Gohr Road. In all stages this part of the project was very closely supervised by the City, Fisheries and, I believe, the Corps of Engineers. Indeed the whole road restoration and the culvert construction was a Plat requirement.

It has been suggested by the Tribes that they have access to an aerial photograph that may indicate a wetland in the park area. We do not believe that this is an established method to confirm wetlands, certainly not without additional support. In this case the weight of evidence all supports the lack of wetland in this park. After counting the number of times the area was surveyed, constantly visited by the City and various agencies and also including the wetlands map in the City records, the evidence appears to be very strong to refute this claim.

As the other more detailed information comes from Harmsen survey records I will keep you informed.

#### Wetlands Mitigation

It was never our intention to seek public funds for the wetlands mitigation. However, after we were informed of the Adopt-A- Stream restoration plan we were encouraged to believe that their efforts and plan should come first and that we would co-operate with our own mitigation efforts to produce the best total plan for the stream and the community. We are now re-contacting our own landscape architect, who did the original preliminary drawings, to complete this project quickly.

Yours truly,



Veronica G. Haywood  
For VALWORK 2000  
Encl s.