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February 9, 2009

Michelle Hori
Operations Manager
PO Box 3238
22881 NE SR 3
Belfair, WA 98528-9341

Re: SR 3, Belfair Area Stormwater Alternatives Analysis

Dear Michelle,

Attached, please find a report documenting our stormwater alternatives analysis for SR 3 through Belfair. The project team conducted a strong, good faith effort to define and compare the two alternatives. I believe the report provides a thorough description of the criteria used in the analysis and the results.

Through what we believe was an objective analysis, we have concluded the preferred alternative is locating stormwater ponds along the SR 3 corridor. At the concept level, the alternative of locating stormwater ponds for runoff from the SR 3 corridor at the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center (PNWSC) looked like it had the potential to be less costly, primarily from the perspective of right-of-way costs. The analysis concluded that only 40% of the necessary ponds (two out of five) are practical to locate at the PNWSC site. Also, building the conveyance paths to pipe stormwater from SR 3 to the PNWSC site would result in wetland impacts requiring mitigation that is estimated to be quite costly (both in construction and purchase of right-of-way.) It is questionable if these wetland impacts could be permitted since an alternative that avoids the impacts is available.

Items not included in our analysis, that we have previously conveyed to you, that would also need to be defined for the PNWSC alternative include the following:

- Willingness of the Army Corps of Engineers to permit the wetland impacts that would result from the PNWSC alternative.
- Funding participation by Mason County in the PNWSC alternative since it is proposed as a regional facility.

- Any costs that WSDOT would incur from the PNWSC due to locating SR 3 stormwater ponds on the site.
- Long term roles and responsibilities associated with SR 3 stormwater ponds located at the PNWSC.

As you'll read in the attached report, the comparative scores for the two alternatives are not close. The wetland impacts that would result from the conveyance paths to the PNWSC would result in required mitigation that is estimated to have right-of-way and construction costs that make the PNWSC alternative uncompetitive. Even without considering the wetland impacts the PNWSC alternative scored second due to higher construction costs.

We're scheduled to meet with you on February 19th to discuss our analysis and conclusions. At that time we can certainly address questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Bill Elliot, P.E.
Project Engineer

BE:be
cc: file