

## Memo

**To:** Nikole Coleman, City of Poulsbo Associate Planner  
**From:** Kevin McFarland, City of Poulsbo Contracted Arborist  
**Date:** 4/15/2020  
**Re:** Spencer PRD Tree Retention Review

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Upon the request of the City of Poulsbo, I have conducted an assessment of the proposed tree retention with the Spencer PRD. I have been asked by the City to confirm the inventory of the trees within the property, assess the trees to be retained for condition and impacts and provide recommendations for protection. I have been provided the Significant Tree Inventory Report by American Forest Management, Inc. dated 3/19/19 along with the Tree Retention Plan, Plan set and Conceptual Landscape Plan all dated 3/13/20. I visited the site on April 9, 2020.

### **Comments**

#### Inventory of Trees

Based on the findings from my site visit, I concur with the inventory of significant trees within the property as presented in the Significant Tree Inventory Report.

It is my understanding that the number of trees to be retained as shown on page 3 in the report is no longer valid due to changes in the site plan and that the applicant is now proposing the retention of 181 significant trees. In addition, they are proposing to include 364 non-significant trees as allowed in PMC 18.180.030 B2. I concur that these trees meet the guidelines of the Code and should be considered to contribute to the significant tree count. Since an inventory of the trees with each diameter has not been included, they should count as 364, 6" diameter trees, or 218 significant trees ((364 x 6)/10). I do feel however that the numbers presented are high and the actual retention will be lower. Many of the trees that were counted are located on or very close to the edges of the tracts and impacts from the adjacent site improvements and newly created edges are bound to result in removal. A final count may be advisable before building begins.

#### Tree Retention

While I have concluded that the proposed tree retention within the west, north and east perimeter buffers and Tracts C, D and G are acceptable, I do have concerns about the new edge effect, potential for failure and root damage. I am recommending that an assessment of the edge trees be completed by myself or the applicant's arborist once the logging has been completed but prior to any grading.

The site plans are calling for walking trails within Tracts A, B, E and H and a picnic shelter in Tract A. In some cases, the plans are showing the parts of a trail in direct conflict with trees that are proposed for retention. I am concerned about the soil type at the site and its association with a high water table, saturated soils and high wind throw. It will need to be established that the installation of these trails will not impact the trees within the tracts and that the trees are safe and viable for the long term. I am proposing that the locations of the trails be staked in all of the Tracts and the significant trees within Tracts B, E and H flagged so that they can be assessed. It may be necessary to slightly alter the trails in order to avoid impacts.

### Tree Protection

Tree protection has not been addressed in any of the provided documents and the site plans and tree retention plan will need to be amended. Fencing should be indicated around all areas of tree retention. I am also recommending that a timeline be included stating that no work will take place on the site until the fencing has been installed and inspected and that no equipment be allowed within the protected areas.

If you should have questions, please feel free to contact me at 360-870-2511 or [suf1234@comcast.net](mailto:suf1234@comcast.net)