



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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File No.: 326.006

Re: North Levee Rd. Pump Station: Critical Areas Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

Grette Associates is under contract with Grays & Osborne, Inc. to assist with the City of Puyallup Public Works Pump Station Improvements Project (Project) located along N. Levee Rd. (Pierce County parcel 6021320010) within the City of Puyallup (Figure 1). Improvements to the pump station will require minor expansion of the existing building to accommodate the installation of new pumps and electrical equipment.

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to document all critical areas within 300 feet of the Project area to ensure the Project will not impact critical areas or their buffers. As the Project is within 200 feet of the Puyallup River, the Project is subject to the regulations defined in the City of Puyallup's Shoreline Master Program (PSMP). Per Chapter 1 of the PSMP, critical areas within 200 feet of *Shorelines of the State* are regulated by Chapter 21.06 of the City of Puyallup Municipal Code (PMC).

2 METHODS

A Grette Associates qualified professional (PMC 21.06.210) visited the Project area on July 6, 2020 to conduct an assessment to identify any wetlands or streams on or within 300 feet of the Project.

Grette Associates traversed all accessible area on and within 300 feet of the Project to evaluate conditions against the criteria defined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) *Federal Wetland Delineation Manual* (1987), and the USACE's *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0)* (2010).

In addition to the wetland assessment, areas were evaluated to determine if there were any natural water features, as defined in Chapter 21.06 of the PMC, were on or within 300 feet of the Project.

Figure 1. Project Location (shown in yellow)



3 RESULTS

With the exception of the Puyallup River, no critical areas (i.e. wetlands and/or streams) were identified on or within 300 feet of the Project. The Project location is largely developed and consists of the existing pump station and access road. The surrounding areas north of N. Levee Rd. predominately consist of mature big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*) with an understory largely dominated by Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) (Figure 2). While cottonwood and blackberry are known to occur within wetlands, big-leaf maple is typically not found to grow in wetland conditions (USACE 2018).

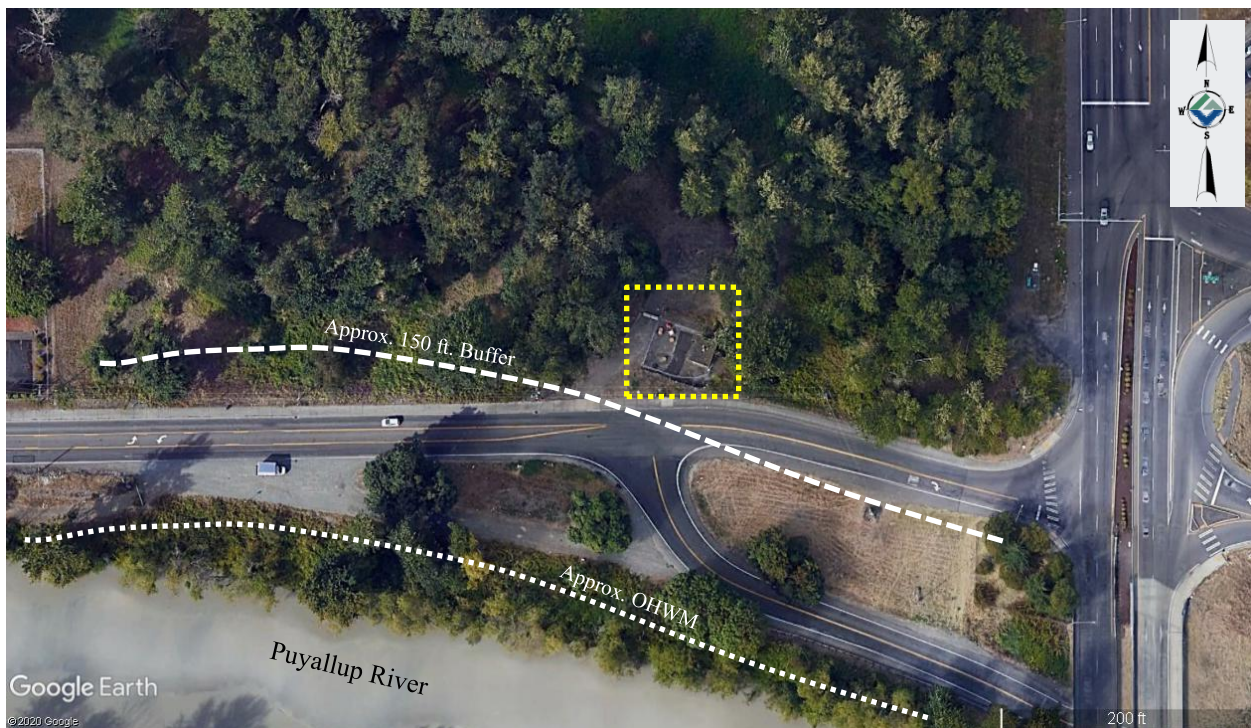
Additionally, Grette Associates did not identify any indication of seasonal hydrology that would meet wetland hydrology indicators defined in the USACE's *Regional Supplement* (2010). More specifically, surface water, surface saturation, water stained leaves, water marks, or algal mats were not observed. Furthermore, while the two dominant species identified in the northern portion of the subject property have a species indicator status of facultative (FAC; USACE 2018), Grette Associates did not identify any topographic, hydrologic or soil characteristics that would indicate a potential wetland feature.

Figure 2. Observed site conditions (typ.)



Per PMC 21.06.1010, the Puyallup River is classified as a Type I water (*Shoreline of the State*). Type I waters are subject to a 150-foot buffer (PMC 21.06.1050). The 150-foot buffer associated with the Puyallup does not extend into the Project area. The southern portion of the Project area is approximately 170 feet from the approximate OHWM of the Puyallup River (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Puyallup River Buffer



4 SUMMARY

In summary, Grette Associates did not identify any wetland or stream features within the Project area. Furthermore, the 150-foot buffer associated with the Puyallup River does not extend north into the Project area; therefore, the Project is compliant with the critical area development standards defined in Chapter 21.06 of the PMC. Based on this information, the results

summarized in this technical memorandum have fulfilled the critical areas evaluation requirements that would be requested by the City during application review.

If you have any questions on this wetland verification, please contact me at (253) 573-9300, or by email at chadw@gretteassociates.com.

Regards,



Chad Wallin
Biologist

References:

Environmental Laboratory (Corps). 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Technical Report Y-87-1, US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). 2018. National Wetland Plant List, version 3.4. <http://wetland-plants.usace.army.mil/> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center. Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). 2010. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0)*, ed. J. S. Wakeley, R. W. Lichvar, and C. V. Noble. ERDC/EL TR-10-3. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.