



July 31, 2020

Gregg Dohrn
City of Cle Elum
119 West First Street
Cle Elum WA 98922

RE: City Heights Phase 1A – First Completeness Review
Blueline Job No. 19-349

Dear Mr. Dohrn,

This letter is in response to your review of the City Heights Phase 1A project. The plans have been revised per the comments in your letter dated July 2nd, 2020. Below is a list of each comment with our responses in bold.

General

1. Tree Preservation, Clearing, and Landscaping Plan. CEMC 16.12A.060A8 Development Standards requires the submittal of a tree preservation and clearing plan with a subdivision application. In addition, CEMC 17.64.030 requires the submission of a landscaping plan drawn on the same base map as the development plans. Copies of these municipal code provisions are attached. These requirements can be satisfied in one document and if it would be helpful, you may defer the submission of site-specific landscaping plans including the identification of landscaping materials until requested by the City later in the review and approval process.
 - a. We would strongly encourage you to identify on your submittal critical areas and their buffers, other buffers and setbacks, designated open space, parks, trails, and other areas that will not be disturbed. Also please identify areas where clearing and grading may occur, including the removal of vegetation and the alteration of slopes, and where forest practices may occur.
 - b. In addition, it will expedite our review if you highlight relevant mitigation measures.

A tree preservation and clearing plan is included as part of the Phase 1A civil set (sheet TR-01). A landscaping plan and conceptual planting list is included as part of the Phase 1A civil set (sheets LS-01 through LS-03). A buffer averaging and critical area crossing plan are included as part of the Phase 1A civil set (sheets CA-01 through CA-03). A revised report by Sewall consulting was provided to address mitigation. Open space, parks and trails are detailed on sheets SP-01 through SP-03 and OS-01 of the Phase 1A civil set.

2. Preliminary Erosion Control Plan. CEMC 16.12A.060 Development Standards also requires the submission of a preliminary erosion control plan. This can be a standalone document or integrated into the Stormwater Management Plan and/or integrated into the Tree Preservation, Clearing, and Landscaping Plan.

A preliminary erosion control plan is not a requirement for complete application on the city's submittal checklist however clearing and erosion control notes have been added on the tree preservation and clearing plan (sheet TR-01) to provide insight into how TESC will be handled with specific notes added regarding protection of critical areas and the prevention of sediment and/or sediment laden runoff from entering critical areas or leaving the site. Please let us know if this level of detail satisfies current city concerns during the preliminary design review. A detailed TESC plan will be provided at final design.

3. Public Dedications. CEMC 16.12A.030 requires that the preliminary plat identify the “*location and dimensions of proposed lots, tracts, reserve areas and public dedications, and lot and block numbers.*” Areas proposed for dedication to the public should be identified on the various drawings and highlighted in the Tree Preservation, Clearing, and Landscaping Plan.

Refer to sheet SP-01 of the Phase 1A civil set for lot areas and tract table identifying tract areas, uses and public vs. private designations. The public vs private designations have also been shown on the preliminary plat map.

4. Phasing Plan. CEMC 16.12A.030 requires that the preliminary plat contain a phasing plan if the final plat will be implemented in phases.

Refer to sheet PH-01 of the Phase 1A civil set for phasing map and phasing notes should the final plat for the current phase (Phase 1A) be implemented in phases. Phase lines are also shown on the preliminary plat map.

5. Critical Areas. CEMC 18.01 Critical Areas Protection requires that a Mitigation Plan be prepared by a qualified professional for development activities having a possible significant impact on critical areas on or near the project site. A copy of this chapter is attached. In this instance, a mitigation plan is required to address proposed development activities in wetlands and their buffers, as well as for geologically hazardous areas and their buffers, and any other areas on the project site that meets the criteria as a critical area. Each mitigation plan should include the applicable performance standards identified in CEMC 18.01.070 including the mitigation sequencing provisions. In addition, the wetlands mitigation plan should include a more detailed depiction of where wetland buffer averaging is proposed, along with documentation of how the proposed averaging will not result in a reduction of the buffer area, function, or value.

We would also like to reiterate our advisory note from the Pre-Application Meeting Summary and Analysis:

“In addition, the City strongly encourages the Project Sponsor to consult with other agencies with potential jurisdiction, including Department of Ecology and the Corps of Engineers, prior to submitting Phase 1 applications. The City Heights EIS does not address whether the affected wetlands are “waters of the U.S.” and subject to federal jurisdiction. In addition, relevant jurisdictional definitions have changed several times since 2002.”

If it would be helpful, the City would be happy to organize a meeting with representatives of local, state, and federal resource agencies to review your plans and to make sure that we all have a



complete and common understanding of the laws and regulations that are applicable to the proposed development.

Refer to report prepared by Sewall Wetland Consulting, Inc. and buffer averaging and critical area crossing plan on sheets CA-01 through CA-03 of the Phase 1A civil set. Ed Sewall met onsite with Jennifer Nelson from WDFW to discuss critical area crossings. Findings from that meeting have been incorporated into the Phase 1A design. The design avoids work within the ordinary high water mark of streams and wetlands.

In addition, during our completeness review we have identified several items that we will need from you before we will be able to complete the upcoming consistency review of the application. These items are not required for a complete application determination, but we wanted to give you a head start on collecting them and to emphasize that the thoroughness of these submittals can significantly reduce the time and cost necessary to review your application for consistency with the various standards and requirements.

1. SEPA Checklist. As requested in our Pre-Application Meeting Summary and Analysis, March 25, 2020:

“To facilitate the City’s review of the application(s), and to help make a determination of the consistency of the planned action project with the information in the City Heights FEIS, the City requests that the information provided in the checklist contain a detailed, substantive narrative of what is proposed, how it relates to applicable provisions of the CEMC, how impacts identified in the EIS will be addressed in this phase of development, and the mitigation that is proposed. Lack of requested detail may necessarily extend the City’s review time.”

This is an extremely important consideration, and as previously noted will affect the time required and the cost of the consistency review. For instance, a narrative discussion of how the proposed plat complies with the Cle Elum Municipal Code and satisfies the requirements of the International Fire Code for secondary access would be extremely helpful. Another example would be a narrative discussion or matrix that highlights how each of the required mitigating measures from the EIS has been incorporated into the Phase 1 design.

A SEPA checklist has been completed in order to demonstrate compliance with the mitigating measures as outlined in the EIS. Details on how the proposal complies with applicable mitigating measures have been provided. The EIS mitigating measures that are not relevant to this proposal are still noted within the SEPA and identified as not applicable with supporting reason.

A Development Agreement compliance document has also been prepared in order to demonstrate how the proposal complies with the relevant development standards outline in the DA. The document includes, but is not limited to, compliance for lot development, density, road, utility and open space standards.



Gregg Dohrn has also provided Blueline with an excel spreadsheet that has been used to identify where particular compliance information can be found, whether in the DA compliance document or in the SEPA checklist. The last sheet of the excel spreadsheet identifies vested CEMC code provisions. Responses to those code provisions can be found within the spreadsheet.

2. Revised Traffic Study. During the consistency review the City must determine whether the proposed action is materially consistent with the Master Site Plan and the Development Agreement and that it does not present appreciably different environmental impacts from those identified in the City Heights EIS. In addition, the Development Agreement provides that a SEIS may be required if there is new information indicating that the project is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts not previously analyzed. As we noted in the Pre-Application Meeting Summary and Analysis, the approval and implementation of the adjoining Cle Elum Pines West Planned Mixed Use Development appears to preclude the construction of one of the four access points required in the City Heights EIS. As a result, traffic will be concentrated on the remaining three access routes. In order for the City to determine whether this presents materially different environmental impacts, we reiterate our request that a revised traffic impact analysis must be submitted with the Phase 1 application. This study will enable us to complete the consistency analysis. As previously noted, this traffic study should:
 - a. Update existing conditions.
 - b. Update the assumptions regarding future traffic attributable to approved projects by the City and the County.
 - c. Reallocate the distribution of trips without the Cle Elum Pines West access point.
 - d. Incorporate the primary and secondary access for Phase 1.
 - e. Identify and assesses the traffic impacts associated with the proposed Phase 1 development.
 - f. Establish a new proposed build-out date for the entire development and identify and assesses the traffic impacts at build-out.
 - g. Review and update the list of potentially impacted intersections; and
 - h. Identify the mitigating measures necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to meet concurrency requirements for the proposed Phase 1 development and at build-out.

The project approvals allow phased development to occur. The transportation analysis prepared during the EIS process analyzed trips based on 980 +/- units associated with Alternative 1 of the project. As identified in DEIS section 3.16 (figure 3.16-4) there are 479 PM peak hour trips routed to the Stafford / 903 intersection which resulted in an acceptable level of service. Utilizing 1 PM peak hour trip per residential unit (per ITE) the current phase results in 68 trips to this intersection which is significantly lower than the modelled trip count



therefore additional analysis is not warranted at this time as the current proposal is well below the parameters which were previously analyzed and approved.

3. Phase 1 Access. In addition to the number of trips generated by the 68 new residences proposed in Phase 1, we would encourage you to carefully consider the size and weight of construction equipment and trucks and the seasonal weight restrictions annually imposed on City streets. Even with the improvements to Stafford Street required in the Development Agreement, it is possible that large vehicles may not be able to access the site without further improvements, and there may be significant restrictions on when construction activities and forest practices may be permitted, which could have a significant impact on your development plans.

Noted. A note regarding haul routes has been added to CV-01 of the Phase 1A civil set.

4. Water and Sewer Service. We will need the projected water consumption (per pressure zone) and sewer loading by user class for the proposed Phase 1 development as well as at full build-out.

A memo addressing water system sizing and providing lot counts for determination of sewer loading is included with the resubmittal.

Please call or email me with any concerns at 425-250-7241 or lfedak@thebluelinegroup.com.

Sincerely,



Lyndsey Fedak, PE
Project Engineer

CC: Sean Northrop, John Fernstrom, Brett Pudists, PE

