

TALASAEA
CONSULTANTS, INC.

18 November 2004

TAL-893

Mr. Mike Beach, P.E.
PacLand
606 Columbia Street NW, Suite 106
Olympia, WA 98501

REFERENCE: Potential Retail Site in Tumwater, Washington
SUBJECT: Site Reconnaissance Report

Dear Mike:

At your request, I conducted a site reconnaissance at the potential retail center site located on Littlerock Road in Tumwater, Washington (**Figure 1**). The purpose of this site visit was to determine whether any sensitive areas, species or features may occur on or near the subject property. A summary of my findings follows.

Background Review. The National Wetlands Inventory maps (USF&WS) do not show the presence of wetlands or other aquatic features on this property. The Thurston County geodata web site illustrates the presence of one small, isolated wetland on the property. This data source does not indicate the presence of any other wetlands or aquatic features on or adjacent to the subject property.

The Thurston County Soils Survey (USDA, NRCS) map indicates the presence of Nisqually loamy fine sand (0 to 3 percent slopes), a very deep, excessively drained soil. Within this soil map unit the water table is generally greater than 6 feet below the ground surface, with the soils showing a very high organic matter content and low chroma (e.g., 10 YR 2/1 to 3/1). Despite the low chromas, Nisqually soils are classified as non-hydric.

On-site Observations. The subject property lies generally between Interstate 5 on the east and Littlerock Road on the west, with large retail developments located on both the north and south sides of the property.

Site reconnaissance involved observations over the entire property and the areas immediately adjacent to the property. Special attention was given to areas with vegetation suggesting that wetlands might be present, and also to areas with topographic depressions that could collect and hold water.

The natural topography of the site is relatively flat, with several closed depressions that appear to have been created for the purpose of soil/sand extraction. These depressions are between 3 and 6 feet deep and up to ¼ acre in size.

Soils. The site is on what was historically a glacial outwash prairie. Soils were observed to be consistent with the mapped Nisqually series. Soils on this site have been disturbed, but still show the characteristics of the Nisqually series within the top 18 inches – a well-drained loamy fine sand, high in organic content, and with a low chroma. Despite the low soil chroma, this soil series is classified as non-hydric.

Hydrology. Soils were wet due to 2+ inches of rainfall having fallen within the previous 72 hours. There was no standing water on site. No indicators were observed that standing or flowing water ever occurs on the site.

Vegetation. About half of the site is forested with Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) black cottonwood and Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*). The understory appears to have been brush-hogged within the past 2 to 3 years. Recovering shrubs and young trees are 3 to 10 feet tall. Forest understory and the bulk of the remaining portion of the site is covered with Scot's Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), black cottonwood (*Populus tricocarpa*) saplings, tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), and Douglas spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*). The herbaceous vegetation layer is dominated by Colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis tenuis*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), and hairy cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*).

Topography and soil disturbance history. The natural topography is relatively flat, but several closed depressions were observed that appear to have been excavated. These depressions are between 3 and 6 feet deep and up to ¼ acre in size. It is possible that these depressions are the result of past soil/sand mining.

Summary. One closed depression was observed that at first glance appeared to be a wetland. This depression is on the opposite side of Littlerock Road from the cemetery entrance and roughly corresponds to the wetland area shown on the County's data base. Soils in this depression are black (10YR 2/1), but are not hydric. Soils were wet, but had a sandy texture and appeared to be well drained. No redoximorphic features were observed in the soils. Several facultative (FAC) and facultative-wet (FACW) plant species are present in this depression, including quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Douglas spirea, and Scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*). Together with those species, however, are upland species that include: Scot's broom, snowberry, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). The FAC and FACW species likely reflect the disturbance history of this property (past excavation and recent brush mowing) and not a hydrologic regime that would sustain a wetland.

In conclusion, no wetlands, streams or sensitive wildlife species or habitats were found on or immediately adjacent to the subject property.

Mr. Mike Beach
18 November 2004
Page 3

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at (425) 861-7550.

Sincerely,

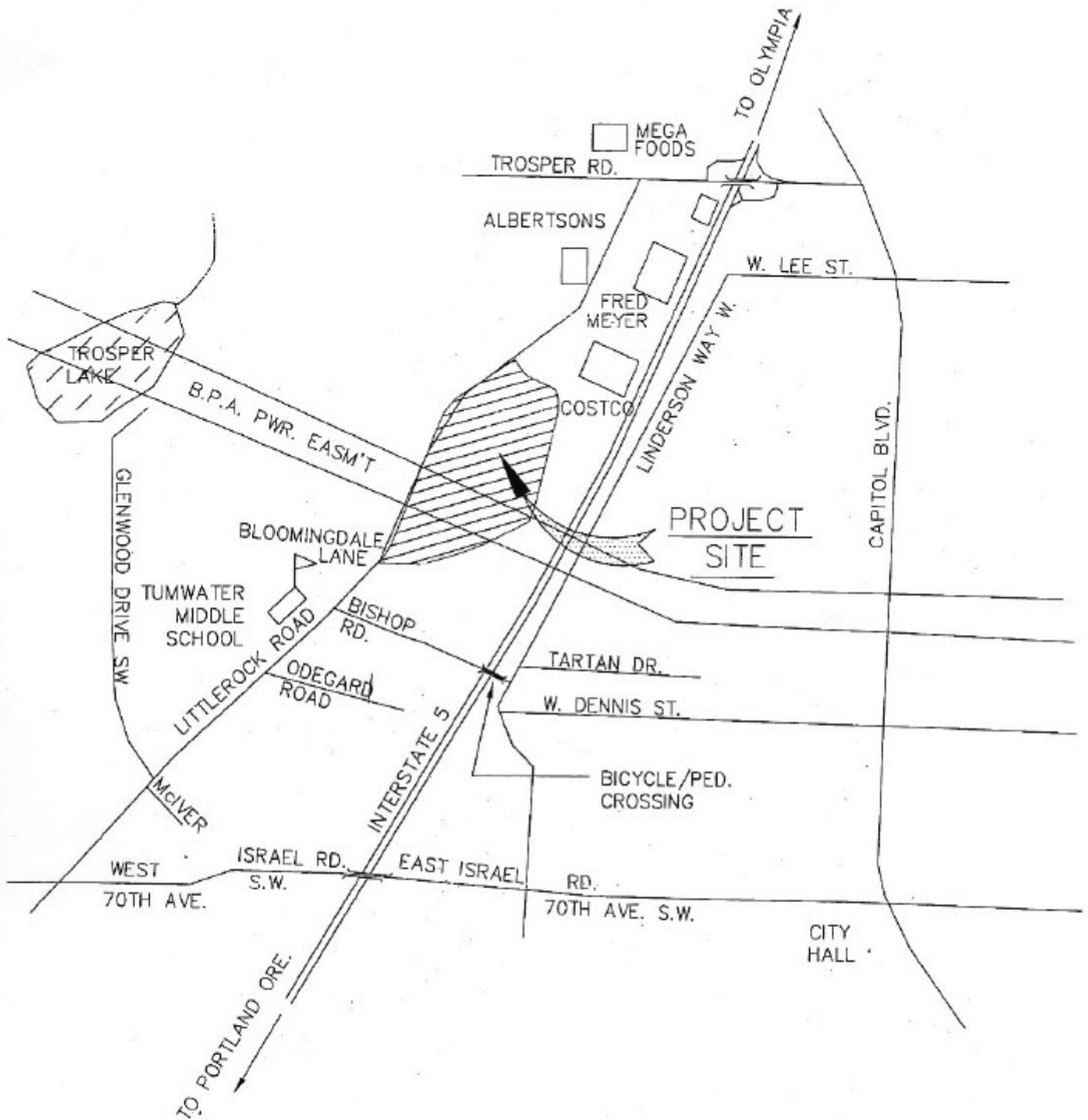
TALASAEA CONSULTANTS, INC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Shiels", with a large, stylized initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

William E. Shiels
Principal

Attachment (Figure 1)

cc: Jack McCullough
Bill Dunning



SOURCE: The Thomas Guide 2001; Metropolitan Puget Sound

TALASAEA
CONSULTANTS, INC.
 Resource & Environmental Planning
 15020 Bear Creek Road Northeast
 Woodinville, Washington 98077
 Bus (425)861-7550 - Fax (425)861-7549

FIGURE 1:
 Vicinity Map
 Proposed Retail Development
 Tumwater, Washington

DESIGN	DRAWN	PROJECT
	CL	893
SCALE		
NTS		
DATE		
19 NOV 04		
REVISED		

