

March 28, 2012

Dear Commissioners:

Among the materials posted to the City website on Friday, March 9, was a document titled, "Known Topics-Additional Questions."¹ As pointed out by the March 13 letter from Citizens for Sammamish, we were unaware of the Consultant's request to the City staff to elaborate on the list of "Known Topics." Because several of the "Additional Questions" concerning wetlands and streams relate directly to concerns and questions we have discussed with the City staff very recently, we request that the Consultant also address the following questions as part of its review of the "Additional Questions" on the topic, **"Mitigation requirements and options for development on sites with wetlands and streams with low functions and values."**

Additional Questions:

- What is the Best Available Science regarding development of sites with wetlands and streams with low functions and values?
- What is the most commonly accepted BAS definition of an "isolated wetland"? Is there a statutory definition?
- Are there other cities or municipalities in Western Washington that have size-based exemptions for isolated wetlands? If so, what is the size range?
- Please identify any BAS studies that have quantified or otherwise determined the hydrological function (i.e., water quality impact studies, flood control and ground water recharge benefits) of isolated wetlands that are smaller than 5000 sf.
- Could Best Available Science support the exemption of isolated wetlands based upon factors other than size? Are there other cities or municipalities in Western Washington that recognize such exemptions?
- Could Best Available Science support the exemption of a small-sized (up to 5,000 sf) Class III or Class IV wetland, with low functions and values, similar to the exemption currently provided by the SMC for isolated wetlands?

We appreciate the City's efforts to keep citizens informed of the work that is being performed by the Consultant. It is our understanding that the list of Known Topics within the City Council's resolution authorizing the present ECA review was drawn from concerns that we and other citizens raised through public comment and dialogue with the City staff over the past few years. Accordingly, we ask that we and others whose concerns were identified in the approved "Known Topics" list also be given the opportunity to help to "more fully describe the issue[s], concern[s]" referenced categorically in the "Known Topics." We hope that we will also be given fair opportunity to submit additional questions related to the "Known Topics" that may assist to identify potential options and areas of flexibility for Sammamish citizens and property owners.

Sincerely,

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EXHIBIT NO. 59.

¹ (Note that this document is now posted at the City Website under the tab "Known Topics," but the tab does not include the "Known Topics" list incorporated within the City Council resolution approving the current ECA review).