



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Thurston County Commissioners
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March 3, 2014

Board of Thurston County Commissioners
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502-6045

Log: 022414-41-TN

Property: Rezone Medela Land Use Proposal Mult. Parcels including 52900100100 &
09480045000

Re: Archaeology - Survey Requested

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is in receipt of the Notice of Application regarding re-zoning of the above referenced parcels. Based upon the Notice and supporting documentation, we understand that the re-zoning may lead to future development of the parcels.

As a result of our review, DAHP submits the following comments & recommendations for your consideration:

- The subject parcels are adjacent to the Forest Cemetery and therefore, the area has the potential for archaeological resources. It is also adjacent to a historic wetland, and has a moderate to high probability for archaeological resources according to DAHP's archaeological predictive model. This probability level is based upon data that suggests native peoples utilized wetlands for plant and animal resources.
- Forest Cemetery was founded in 1857, and many local historic figures are buried there, including unmarked Chinese and Native American graves. Historic cemeteries are frequently larger than they appear, with unmarked graves often found outside of the cemetery boundaries.
- The scale of the proposed ground disturbing actions could destroy archaeological resources present in the project area. Discovery of archaeological resources during construction work is not recommended since inadvertent discoveries often result in costly construction delays as well as damage to the resource.
- For the above reasons, DAHP requests an archaeological assessment be undertaken prior to any earth moving activities.
- We also recommend consultation with the concerned Tribes' cultural committees and staff regarding cultural resource issues.
- In addition, we understand that the project area encompasses a few residences that are over 50 years in age. Therefore, we recommend that those buildings over 50 years in age be recorded by completion of entries into DAHP's on-line Historic Property Inventory (HPI) database. Completion of the inventory database records should be accomplished



by a historic preservation professional meeting professional qualifications standards as defined in 36 CFR Part 61 (standards can be found at: http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm).

- Finally, we also suggest that for buildings in the project area that are proposed for demolition, that they first be offered to other parties for removal and relocation off-site. With this step, these residences can be placed back into service rather than demolished with debris disposed of in a landfill.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposal. These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (360) 586-3083 or stephenie.kramer@dahp.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Stephenie Kramer
Assistant State Archaeologist

cc: Cami Petersen
Michelle Sadlier, City of Olympia
Rhonda Foster, Squaxin Island Tribe
Jackie Wall, Nisqually Tribe
Christy Osborn
Richard Bellon, Chehalis Tribe

