



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

February 10, 2020

Ms. Nicole Gaudette  
Senior Planner  
City of Mercer Island

In future correspondence please refer to:

Project Tracking Code: 2020-02-01166

Property: City of Mercer Island New Mixed Use Building DSR20-001

Re: Archaeology Desktop Review & Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan Requested

Dear Ms. Gaudette:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and providing documentation regarding the above referenced project. As a result of our review, our professional opinion is that the project area has the potential to contain archaeological resources.

The project area has been determined to be at very high risk of containing archaeological resources according to the DAHP predictive model. As the SEPA checklist indicates, the site has likely been overlain by layers of fill and it is possible that the historic and precontact land surfaces, and associated archaeology, may be intact below this fill layer. Because this project proposes the construction of basement levels it is likely that the scale of the proposed ground disturbing actions would destroy any archaeological resources present. Although an archaeological survey prior to ground disturbance would be the preferred method, the fact that the majority of the property is hardscaped and may contain thick fill deposits would render a survey ineffectual. Therefore, the DAHP recommends that a professional archaeologist conduct background research in order to develop a site specific Monitoring & Inadvertent Discovery Plan (MIDP). The MIDP will outline what areas of the project, and at what depths the project should be directly monitored by a professional archaeologist, and if any portions of the project should move forward following only the IDP. The DAHP also requests the opportunity to review and approve the resulting Desktop Survey & MIDP prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities.

We also recommend consultation with the concerned Tribes' cultural committees and staff regarding cultural resource issues.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the SHPO in conformance with Washington State law. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project and we look forward to receiving the Desktop Survey report and MIDP. Please ensure that the DAHP Project Number (a.k.a. Project Tracking Code) is shared with any hired cultural resource consultants and is attached to any communications or submitted reports. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Jolivette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Jolivette".

Stephanie Jolivette  
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