



June 7, 2018

Michael A. Pawlak, PE  
2707 Colby Avenue, Suite 715  
Everett, Washington 98201

**Re: Additional Cultural Resources Assessment for the City of Marysville State Avenue Widening Project, Snohomish County, Washington**

Dear Michael,

At the request of HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR), Tierra Right of Way Services, Ltd. (Tierra), conducted an additional cultural resources assessment of the City of Marysville's (the City's) State Avenue Widening Project (the project) located in Snohomish County, Washington (Figures 1 and 2). The original cultural resources assessment report (Rinck 2017) was submitted to HDR in October of 2017. The project is now being extended to include additional ground disturbance in Parcel No. 30050900403700 for the construction of a proposed stormwater detention pond. Although the new area was included within the original area of potential effect (APE), no subsurface testing was conducted there by SWCA Environmental Consultants, Inc. (SWCA), as no ground disturbance was proposed there at that time.

Per your request, Tierra conducted an additional cultural resources assessment of this portion of Parcel No. 300516002033900. This report has been prepared to aid HDR in project planning for the new area in question. Please consider this letter an addendum to the original report for the project under the same regulatory requirements as the original report.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Marysville plans to widen State Avenue between 116th Street NE and 100th Street NE from three to five lanes. A portion of the efforts includes widening a section of roadway that crosses the Quilceda Creek ravine. During the 30 Percent Design phase, the geotechnical analysis determined that the existing fill supporting the road over Quilceda Creek was soft, and that it would be costly to stabilize and reinforce the existing soils. Therefore, it was determined that a single-span bridge crossing the creek would be the better alternative. A part of the new design includes revisions to the stormwater system, which includes relocating one of the stormwater/infiltration ponds and shifting a segment of the storm drain pipe. Other revisions to the design include a High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk and installing utilities underground.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT**

General information about the environmental history, geomorphology, and soils in the project vicinity are discussed in the original City of Marysville State Avenue Widening Project report (Rinck 2017) and is the same for the current project location.

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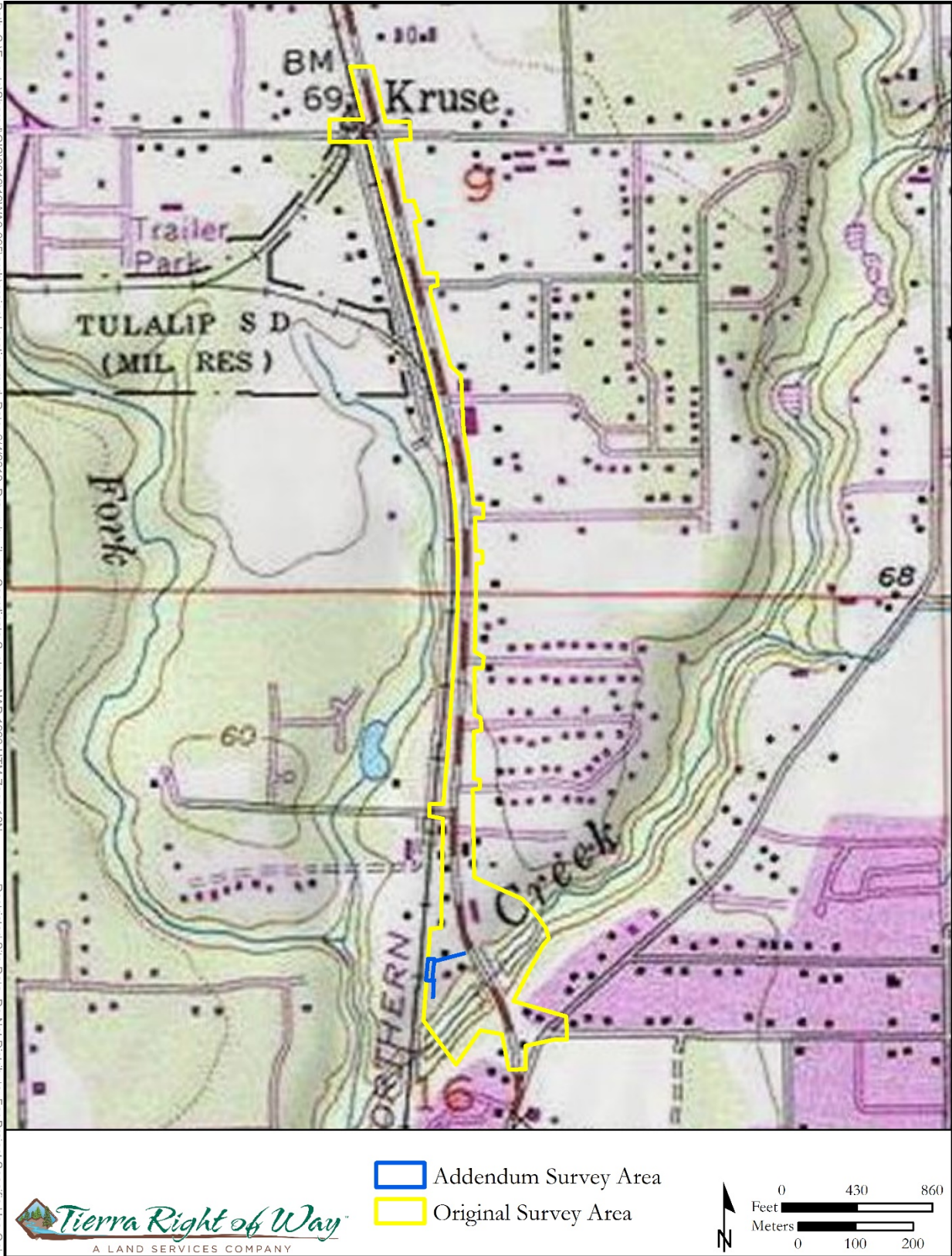


Figure 1. Project location and original survey area.



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Figure 2. Project location and SWCA shovel test probes.

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As described and mapped soils by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS 2018), the project area consists entirely of the Ragnar fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes. The parent material of this soil is glacial outwash, and it is found on outwash plains. The typical profile of the Ragnar fine sandy loam is ashy fine sandy loam 0–5 cm (0–2 inches), ashy sandy loam 5–61 cm (2–24 inches), and loamy sand 61–152 cm (24–60 inches). Native soils may be disturbed during residential activities on the properties, and imported materials may have been used for construction fill.

## **CULTURAL CONTEXT**

The project is located in the traditional territory of the Snohomish and the Stillaguamish peoples. Large villages and resource locations have been documented on the Quilceda Creek and the Snohomish River Delta (Indian Claims Commission 1965; Lane 1973; Suttles and Lane 1991; Waterman 1922). Quilceda Creek, “qwota’itsdEb” was recognized as “sturgeon place” (Waterman 1922). The mouth of Quilceda Creek was populated with villages, houses, and a cemetery (Tweddell 1974). It is probable that the Snohomish used spears, willow basket traps, and the tripod salmon trap to harvest salmon from the Quilceda Creek. In addition, the Snohomish could have used harpoons to harvest sturgeon from the lower parts of the Quilceda Creek (Lane 1975). A complete discussion of the cultural context for the project area can be found in Rinck (2017).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) (DAHP 2018) was reviewed to determine whether any archaeological sites or other historic properties had previously been recorded in the project vicinity. The WISAARD database indicates that the area is of high probability for encountering cultural resources. There are no archaeological sites within the project area, and eight historic properties were recorded during the previous cultural resources assessment (Rinck 2017).

### ***Previous Archaeological Studies within the Area of Potential Effect***

The project area was previously surveyed by SWCA in 2017 (Rinck 2017). SWCA’s cultural investigations consisted of background research of the area (which includes the full environmental and cultural history of the area), pedestrian survey, monitoring of geotechnical drilling, and subsurface testing. SWCA’s background research indicated there was a high probability of encountering archaeological materials within the project area. There were no cultural materials observed during the monitoring of geotechnical drilling. Twenty-seven shovel test probes (STPs) were excavated within the project area. The subsurface investigations resulted in the excavation of highly disturbed sediments, and no significant cultural materials were identified. There were eight historical properties recorded. SWCA recommended that all eight properties do not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

### ***Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 1.6 km (1.0 Mile) of the Project Area***

There is one previously recorded archaeological site within 1.6 km (1.0 mile) of the project area. Site 45SN421 is located 0.8 km (0.5 miles) northwest of the project area. This site was recorded by David Munsell in the 1960s. Munsell recorded precontact lithic materials, which included projectile points, knives, cobbles tools, and flakes. The site was subsequently destroyed by road construction (116th Street and the Interstate 5 right-of-way) and the Boeing Hazardous Test Area.

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### ***Previously Recorded Cemeteries within 1.6 km (1.0 Mile) of the Project Area***

There are two cemeteries previously recorded. These cemeteries are located 1.2 km (0.75 miles) south of the project area. The St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery is located at 4200 88th Street. It was first established in 1906, with the earliest known burial in 1883. There are over 600 interments documented at the cemetery.

The Marysville Cemetery was first established in 1892, and the earliest known burial marker is from 1891. Many of the founders of Marysville are buried at this cemetery. The cemetery was first owned and operated by the Marysville Odd Fellows Lodge. Currently, the cemetery property totals 13.95 acres. According to Tweddle (Wessen 1991), there is a possibility of an Indian cemetery located in the same vicinity.

### ***Previous Cultural Survey Reports***

There are seven cultural resources assessments (Table 1) that have been conducted within approximately 1.6 km (1.0 mile) of the project area. These reports are on file with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).

**Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Surveys within 1.6 km (1.0 Mile) of the Project Area**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Report Date</b>	<b>NADB</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Distance from Project Area</b>	<b>Findings</b>
Chidley, Michael	3/11/2008	1351215	Letter to Allyson Brooks RE: Request for Determination of Effects Concurrence I-5 Marysville to Stillaguamish River Vic. Project	1.6 km (1.0 mile)	no cultural material
Dampf, Steven K.	3/23/2004	1343753	I-5/116th Street Interchange and 34th Avenue NE Reconstruction Project Archaeological Resources and Traditional Cultural Use Assessment	0.53 km (0.33 miles)	no cultural material
Kiers, Roger	4/20/2006	1348608	Archaeological Review for 51st Avenue NE Intersection Improvements for Snohomish County Department of Public Works	1.27 km (0.79 miles)	no cultural material
Parvey, Michele E.	8/27/2003	1343317	Heritage Resources Assessment for the Proposed Chelsea Property Outlet Mall Project, Tulalip Indian Reservation	0.98 km (0.61 miles)	no cultural material
Robinson, Joan M.	2/24/2003	1343310	A Cultural Resource Survey of the City of Marysville's State Avenue: 116th Street NE to 136th Street NE Widening Project	0.53 km (0.33 miles)	no cultural material
Rooke, Lara C.	5/23/2002	1341198	Letter Report: Procedures and Results of a Cultural Resources Survey of Cingular Wireless Tower Site WA-0804 (Fire Station#62) in Snohomish County, Washington	0.96 km (0.60 miles)	historical homestead
Rooke, Lara C.	8/31/2002	1341527	Letter to Jay Grenfell Regarding WA-804-02 (Pilchuck High School)	1.48 km (0.92 miles)	no cultural material

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## RESEARCH DESIGN

### *Expectations*

The DAHP predictive model available in WISAARD indicated the area is high risk for encountering cultural resources, with survey recommended. Tierra's background research on the project area determined that the project area is located in an area of high probability for encountering archaeological sites associated with the Snohomish and Stillaguamish occupation of the area, and buildings, features, or archaeological deposits associated with early twentieth-century Euroamerican settlement and farming activity. The project area is located at the Quilceda Creek drainage and would have provided important resources to the Snohomish and Stillaguamish people in the past. Therefore, planned ground-disturbing activities in the new area in question increases the archaeological sensitivity. It is expected that if precontact cultural material is present in undisturbed soil, it would be observed within 1.0 m (3.3 feet) below the surface. However, the project area has been highly impacted by road construction, commercial development, and utilities. If cultural material is present within the project area, the likelihood of it having been disturbed is high.

### *Field Methodology Plan*

The archaeological survey was designed to identify archaeological resources in areas that could be directly impacted by project activities. Field investigations included visual reconnaissance, pedestrian survey, and subsurface testing. Visual reconnaissance consisted of identifying and recording any historic properties constructed within or adjacent to the project area that were not recorded during the prior cultural assessment. Subsurface testing included up to 10 STPs within the stormwater facilities footprint. STPs were planned to extend 1.0 m (3.3 feet) below the surface to identify any archaeological materials in the planned work area. Excavated materials from the subsurface survey were screened through quarter-inch hardware mesh and then backfilled to the STP. If artifacts were identified, they were described, photographed, and returned to the STP.

## SURVEY RESULTS

Field investigations were conducted by Tierra Project Archaeologist Sherri Middleton, M.S., and Archaeological Technician Dan Kristmann on May 23, 2018. The conditions during field investigations were clear skies and warm. The project area consisted of approximately 0.42 acres. Field investigations included pedestrian survey and subsurface survey of the sediments within the project area.

The pedestrian survey was conducted while setting transect lines for the STPs and while recording STPs on the global positioning system (GPS) unit. Visibility was fair due to the limited ground vegetation. Vegetation consisted of limited amounts of short grasses for the majority of the project area (Photo 1). There were taller and denser grasses in the southern portion of the project area. There is a water well located in the middle of the project area. Observations during the surface survey included a substantial amount of modern debris consisting of fragments of various types of glass, rubber, and modern nuts and bolts. No archaeological resources were observed on the surface.





**Photo 1. Overview of the project area. facing south.**

Subsurface testing consisted a total of seven STPs to an average depth of 1.0 m (3.3 feet) (Figure 3). These STPs were set at intervals of 20 m (66 feet) apart within the project area. The results of the subsurface investigations identified nine types of soil matrices (Table 2). Matrices A, G, and L were identified as possible disturbed native soil or imported fill. Matrices B through F and H are fairly consistent with the Ragnar fine sandy loam series. Subsurface investigations show there have been multiple events of sediment disturbance within the project area to at least 40 cm (16 inches) below the surface.

Six of the seven STPs were negative for cultural material. The results of the STPs are presented in Table 3. STP three resulted in three pieces of non-diagnostic historic glass fragments at 40 cm (16 inches) below the surface. The cultural material was observed in disturbed native soil or imported fill (Photos 2–4).

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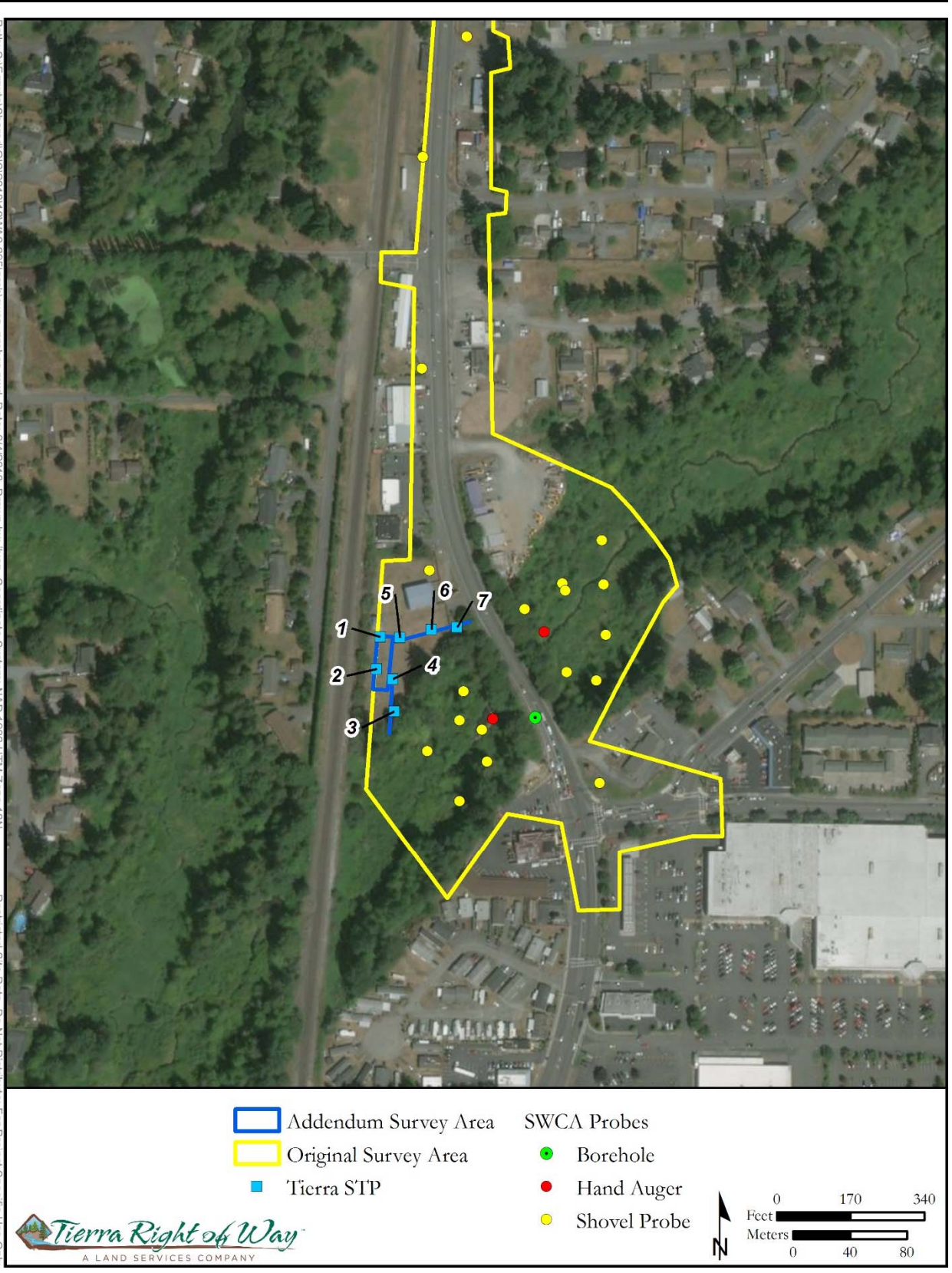


Figure 3. Results of Tierra's shovel testing.



**Table 2. Soil Matrices Identified within the Project Area**

<b>Matrix</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	Light tan brown, fine to medium sand with 5–15% angular, sub-angular/rounded and rounded, poorly sorted, small and medium pebbles; gradual boundary; highly disturbed layer with pockets of coarse sand.
B	Orange-brown, medium sand <5% sub-angular/rounded, poorly sorted, small and medium pebbles; little rootlets and gradual boundary
C	Grey medium to coarse sand, with no gravels.
D	Grey coarse sand with 5–15% sub-angular/rounded, small to medium pebbles, poorly sorted; clear boundary.
E	Orange-greyish brown silty, medium-coarse sand with no gravels; clear boundary.
F	Light yellow-grey, silty fine sand with no gravels and few rootlets.
G	Brown silty fine sand with 5–15% angular, sub-angular/rounded, poorly sorted, medium to large pebbles; common rootlets and clear boundary; fill.
H	Light greyish brown silty fine sand with no gravels, no organics.
I	Light brownish grey fine to medium sand with 15–30% angular, rounded, sub-angular/rounded, poorly sorted, small to large pebbles; no organics and clear boundary.

**Table 3. STP Results**

<b>STP No.</b>	<b>Depth at Termination (cmbs)</b>	<b>Positive/Negative</b>	<b>Reason for Termination</b>	<b>Soil Description Matrix (cmbs)</b>	<b>Excavators</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	103	negative	at depth	0–10 cmbs: Matrix A; sandy fill layer with pockets of Matrix B, highly disturbed and modern debris. 10–50 cmbs: Matrix B. 50–103 cmbs: Matrix C.	Dan Kristmann, Sherri Middleton	5/23/2018
2	102	negative	at depth	0–18 cmbs: Matrix A with modern debris. 18–38 cmbs: Matrix D with modern debris; top 2 levels are highly disturbed sediment. 38–42 cmbs: Matrix E. 42–82 cmbs: Matrix D. 82–102 cmbs: Matrix F.	Dan Kristmann, Sherri Middleton	5/23/2018
3	101	positive 3 pieces of non-diagnostic glass fragments	at depth	0–40 cmbs: Matrix G, modern debris and non-diagnostic historic glass; highly disturbed level. 40–101 cmbs: Matrix B.	Dan Kristmann, Sherri Middleton	5/23/2018

STP No.	Depth at Termination (cmbs)	Positive/Negative	Reason for Termination	Soil Description Matrix (cmbs)	Excavators	Date
4	100	negative	at depth	0–15 cmbs: Matrix G. 15–50 cmbs: Matrix G with piece of metal in north wall; these two levels are highly disturbed. 50–100 cmbs: Matrix D.	Dan Kristmann, Sherri Middleton	5/23/2018
5	100	negative	at depth	0–28 cmbs: Matrix I. 28–100 cmbs: Matrix C mottled with Matrix B though out level of STP.	Dan Kristmann, Sherri Middleton	5/23/2018
6	100	negative	at depth	0–60 cmbs: Matrix A with little rootlets. 60–100 cmbs: Matrix C.	Dan Kristmann, Sherri Middleton	5/23/2018
7	97	negative	at depth	0–47 cmbs: Matrix G, with chunks of modern roofing material and modern metal. 47–90 cmbs: Matrix D. 90–97 cmbs: Matrix H.	Dan Kristmann, Sherri Middleton	5/23/2018

Key: cmbs = cm below surface.



Photo 2. STP 2, 0–102 cmbs.



**Photo 3. STP 3, 0–101 cmbs.**



**Photo 4. STP 6, 0–100 cmbs.**



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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Background review suggested the area for the proposed stormwater detention pond is located in an area of high probability for encountering archaeological resources. A total of seven STPs were excavated in the previously untested area for the proposed stormwater/infiltration pond within Parcel No. 300516002033900. Testing confirmed that the project area is highly disturbed and was impacted by previous ground-disturbing activities. One STP contained non-diagnostic historic glass located in a disturbed context, possibly in imported fill. No other subsurface deposits or cultural materials were identified. Tierra therefore recommends a finding of No Effect to cultural resources for this project, and that no additional archaeological work is warranted.

In the event that archaeological materials are encountered during project construction, work in the location of discovery must stop, the area must be secured, and an archaeologist should immediately be notified in order to assess the materials. If cultural materials are confirmed, notification must be provided to the cultural staff and cultural committees of any affected Tribes and the DAHP.

In the event of inadvertently discovered human remains or indeterminate bones, pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 68.50.645, all work must stop immediately and law enforcement should be contacted. Any remains should be covered and secured against further disturbance, and communication established with local police, the DAHP, and any affected Tribal agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherri Middleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Sherri Middleton M.S.**

Project Archaeologist  
Tierra Right of Way Services

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