

4565-064-09

To:

From:

Date:

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# Memorandum

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Technical Memorandum - South Hill Business and Technology Center Centeris Subject: North Detention Pond

# Introduction

This memorandum documents our geotechnical engineering services in support of the proposed North Utility Yard Detention Pond to be constructed at the South Hill Business and Technology Center in Puyallup, Washington. The overall site location is shown in the attached Figure 1, Vicinity Map.

GeoEngineers, Inc. (GeoEngineers) has been requested to observe test pit explorations in the proposed north utility pond area for the purposes of evaluating infiltration characteristics of the subsurface soils and providing geotechnical retaining wall parameters for the proposed mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall. A summary of the site conditions, field exploration, laboratory testing and geotechnical design recommendations within the proposed pond area are provided below

# **Field Explorations and Laboratory Testing**

# FIELD EXPLORATIONS

Subsurface soil and groundwater conditions were evaluated by excavating three test pits at the approximate locations shown in Figure 2, Centeris North Detention Pond Test Pits. The test pits were excavated using a tracked excavator owned and operated by the earthwork contractor at the site, Johannsen Excavating. Test pits were excavated to depths of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 feet below the ground surface (bgs). A detailed description of the field exploration and testing program and logs of the explorations are presented in Attachment A, Field Explorations and Laboratory Testing

# LABORATORY TESTING

Soil samples obtained from the explorations were transported to GeoEngineers' Redmond, Washington geotechnical laboratory and evaluated to confirm or modify field classifications, as well as to evaluate engineering and index properties of the soil. Selected samples were tested for the determination of moisture content and grain size distribution. A description of the laboratory testing and the test results are presented in Attachment A.

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# Geology

We reviewed available geologic maps, including the geologic map of the Tacoma quadrangle (Schuster et al. 2015). The project area is located on a glaciated upland west and south of a major glacial trough, now occupied by the Puyallup River.

Surficial soils mapped in the project vicinity generally consist of geologic units deposited during the Vashon Stade of the Fraser glaciation and include Vashon Till (Qgt), Recessional outwash (Qgo) and ice-contact deposits (Qgoi). Surficial fill is also present at the site from historic grading activities.

Vashon till generally consists of a non-sorted, non-stratified mixture of clay, silt, sand and gravel with larger constituents up to the size of cobbles and boulders. The till is very dense and relatively impermeable but can contain localized zones of interbedded stratified sand and gravel.

Recessional outwash and ice-contact deposits typically consist of stratified outwash sand with some gravel, and some areas of silt and clay. The sediments were deposited by meltwater from the stagnating and receding Vashon glacier and are typically loose to medium dense.

# **Site Conditions**

# SURFACE CONDITIONS

The South Hill Business and Technology Center is located north of 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, east of Bradley Lake and west of Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington. College Way borders the site to the north. The proposed north detention pond is located on the north side of the Centeris building (Building D) within an undeveloped forested area. Existing ground surface elevations within the proposed pond area range from about Elevation 460 to 464 feet (North American Vertical Datum of 1988 [NAVD 88]). We understand construction of the pond will require cuts on the order of 5 to 10 feet, and the pond bottom elevation will be Elevation 457 feet. An MSE wall is planned along the southern cut, ranging from about 7 to 10 feet in height. The wall design will be a deferred submittal

# SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS

Soils encountered in the explorations consist of recessional outwash in the west and central test pits, and glacial till in the east test pit. The recessional outwash primarily consists of fine to coarse gravel with variable silt content, and occasional cobbles. Test Pit TP-2 encountered a layer of sand with silt beneath the gravel layer. The eastern test pit encountered weathered to unweathered glacial till below a surficial topsoil/forest duff layer. The glacial till is considered a hydraulic restriction layer and is not suitable for infiltration.

# **GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS**

We did not encounter the static groundwater table during our test pit explorations. Minor perched seepage was encountered on the glacial till in the eastern test pit. Discontinuous perched zones are common within the glacial deposits as seepage from precipitation moves laterally within the unweathered or less permeable layers of the deposits. Perched groundwater conditions are expected to fluctuate as a result of season, precipitation and other factors

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# **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Based on our observations during the test pit explorations and measurements completed in nearby monitoring well MW-33 located near the proposed entrance to the pond, the static groundwater table is more than 20 feet below existing ground surface. As discussed previously, localized perched zones should be anticipated on the less permeable glacial deposits at the site. Subsurface soils consist of a complex mixture of recessional and ice contact deposits, and very dense glacial till. Although zones of the outwash are more permeable and suitable for infiltration, outwash was not encountered in the eastern test pit. Design and construction considerations for temporary and permanent slopes, earthwork, infiltration considerations and geotechnical parameters for MSE wall design are provided below

# EARTHWORK

Based on the preliminary plan, 5 feet or more of excavation will be required to construct the pond and the adjacent retaining wall. We expect that the proposed earthwork can be accomplished with conventional earthmoving equipment. Although not observed in our test pits, boulders are common within glacial deposits and the contractor should be prepared to remove boulders if encountered.

Portions of the on-site native soils contain sufficient fines content (particles passing the U.S. Standard No. 200 sieve) such that they will be moisture-sensitive and susceptible to disturbance when wet. Site preparation and earthwork should be undertaken during extended periods of dry weather when the surficial soils will be less susceptible to disturbance and provide better support for construction equipment.

# **CLEARING AND SITE PREPARATION**

All areas to be graded should be cleared of surface and subsurface deleterious matter, including existing trees, brush, vegetation and debris. We recommend stumps and roots larger than 1 inch in diameter be grubbed. Organic soils can be stockpiled and used in landscaping areas.

# SUBGRADE EVALUATION

Following site grading, we recommend the pond surface be evaluated to confirm subsurface soils are as assumed during design. We understand infiltration may be considered for a portion of the pond. Where infiltration is planned, the pond surface should be excavated to final depth and configuration using equipment operating outside the footprint, as practical. The final surface should not be compacted, and may require scarifying based on conditions encountered

# STRUCTURAL FILL

#### **Materials**

Materials used as backfill at the site should meet the requirements below.

Structural fill placed within the reinforced zone of the MSE wall should consist of Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Standard Specification 9-03.14(4) Gravel Borrow for Structural Earth Wall. Memorandum to Benaroya Capital Company, LLC July 3, 2024 Page 4

- Structural fill placed to construct the pond berms should meet the requirements of Common Borrow, WSDOT Standard Specification 9-03.14(3) during dry weather (provided the material can be moisture conditioned to achieve compaction), or WSDOT Standard Specification 9-03.14(1), Gravel Borrow.
- Crushed surfacing should meet the requirements of WSDOT Specification 9-03.9(3).

# Fill Placement and Compaction Criteria

Where structural fill is required, the fill should be mechanically compacted to a firm, non-yielding condition. Structural fill should be placed in loose lifts not exceeding 12 inches in thickness. Each lift should be conditioned to the proper moisture content and compacted to the specified density before placing subsequent lifts. The moisture content should not vary more than about two percent above or below the optimum moisture content (OMC). Structural fill should be compacted to the following criteria:

- Structural fill in pavement areas, including utility trench backfill, should be compacted to 90 percent of the maximum dry density (MDD) estimated in general accordance with ASTM International (ASTM) D 1557, except that the upper 2 feet of fill below final subgrade should be compacted to 95 percent of the MDD.
- Structural fill placed as crushed surfacing base course below pavements should be compacted to 95 percent of the MDD estimated in general accordance with ASTM D 1557.

# **TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT SLOPES**

All temporary cut slopes and shoring must comply with the provisions of Title 296 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Part N, "Excavation, Trenching and Shoring." The contractor performing the work has the primary responsibility for protection of workers and adjacent improvements.

We recommend temporary cut slope inclinations of 1.5H:1V (horizontal to vertical) in the native medium dense soils encountered at the site. Some raveling/sloughing of the cut slopes may occur at this inclination. The inclination may need to be flattened by the contractor if significant sloughing or seepage occurs. These cut slope recommendations apply to fully dewatered conditions. For open cuts at the site, we recommend that:

- No traffic, construction equipment, stockpiles or building supplies be allowed at the top of the cut slopes within a distance of at least 5 feet from the top of the cut.
- Exposed soil along the slope be protected from surface erosion using waterproof tarps or plastic sheeting.
- Construction activities be scheduled so that the length of time the temporary cut is left open is reduced to the extent practicable.
- Erosion control measures be implemented as appropriate such that runoff from the site is reduced to the extent practicable.
- Surface water be diverted away from the excavation.
- The general condition of the slopes should be observed periodically by GeoEngineers to confirm adequate stability.

Because the contractor has control of the construction operations, the contractor should be made responsible for the stability of cut slopes, as well as the safety of the excavations. The contractor should take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of the workers near slopes.

Permanent interior pond cut slopes should be inclined at 3H:1V or flatter. Exterior permanent slopes should be inclined at 2H:1V or flatter.

# MSE RETAINING WALL CONSIDERATIONS

We understand an approximate 5 to 10-foot-high MSE wall will retain the south side of the pond. Based on the subsurface soils encountered in our test pits and the recommended backfill material within the reinforced zone, we recommend the following design parameters for the wall.

PARAMETER	REINFORCED BACKFILL	RETAINED BACKFILL	FOUNDATION SOIL
Unit Weight (pcf)	130	125	120
Friction Angle (deg)	35	33	32
Cohesion (psf)	0	0	0
Allowable Bearing (psf) <sup>3</sup>	-	-	2,500

#### TABLE 1. WALL DESIGN PARAMETERS 1, 2

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Walls should be designed for the planned backslope shown in the plans

<sup>2</sup> A seismic coefficient of 0.3 (modified peak ground acceleration times 0.5) can be used for seismic design

<sup>3</sup> If unsuitable soils are encountered at the footing subgrade elevation they should be removed and replaced with structural fill compacted to a minimum 95 percent of the maximum dry density.

These recommendations assume that all retaining walls will be provided with adequate drainage behind the wall.

# INFILTRATION FEASIBILITY

As discussed previously, differing soil conditions resulting in a nonuniform infiltration surface was encountered in the test pits. Very dense glacial till was encountered in the eastern test pit, TP-3, which is considered a hydraulic restriction layer in accordance with the Washington State Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual of Western Washington (SMMWW). Granular outwash was encountered in the west and central test pit. Preliminary infiltration rates for the western portion of the pond based on the grain size analyses method are provided in Table 2

## TABLE 2. ESTIMATED SOIL HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>

Test Pit	Soil Sample Depth (feet)	Percent Fines <sup>2</sup>	<b>D</b> 10 <sup>3</sup>	Estimated Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity with Correction Factor <sup>4</sup> (in/hr)
TP-1	3.5	7	0.85	>20
TP-1	8	2	0.70	>20
TP-2	3.5	5	0.20	5.1
TP-2	7.5	7	0.18	4.2

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> For selected soil samples.

<sup>2</sup> Defined as particles passing the No. 200 sieve.

<sup>3</sup> Defined as grain size in mm for which 10 percent of the sample is more fine.

<sup>4</sup> Correction factor of 0.119 calculated in accordance with Manual (Grain Size Method Correction = 0.4, Site Variability = 0.33, and CFm = 0.9)

# Limitations

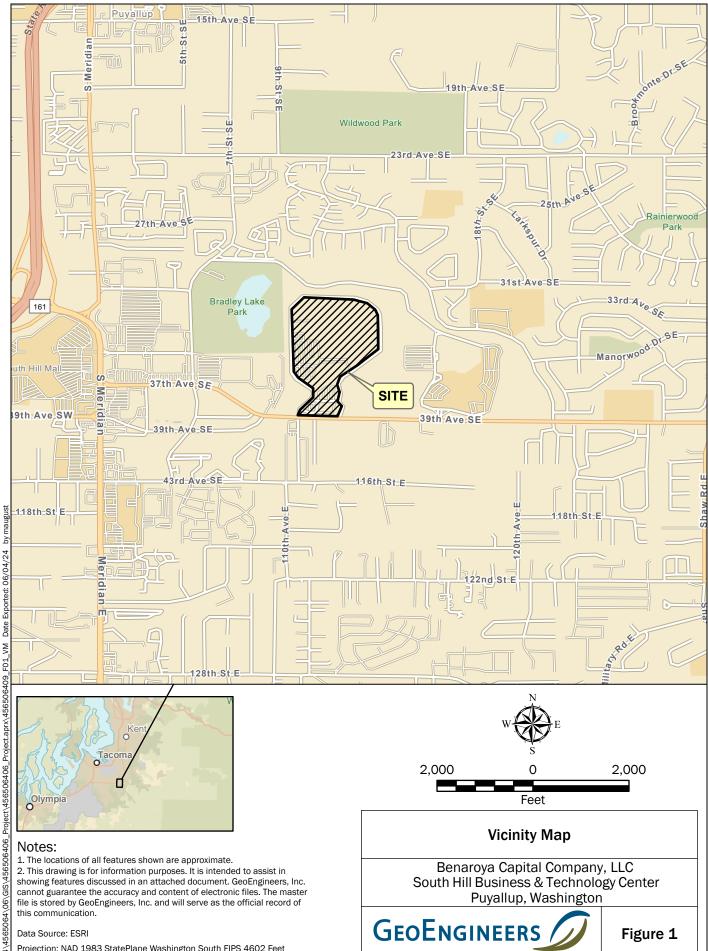
We have prepared this memorandum for the exclusive use of Benaroya Capital Company, LLC and their authorized agents for the proposed Centeris North Utility Pond. Within the limitations of scope, schedule and budget, our services have been executed in accordance with generally accepted practices in the field of geotechnical engineering in this area at the time this report was prepared. No warranty or other conditions, express or implied, should be understood. Please refer to Attachment B for additional information pertaining to use of our recommendations.

Attachments: Figure 1, Vicinity Map Figure 2, Site Plan Attachment A. Field Exploration and Laboratory Data Attachment B. Report Limitations and Guidelines for Use

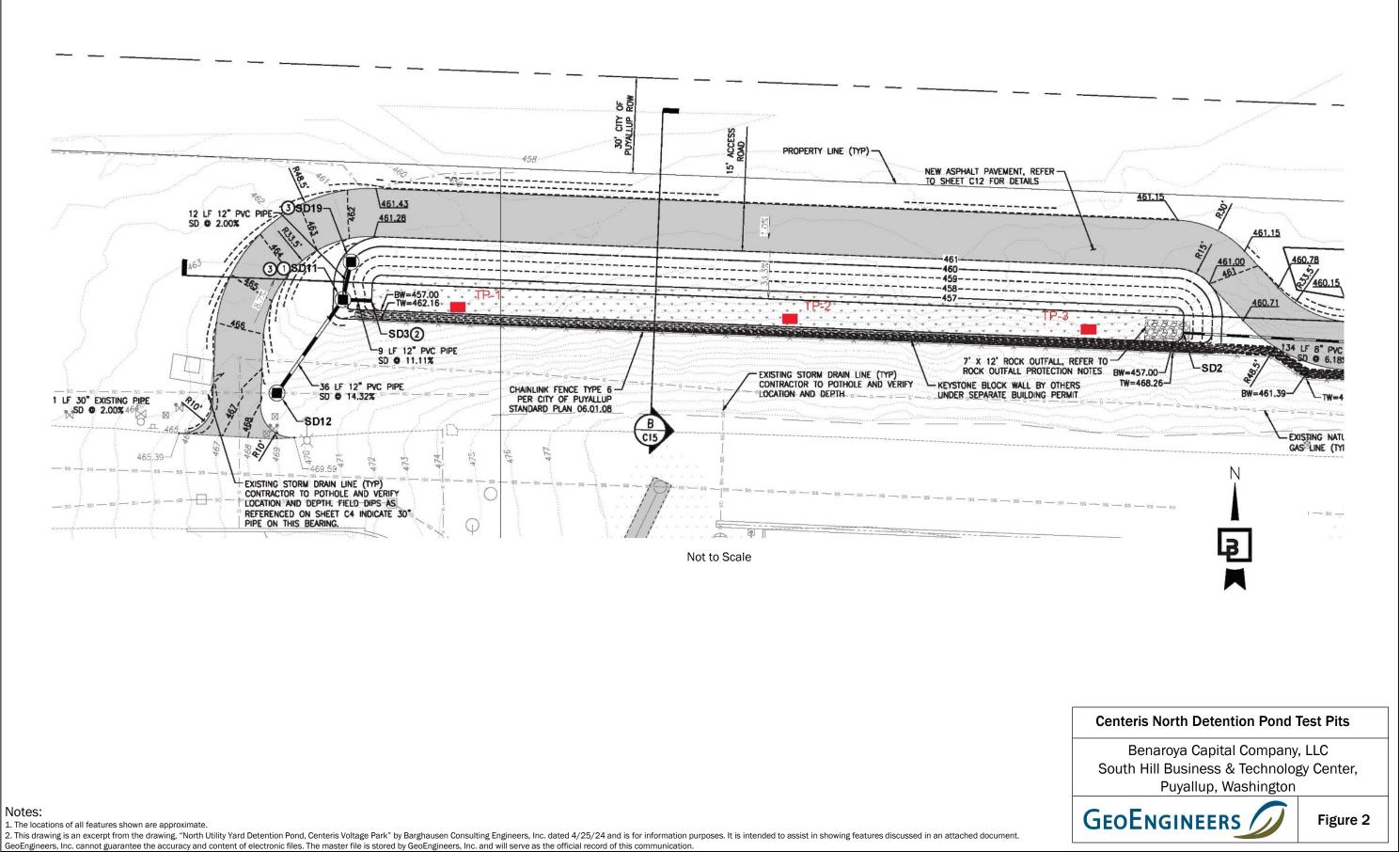
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Disclaimer: Any electronic form, facsimile or hard copy of the original document (email, text, table, and/or figure), if provided, and any attachments are only a copy of the original document. The original document is stored by GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official document of record.

Figures



Projection: NAD 1983 StatePlane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet



#### Notes:

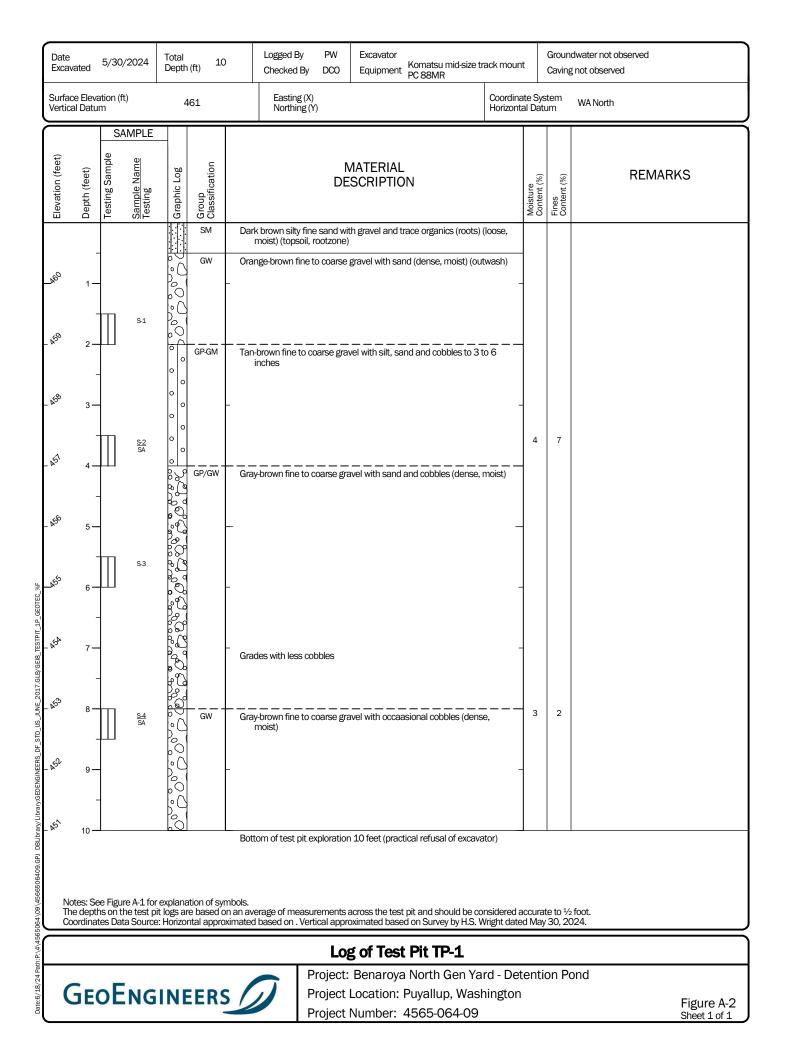
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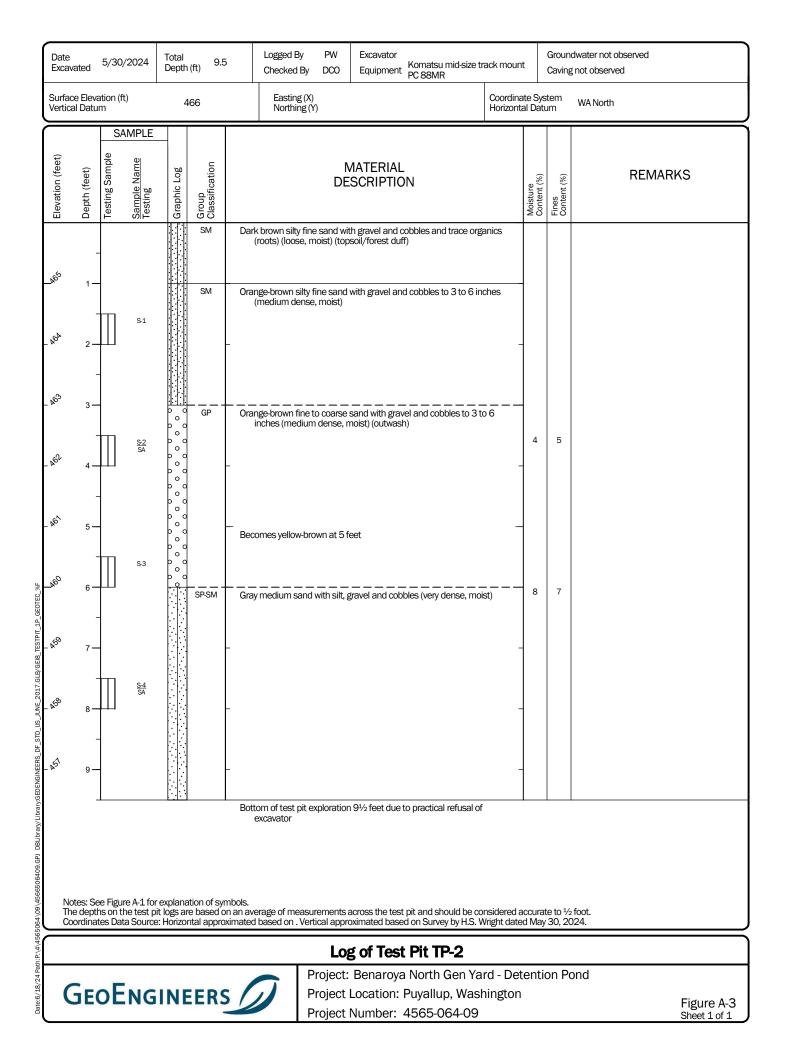
Appendix A Field Exploration and Laboratory Data

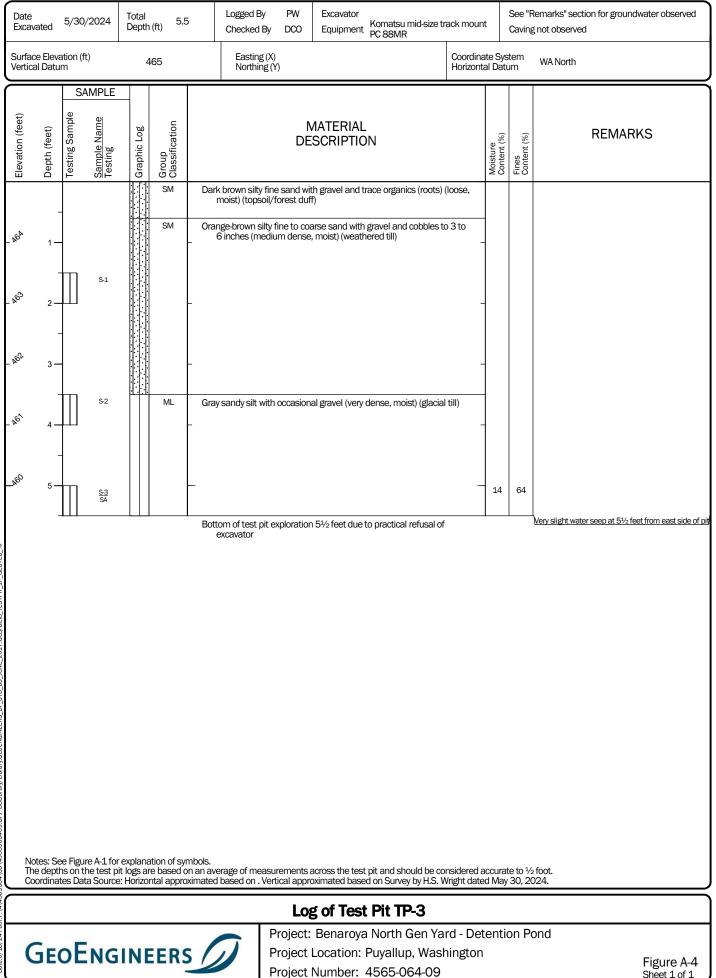
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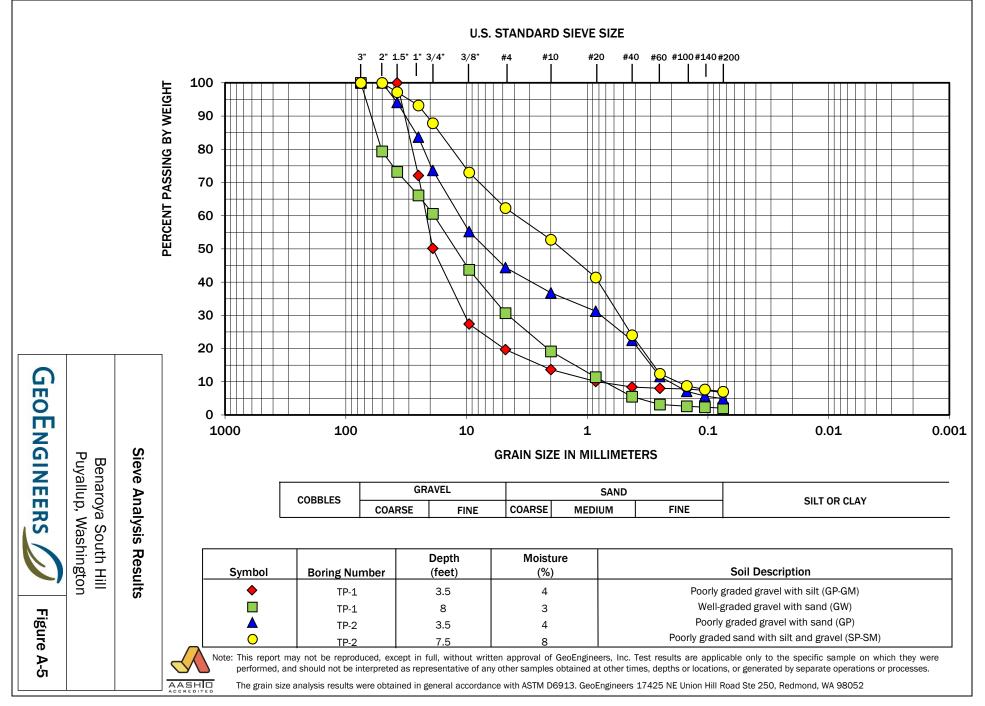
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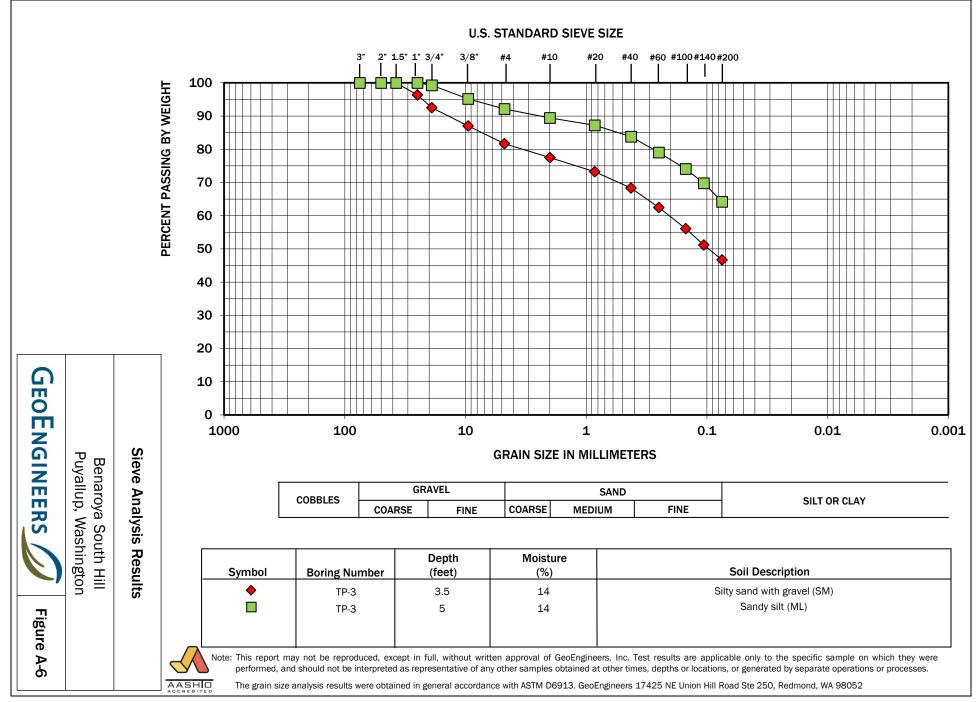






Sheet 1 of 1





# Appendix B Report Limitations and Guidelines for Use

# Appendix B REPORT LIMITATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR USE<sup>1</sup>

This appendix provides information to help you manage your risks with respect to the use of this report.

#### **Read These Provisions Closely**

It is important to recognize that the geoscience practices (geotechnical engineering, geology, and environmental science) rely on professional judgment and opinion to a greater extent than other engineering and natural science disciplines, where more precise and/or readily observable data may exist. To help clients better understand how this difference pertains to our services, GeoEngineers includes the following explanatory "limitations" provisions in its reports. Please confer with GeoEngineers if you need to know more how these "Report Limitations and Guidelines for Use" apply to your project or site.

#### Geotechnical Services Are Performed for Specific Purposes, Persons, and Projects

This report has been prepared for the Benaroya Capital Company, LLC and for the Project(s) specifically identified in the report. The information contained herein is not applicable to other sites or projects.

GeoEngineers structures its services to meet the specific needs of its clients. No party other than the party to whom this report is addressed may rely on the product of our services unless we agree to such reliance in advance and in writing. Within the limitations of the agreed scope of services for the Project, and its schedule and budget, our services have been executed in accordance with our Agreement with Benaroya Capital Company, LLC dated April 5, 2023 and generally accepted geotechnical practices in this area at the time this report was prepared. We do not authorize, and will not be responsible for, the use of this report for any purposes or projects other than those identified in the report.

# A Geotechnical Engineering or Geologic Report is Based on a Unique Set of Project-Specific Factors

This report has been prepared for the Centeris North Utility Pond project in Puyallup, Washington. GeoEngineers considered a number of unique, project-specific factors when establishing the scope of services for this project and report. Unless GeoEngineers specifically indicates otherwise, it is important not to rely on this report if it was:

- Not prepared for you,
- Not prepared for your project,
- Not prepared for the specific site explored, or
- Completed before important project changes were made.

For example, changes that can affect the applicability of this report include those that affect:



<sup>1</sup> Developed based on material provided by GBA, GeoProfessional Business Association; www.geoprofessional.org.

- The function of the proposed structure;
- Elevation, configuration, location, orientation, or weight of the proposed structure;
- Composition of the design team; or
- Project ownership.

If changes occur after the date of this report, GeoEngineers cannot be responsible for any consequences of such changes in relation to this report unless we have been given the opportunity to review our interpretations and recommendations. Based on that review, we can provide written modifications or confirmation, as appropriate.

#### Subsurface Conditions Can Change

This geotechnical or geologic report is based on conditions that existed at the time the study was performed. The findings and conclusions of this report may be affected by the passage of time, by man-made events such as construction on or adjacent to the site, new information or technology that becomes available subsequent to the report date, or by natural events such as floods, earthquakes, slope instability or groundwater fluctuations. If more than a few months have passed since issuance of our report or work product, or if any of the described events may have occurred, please contact GeoEngineers before applying this report for its intended purpose so that we may evaluate whether changed conditions affect the continued reliability or applicability of our conclusions and recommendations.

## Geotechnical and Geologic Findings Are Professional Opinions

Our interpretations of subsurface conditions are based on field observations from widely spaced sampling locations at the site. Site exploration identifies the specific subsurface conditions only at those points where subsurface tests are conducted or samples are taken. GeoEngineers reviewed field and laboratory data and then applied its professional judgment to render an informed opinion about subsurface conditions at other locations. Actual subsurface conditions may differ, sometimes significantly, from the opinions presented in this report. Our report, conclusions and interpretations are not a warranty of the actual subsurface conditions.

#### Geotechnical Engineering Report Recommendations Are Not Final

We have developed the following recommendations based on data gathered from subsurface investigation(s). These investigations sample just a small percentage of a site to create a snapshot of the subsurface conditions elsewhere on the site. Such sampling on its own cannot provide a complete and accurate view of subsurface conditions for the entire site. Therefore, the recommendations included in this report are preliminary and should not be considered final. GeoEngineers' recommendations can be finalized only by observing actual subsurface conditions revealed during construction. GeoEngineers cannot assume responsibility or liability for the recommendations in this report if we do not perform construction observation.



We recommend that you allow sufficient monitoring, testing and consultation during construction by GeoEngineers to confirm that the conditions encountered are consistent with those indicated by the explorations, to provide recommendations for design changes if the conditions revealed during the work differ from those anticipated, and to evaluate whether earthwork activities are completed in accordance with our recommendations. Retaining GeoEngineers for construction observation for this project is the most effective means of managing the risks associated with unanticipated conditions. If another party performs field observation and confirms our expectations, the other party must take full responsibility for both the observations and recommendations. Please note, however, that another party would lack our project-specific knowledge and resources.

# A Geotechnical Engineering or Geologic Report Could Be Subject to Misinterpretation

Misinterpretation of this report by members of the design team or by contractors can result in costly problems. GeoEngineers can help reduce the risks of misinterpretation by conferring with appropriate members of the design team after submitting the report, reviewing pertinent elements of the design team's plans and specifications, participating in pre-bid and preconstruction conferences, and providing construction observation.

## **Give Contractors a Complete Report and Guidance**

To help reduce the risk of problems associated with unanticipated subsurface conditions, GeoEngineers recommends giving contractors the complete geotechnical engineering or geologic report, including these "Report Limitations and Guidelines for Use." When providing the report, you should preface it with a clearly written letter of transmittal that:

- Advises contractors that the report was not prepared for purposes of bid development and that its accuracy is limited; and
- Encourages contractors to conduct additional study to obtain the specific types of information they need or prefer.

# Contractors Are Responsible for Site Safety on Their Own Construction Projects

Our geotechnical recommendations are not intended to direct the contractor's procedures, methods, schedule, or management of the work site. The contractor is solely responsible for job site safety and for managing construction operations to minimize risks to on-site personnel and adjacent properties.

