

#### **Geotechnical Engineering Services Report**

Tukwila School District – Cascade View Elementary School Improvements Tukwila, Washington

for

**Tukwila School District, No. 406** 

August 20, 2018



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August 20, 2018

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#### INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

This report presents the results of our geotechnical engineering services for the proposed Cascade View Elementary School Improvements project. The project site is located at 13601 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South in Tukwila, Washington, as shown on the Vicinity Map, Figure 1. Our services have been completed in general accordance with our signed agreement dated July 24, 2018.

Our project understanding is based on a meeting with KMB Architects (project manager) and Rolluda Architects (project architect) on July 12, 2018 and a preliminary site plan provided during the meeting.

We understand that two new modular classrooms are proposed. Locations currently under consideration are on the southwest corner of the existing building and adjacent to the south-central portion of the existing building. Both locations are within areas currently surfaced with grass. We assume that foundations for the modular building(s) will consist of slab-on-grade with thickened edges or shallow spread footings with stem walls.

We understand that stormwater infiltration or detention facilities may or may not be necessary for the proposed site improvements, depending on the footprint of new impermeable area added as part of this project. If planned, we assume stormwater infiltration facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with the 2016 King County Surface Water Design Manual (SWDM). We did not complete a stormwater infiltration evaluation as part of this study but are available to provide these services if requested.

#### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The purpose of our services is to explore subsurface conditions to form a basis for developing geotechnical design and construction recommendations for the proposed improvements. Our specific scope of services included the following tasks:

- 1. Reviewing readily available published geologic data and our relevant in-house files for existing information on subsurface conditions in the project vicinity.
- 2. Visiting the project site to mark out exploration locations and contact the "One-Call" Utility Notification Center, as required by Washington State law. We also subcontracted a private utility locator.
- 3. Exploring subsurface conditions within the project area by advancing four test pits using subcontracted rubber-tire backhoe equipment and operator. The test pits were excavated to depths between about 5 and 10 feet below ground surface (bgs).
- 4. Conducting geotechnical laboratory testing on selected soil samples.
- 5. Providing geotechnical seismic design information in accordance with 2015 International Building Code (IBC) criteria and discuss our opinion on the potential for surface rupture, liquefaction and lateral spreading at the site. We did not complete a quantitative liquefaction and lateral spreading analysis for this study.



- 6. Providing recommendations for site preparation and earthwork. We discuss temporary erosion and sedimentation controls, temporary and permanent cut slopes, fill placement and compaction requirements, wet weather considerations, groundwater handling and site drainage.
- 7. Providing recommendations for shallow spread footing design, including foundation bearing surface preparation, allowable soil bearing pressure, lateral resistance values and estimates of settlement.
- 8. Providing design considerations for slab-on-grade design, including subgrade preparation, modulus of subgrade reaction and capillary break thickness and materials.
- 9. Providing recommended active, passive and at-rest lateral earth pressures for retaining walls. We also provide recommendations for seismic surcharge pressures and drainage criteria.

#### **SITE CONDITIONS**

#### **Surface Conditions**

The site is bounded by residential properties to the north, east and west, and a business and church property to the south. Also bounding the site to the east are  $32^{nd}$  Avenue South and a cemetery.

The existing school building is in the approximate northern half of the campus. Other existing development features include asphalt paved driveways, parking lots and blacktop areas, sidewalks, landscaping, playground areas and a grass field.

Site topography slopes gently upward from east to west and is generally flat around the building perimeter. To the western and southern sides of the building, there are slopes up to about 12 feet tall, sloping upward away from the building perimeter. The slope to the west extends to the west property line and the slope to the south separates the southern half of the campus. The southern half of the campus includes a blacktop, playground areas and a grass field.

#### **Literature Review**

The geologic information we reviewed in the project vicinity includes the *Geologic Map of the Des Moines* 7.5' *Quadrangle, King County, Washington* (Booth and Waldron 2004). Glacial soil deposits underlie the site and surrounding areas. These deposits are the result of glaciations that occurred during the Vashon Stade of the Fraser Glaciation, approximately 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. Surface soils at the site are primarily mapped as glacial till (Qvt). Glacial till is described as a dense, compact mixture of sand, silt and gravel deposited by a glacier.

#### **Subsurface Conditions**

#### **Subsurface Explorations and Laboratory Testing**

We explored subsurface conditions at the site by excavating four test pits (TP-1 through TP-4) at the approximate locations shown on the attached Site Plan, Figure 2. A description of our subsurface exploration program and summary exploration logs are provided in Appendix A.

Selected samples collected from our test pits were tested in our laboratory to confirm field classifications and to evaluate pertinent engineering properties. Our laboratory testing program included grain-size



analyses and moisture content determinations. A summary of our laboratory testing program and the test results are provided in Appendix A.

#### **Soil and Groundwater Conditions**

In our explorations, we typically observed about 2 to 3 inches of grass sod. Beneath the sod, we observed silty sand with gravel in a medium dense condition to a depth of about 9 to 12 inches bgs. We interpret this material to be weathered glacial till. Underlying the weathered glacial till, we observed sand with silt and gravel and silty sand with gravel and occasional cobbles in a dense to very dense condition, which we interpret to be glacial till, extending to the full depths explored. In exploration TP-4, along the south sidewall we observed silt with occasional sand in a very stiff condition beginning at a depth of about 3 feet bgs and extending to the full depth explored. We interpret this material to be an isolated lens of silty glacial till embedded within the typical glacial till matrix observed in our explorations.

We did not observe the regional groundwater table or perched groundwater in our explorations. Based on our experience, it is not uncommon for glacial till soils to contain isolated zones of perched groundwater. Though not observed in our explorations, we anticipate that perched groundwater could be present at the site depending on soil conditions, rainfall amounts, irrigation activities and other factors. We anticipate that perched groundwater levels will generally be highest during the wet season, typically October through May.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Primary Geotechnical Considerations**

Based on our understanding of the project, the explorations performed for this study and our experience, it is our opinion that the proposed improvements can be designed and constructed generally as envisioned with regard to geotechnical considerations. A summary of the primary geotechnical considerations for the project is provided below and is followed by our detailed recommendations.

- We did not identify liquefiable soils in our explorations, and in our opinion the risk of liquefaction occurring at this site is very low.
- Proposed structures at the site can be supported using shallow foundations and slabs-on-grade, provided that the foundation bearing surfaces are prepared as recommended. We do not anticipate that significant overexcavation will be required, unless isolated areas of loose, or otherwise unsuitable areas are encountered near foundation grade.
- Soils observed at the site contain a significant quantity of fines, and, therefore, could be difficult or impossible to work with when wet or become easily disturbed if exposed to wet weather. Depending on the intended use of the material and the moisture/weather conditions, it may be difficult to re-use on-site soils as structural fill.

#### **Seismic Design Considerations**

Based on subsurface conditions encountered in our explorations and our understanding of the geologic conditions in the site vicinity, the site may be characterized as Class C in accordance with the 2015 International Building Code (IBC) Design Manual. Seismic design parameters are provided in Table 1, below.



**TABLE 1. 2015 IBC SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA** 

Site Coefficient	Site Factor	MCE¹ Spectral Response	Design Spectral Response <sup>2</sup>
S <sub>S</sub> = 1.502 g	F <sub>a</sub> = 1.0	$S_{MS} = 1.502 g$	$S_{DS} = 1.001 g$
$S_1 = 0.563 g$	$F_{v} = 1.3$	$S_{M1} = 0.732 g$	$S_{D1} = 0.488 g$

#### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> MCE = Maximum Considered Earthquake
- <sup>2</sup> Design spectral response = 2/3 \* MCE response

#### **Peak Ground Acceleration**

The peak ground acceleration (PGA) is used in seismic analyses such as liquefaction, lateral spreading, and seismic slope stability as well as assessing seismic surcharge loads for retaining walls. Based on our understanding of site conditions, we recommend using a PGA equal to 0.624g for the project site as determined in accordance with Section 11.8.3 of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Standard 7-10.

#### Liquefaction

Liquefaction refers to a condition where vibration or shaking of the ground, usually from earthquake forces, results in development of excess pore pressures in loose, saturated soils and subsequent loss of strength in the deposit of soil so affected. In general, soils that are susceptible to liquefaction include loose to medium dense sands to silty sands that are below the water table. The *Liquefaction Susceptibility Map of King County, Washington* (Palmer, et al. 2004) indicates the site soils have a "very low" liquefaction potential. Based on observations and experience, we concur that the potential for liquefaction at the site is very low.

#### **Lateral Spreading Potential**

Lateral spreading related to seismic activity typically involves lateral displacement of large, surficial blocks of non-liquefied soil when a layer of underlying soil loses strength during seismic shaking. Lateral spreading usually develops in areas where sloping ground or large grade changes (including retaining walls) are present. Based on our understanding of the liquefaction risk at the site and the proposed improvements it is our opinion that the risk of lateral spreading is low.

#### **Surface Rupture Potential**

According to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Interactive Natural Hazards Map (accessed August 15, 2018), there are no mapped faults within about  $1^{3}$ 4 miles of the site. Based on the proximity of the site to the nearest mapped fault, it is our opinion the risk for surface rupture at this site is low.

#### **Site Development and Earthwork**

#### General

We anticipate that site development and earthwork will include excavating for shallow foundations, utilities and other improvements, establishing subgrades for foundations and placing and compacting fill and backfill materials. We expect that site grading and earthwork can be accomplished with conventional earthmoving equipment. The following sections provide specific recommendations for site development and earthwork.



#### **Clearing and Stripping**

We anticipate that clearing and stripping depths at the site will typically be on the order of about 6 inches to remove sod and associated root network at the surface. However, it is likely that greater stripping depths will be required in areas of heavier vegetation, lower lying areas or in areas containing trees.

During stripping operations excessive disturbance of surficial soils may occur, especially if left exposed to wet conditions. Disturbed soils may require additional remediation during construction and grading.

We encountered cobbles in our explorations as well as a small boulder in exploration TP-3. Although boulders were not observed in our other explorations, boulders could be present in the glacial till soils in other areas of the site. The contractor should be prepared to remove boulders and cobbles, if encountered during grading or excavation. Boulders may be removed from the site or used in landscape areas. Voids caused by boulder removal should be backfilled with structural fill.

#### **Erosion and Sedimentation Control**

Erosion and sedimentation rates and quantities can be influenced by construction methods, slope length and gradient, amount of soil exposed and/or disturbed, soil type, construction sequencing and weather. Implementing an erosion and sedimentation control plan will reduce impacts to the project where erosion-prone areas are present. The plan should be designed in accordance with applicable county and/or state standards. The plan should incorporate basic planning principles, including:

- Scheduling grading and construction to reduce soil exposure;
- Re-vegetating or mulching denuded areas;
- Directing runoff away from exposed soils;
- Reducing the length and steepness of slopes with exposed soils;
- Decreasing runoff velocities;
- Preparing drainage ways and outlets to handle concentrated or increased runoff;
- Confining sediment to the project site;
- Inspecting and maintaining control measures frequently.

Temporary erosion protection should be used and maintained in areas with exposed or disturbed soils to help reduce erosion and reduce transport of sediment to adjacent areas and receiving waters. Permanent erosion protection should be provided by paving, structure construction or landscape planting.

Until the permanent erosion protection is established, and the site is stabilized, site monitoring may be required by qualified personnel to evaluate the effectiveness of the erosion control measures and to repair and/or modify them as appropriate. Provisions for modifications to the erosion control system based on monitoring observations should be included in the erosion and sedimentation control plan. Where sloped areas are present, some sloughing and raveling of exposed or disturbed soil on slopes should be expected. We recommend that disturbed soil be restored promptly so that surface runoff does not become channeled.



#### **Temporary Excavations**

Excavations deeper than 4 feet must be shored or laid back at a stable slope if workers are required to enter. Shoring and temporary slope inclinations must conform to the provisions of Title 296 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Part N, "Excavation, Trenching and Shoring." Regardless of the soil type encountered in the excavation, shoring, trench boxes or sloped sidewalls will be required under Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA). The contract documents should specify that the contractor is responsible for selecting excavation and dewatering methods, monitoring the excavations for safety and providing shoring, as required, to protect personnel and structures.

In general, temporary cut slopes at this site should be inclined no steeper than about 1½H to 1V (horizontal to vertical). This guideline assumes that all surface loads are kept at a minimum distance of at least one-half the depth of the cut away from the top of the slope and that seepage is not present on the slope face. Flatter cut slopes will be necessary where seepage occurs or if surcharge loads are anticipated. Temporary covering with heavy plastic sheeting should be used to protect slopes during periods of wet weather.

#### **Groundwater Handling Considerations**

Based on our understanding of the proposed site improvements we do not anticipate that the regional groundwater table will be encountered during excavations at the site.

We did not encounter groundwater in our explorations at the depths explored. However, in our experience, it is not uncommon for perched groundwater to be present within glacial till soils. Therefore, perched groundwater could be present at other areas of the site. The interface between the weathered glacial till and glacial till and contacts between more permeable and less permeable zones within the glacial till are likely locations for accumulation of perched groundwater. Groundwater handling needs will typically be lower during the summer and early fall months. We anticipate that shallow perched groundwater can be handled adequately with sumps, pumps, and/or diversion ditches, as necessary. Ultimately, we recommend that the contractor performing the work be made responsible for controlling and collecting groundwater encountered.

#### **Surface Drainage**

Surface water from roof downspouts, driveways and landscape areas should be collected and controlled. Curbs or other appropriate measures such as sloping pavements, sidewalks and landscape areas should be used to direct surface flow away from buildings, erosion sensitive areas and from behind retaining structures. Roof and catchment drains should not be connected to wall or foundation drains.

#### **Subgrade Preparation**

Subgrades that will support structures and roadways should be thoroughly compacted to a uniformly firm and unyielding condition on completion of stripping and before placing structural fill. We recommend that subgrades for structures and roadways be evaluated, as appropriate, to identify areas of yielding or soft soil. Probing with a steel probe rod or proof-rolling with a heavy piece of wheeled construction equipment are appropriate methods of evaluation.

If soft or otherwise unsuitable subgrade areas are revealed during evaluation that cannot be compacted to a stable and uniformly firm condition, we recommend that: (1) the unsuitable soils be scarified (e.g., with a



ripper or farmer's disc), aerated and recompacted, if practical; or (2) the unsuitable soils be removed and replaced with compacted structural fill, as needed.

#### **Subgrade Protection and Wet Weather Considerations**

Most of the near-surface soils observed in our explorations contain a significant quantity of fines and will be susceptible to disturbance during periods of wet weather. The wet weather season generally begins in October and continues through May in western Washington; however, periods of wet weather can occur during any month of the year. It may be possible to conduct earthwork at the site during wet weather months provided appropriate measures are implemented to protect exposed soil. If earthwork is scheduled during the wet weather months we offer the following recommendations:

- Measures should be implemented to remove or eliminate the accumulation of surface water from work areas. The ground surface in and around the work area should be sloped so that surface water is directed away and graded so that areas of ponded water do not develop. Measures should be taken by the contractor to prevent surface water from collecting in excavations and trenches.
- Earthwork activities should not take place during periods of heavy precipitation.
- Slopes with exposed soils should be covered with plastic sheeting.
- The contractor should take necessary measures to prevent on-site soils and other soils to be used as fill from becoming wet or unstable. These measures may include the use of plastic sheeting, sumps with pumps and grading. The site soils should not be left uncompacted and exposed to moisture. Sealing exposed soils by rolling with a smooth-drum roller prior to periods of precipitation will help reduce the extent to which these soils become wet or unstable.
- Construction traffic should be restricted to specific areas of the site, preferably areas that are surfaced with working pad materials not susceptible to wet weather disturbance.
- Construction activities should be scheduled so that the length of time that soils are left exposed to moisture is reduced to the extent practical.
- Protective surfacing such as placing asphalt-treated base (ATB) or haul roads made of quarry spalls or a layer of free-draining material such as well-graded pit-run sand and gravel may be necessary to limit disturbance to completed areas. Minimum quarry spall thicknesses should be on the order of 12 to 18 inches. Typically, minimum gravel thicknesses on the order of 24 inches are necessary to provide adequate subgrade protection.

#### **Fill Materials**

#### Structural Fill

The workability of material for use as structural fill will depend on the gradation and moisture content of the soil. We recommend that washed crushed rock or select granular fill, as described below, be used for structural fill during wet weather. If prolonged dry weather prevails during the earthwork phase of construction, materials with a somewhat higher fines content may be acceptable. Weather and site conditions should be considered when determining the type of import fill materials purchased and brought to the site for use as structural fill.

Material used for structural fill should be free of debris, organic contaminants and rock fragments larger than 6 inches. For most applications, we recommend that structural fill consist of material similar to "Select



Borrow" or "Gravel Borrow" as described in Section 9-03.14 of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Standard Specifications.

#### **Select Granular Fill**

Select granular fill should consist of well-graded sand and gravel or crushed rock with a maximum particle size of 6 inches and less than 5 percent fines by weight based on the minus ¾-inch fraction. Organic matter, debris or other deleterious material should not be present. In our opinion, material with gradation characteristics similar to WSDOT Specification 9-03.9 (Aggregates for Ballast and Crushed Surfacing), or 9-03.14 (Borrow) is suitable for use as select granular fill, provided that the fines content is less than 5 percent (based on the minus ¾-inch fraction) and the maximum particle size is 6 inches.

#### **Pipe Bedding**

Trench backfill for the bedding and pipe zone should consist of well-graded granular material similar to "gravel backfill for pipe zone bedding" described in Section 9-03.12(3) of the WSDOT Standard Specifications. The material must be free of roots, debris, organic matter and other deleterious material. Other materials may be appropriate depending on manufacturer specifications and/or local jurisdiction requirements.

#### **Trench Backfill**

Trench backfill must be free of debris, organic material and rock fragments larger than 6 inches. We recommend that trench backfill material consist of material similar to "Select Borrow" or "Gravel Borrow" as described in Section 9-03.14 of the WSDOT Standard Specifications. Where excavations occur in the wet, alternative materials such as select granular fill should be considered.

#### **On-Site Soil**

Based on our subsurface explorations and experience, it is our opinion that existing site soils may be considered for use as structural fill and trench backfill, provided that it can be adequately moisture conditioned, placed and compacted as recommended and does not contain organic or other deleterious material. Based on our experience, the silty sands at the site are extremely moisture sensitive and will be very difficult or impossible to properly compact when wet.

In addition, it is likely that existing soils will be above optimum moisture content (OMC) when excavated, unless earthwork activities take place in the middle of summer. Even then, the soil could still be above OMC when excavated. Soils placed and compacted above OMC are typically difficult to work with and may have trouble achieving adequate compaction. If earthwork occurs during a typical wet season, or if the soils are persistently wet and cannot be dried back due to prevailing wet weather conditions or lack of drying space/time, we recommend the use of imported structural fill or select granular fill, as described above.

#### **Fill Placement and Compaction**

#### General

To obtain proper compaction, fill soil should be compacted near OMC and in uniform horizontal lifts. Lift thickness and compaction procedures will depend on the moisture content and gradation characteristics of the soil and the type of equipment used. The maximum allowable moisture content varies with the soil gradation and should be evaluated during construction. Generally, 8- to 12-inch loose lifts are appropriate for steel-drum vibratory roller compaction equipment. Compaction should be achieved by mechanical



means. During fill and backfill placement, sufficient testing of in-place density should be conducted to check that adequate compaction is being achieved.

#### Area Fills and Pavement Bases

Fill placed to raise site grades and materials under pavements and structural areas should be placed on subgrades prepared as previously recommended. Fill material placed below structures and footings should be compacted to at least 95 percent of the theoretical maximum dry density (MDD) per ASTM International (ASTM) D 1557. Fill material placed shallower than 2 feet below pavement sections should be compacted to at least 95 percent of the MDD. Fill placed deeper than 2 feet below pavement sections should be compacted to at least 90 percent of the MDD. Fill material placed in landscaping areas should be compacted to a firm condition that will support construction equipment, as necessary, typically around 85 to 90 percent of the MDD.

#### **Backfill Behind Walls**

Backfill behind retaining walls or below-grade structure walls should be compacted to between 90 and 92 percent of the MDD. Overcompaction of fill placed directly behind walls should be avoided. We recommend use of hand-operated compaction equipment and maximum 6-inch loose lift thickness when compacting fill within about 5 feet behind walls.

#### Trench Backfill

For utility excavations, we recommend that the initial lift of fill over the pipe be thick enough to reduce the potential for damage during compaction, but generally should not be greater than about 18 inches above the pipe. In addition, rock fragments greater than about 1 inch in maximum dimension should be excluded from this lift.

Trench backfill material placed below structures and footings should be compacted to at least 95 percent of the MDD. In paved areas, trench backfill should be uniformly compacted in horizontal lifts to at least 95 percent of the MDD in the upper 2 feet below subgrade. Fill placed below a depth of 2 feet from subgrade in paved areas must be compacted to at least 90 percent of the MDD. In non-structural areas, trench backfill should be compacted to a firm condition that will support construction equipment as necessary.

#### **Foundation Support**

#### General

The proposed structures at the site can be satisfactorily supported on continuous wall and isolated column footings. Exterior footings should be established at least 18 inches below the lowest adjacent grade. Interior footings can be founded a minimum of 12 inches below the top of the floor slab. Isolated column and continuous wall footings should have minimum widths of 24 and 18 inches, respectively.

Based on the groundwater conditions in our explorations and our understanding of the proposed footing elevations (bottom of footings established at or within a few feet of existing site grade) it is our opinion footing drains are not necessary to maintain bearing support as provided in this report. However, because of the potential for near-surface seepage during wetter times of the year and from irrigation and potential landscaping, footing drains should be considered to maintain drier conditions around the structure and to reduce groundwater seepage that could migrate below the building slab.



The sections below provide our recommendations for foundation bearing surface preparation and foundation design parameters.

#### **Foundation Bearing Surface Preparation**

Shallow footing excavations should be performed using a smooth-edged bucket to limit bearing disturbance. Foundations should bear on existing proof compacted native glacial till soils or on structural fill extending to these soils. The bearing surface should be compacted as necessary to a firm, unyielding condition. Loose or disturbed materials present at the base of footing excavations should be removed or compacted.

If structural fill is placed below footings as either replacement of overexcavated soils or to establish a bearing pad, we recommend the structural fill extend laterally beyond the foundation perimeter a distance equal to the depth of fill (measured from the base of the footing where necessary), or 3 feet, whichever is less.

Foundation bearing surfaces should not be exposed to standing water. If water is present in the excavation, it must be removed before placing formwork and reinforcing steel. Protection of exposed soil, such as placing a 6-inch thick layer of crushed rock or a 3- to 4-inch layer of lean-mix concrete, could be used to limit disturbance to bearing surfaces.

Prepared foundation bearing surfaces should be evaluated by a member of our firm prior to placement of formwork or reinforcing steel to verify that bearing surface has been prepared in accordance with our recommendations or to provide recommendations for remediating unsuitable bearing soils.

#### **Allowable Soil Bearing Pressure**

Shallow foundations bearing on subgrades prepared as recommended may be designed using an allowable soil bearing pressure of 4,000 pounds per square foot (psf). This bearing pressure applies to the total of dead and long-term live loads and may be increased by one-third when considering total loads, including earthquake or wind loads. These are net bearing pressures. The weight of the footing and overlying backfill can be ignored in calculating footing sizes.

#### **Foundation Settlement**

Disturbed soil must be removed from the base of footing excavations and the bearing surface should be prepared as recommended. Provided these measures are taken, we estimate the total static settlement of shallow foundations will be on the order of 1 inch or less for the bearing pressures presented above. Differential settlements could be on the order of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch between similarly loaded foundations or over a distance of 50 feet of continuous footings. The settlements should occur rapidly, essentially as loads are applied. Settlements could be greater than estimated if disturbed or saturated soil conditions are present below footings.

#### Lateral Resistance

The ability of the soil to resist lateral loads is a function of the base friction, which develops on the base of foundations and slabs, and the passive resistance, which develops on the face of below-grade elements of the structure as these elements move into the soil. For cast-in-place foundations supported in accordance with the recommendations presented above, the allowable frictional resistance on the base of the foundation may be computed using a coefficient of friction of 0.40 applied to the vertical dead-load forces. If precast foundations are included as part of project plans, we can provide specific recommendations for



base friction resistance for precast foundations. The allowable passive resistance on the face of the foundation or other embedded foundation elements may be computed using an equivalent fluid density of 330 pounds per cubic foot (pcf).

These values include a factor of safety of about 1.5. The passive earth pressure and friction components may be combined provided that the passive component does not exceed two-thirds of the total. The top foot of soil should be neglected when calculating passive lateral earth pressure unless the area adjacent to the foundation is covered with pavement or a slab-on-grade.

#### **Slab-on-Grade Floors**

Slab-on-grade floors should bear on existing native glacial till soils or on structural fill extending to these soils and should be prepared as recommended in the "Subgrade Preparation" section of this report. We recommend the slab subgrades be observed by a member of our firm during construction. Disturbed areas should be compacted, if possible, or removed and replaced with compacted structural fill. In all cases, the exposed soil should be compacted to a firm and unyielding condition.

We recommend the slab-on-grade floors be underlain by a minimum 6-inch-thick capillary break layer consisting of clean sand and gravel, crushed rock, or washed rock. The capillary break material should contain less than 3 percent fine material based on the percent passing the <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch sieve size. Provided that loose soil is removed and the subgrade is prepared as recommended, we recommend slabs-on-grade be designed using a modulus of subgrade reaction of 250 pounds per cubic inch (pci). We estimate that settlement for slabs-on-grade constructed as recommended will be less than <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch for a floor load of up to 500 psf.

Based on our understanding of subsurface conditions at the site it is our opinion that an underslab drain system is not necessary. If dry slabs are required (e.g., where adhesives are used to anchor carpet or tile to slab), a waterproof liner may be placed as a vapor barrier below the slab.

#### **Retaining Walls and Below-Grade Structures**

#### **Design Parameters**

We recommend the following lateral earth pressures be used for design of conventional retaining walls and below-grade structures. Our design pressures assume that the ground surface around the retaining structures will be level or near level. If drained design parameters are used, drainage systems must be included in the design in accordance with the recommendations presented in the "Drainage" section below.

- Active soil pressure may be estimated using an equivalent fluid density of 35 pcf for the drained condition.
- Active soil pressure may be estimated using an equivalent fluid density of 80 pcf for the undrained condition; this value includes hydrostatic pressures.
- At-rest soil pressure may be estimated using an equivalent fluid density of 55 pcf for the drained condition.
- At-rest soil pressure may be estimated using an equivalent fluid density of 90 pcf for the undrained condition; this value includes hydrostatic pressures.



- For seismic considerations, a uniform lateral pressure of 14 H psf (where H is the height of the retaining structure or the depth of a structure below ground surface) should be added to the lateral earth pressure.
- An additional 2 feet of fill representing a typical traffic surcharge of 250 psf should be included if vehicles are allowed to operate within a zone equal to the height of the retaining walls. Other surcharge loads should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The active soil pressure condition assumes the wall is free to move laterally 0.001 H, where H is the wall height. The at-rest condition is applicable where walls are restrained from movement. The above recommended lateral soil pressures do not include the effects of sloping backfill surfaces or surcharge loads, except as described. Overcompaction of fill placed directly behind retaining walls or below-grade structures must be avoided to limit lateral pressures placed on the wall. We recommend use of hand-operated compaction equipment and maximum 6-inch loose lift thickness when compacting fill within about 5 feet of retaining walls and below-grade structures.

Retaining wall foundation bearing surfaces should be prepared following the "Foundation Bearing Surface Preparation" section of this report. Provided bearing surfaces are prepared as recommended, retaining wall foundations may be designed using the allowable soil bearing value and lateral resistance values presented above for building foundation design. We estimate settlement of retaining structures will be similar to the values previously presented for structure foundations.

#### **Drainage**

If retaining walls or below-grade structures are designed using drained parameters, a drainage system behind the structure must be included to collect water and prevent the buildup of hydrostatic pressure against the structure. We recommend the drainage system include a zone of free-draining backfill a minimum of 18 inches in width against the back of the wall. The drainage material should consist of coarse sand and gravel containing less that 5 percent fines based on the fraction of material passing the ¾-inch sieve.

A perforated, rigid, smooth-walled drain pipe with a minimum diameter of 4 inches should be placed along the base of the structure within the free-draining backfill and extend for the entire wall length. The drain pipe should be metal or rigid PVC pipe and be sloped to drain by gravity. Discharge should be routed to appropriate discharge areas and to reduce erosion potential. Cleanouts should be provided to allow routine maintenance. We recommend roof downspouts or other types of drainage systems not be connected to retaining wall drain systems.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

We have prepared this report for Tukwila School District, No. 406 for the Cascade View Elementary School Improvements project in Tukwila, Washington. Tukwila School District may distribute copies of this report to owner's authorized agents and regulatory agencies as may be required for the Project.

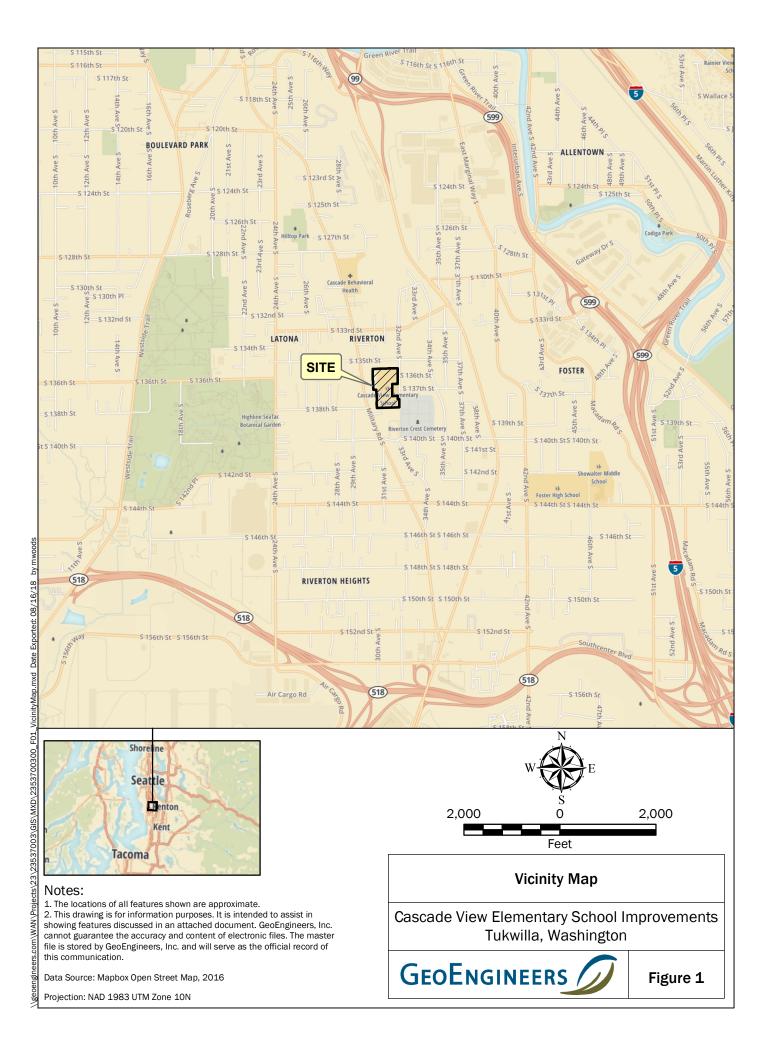
Within the limitations of scope, schedule and budget, our services have been executed in accordance with generally accepted practices for geotechnical engineering in this area at the time this report was prepared.

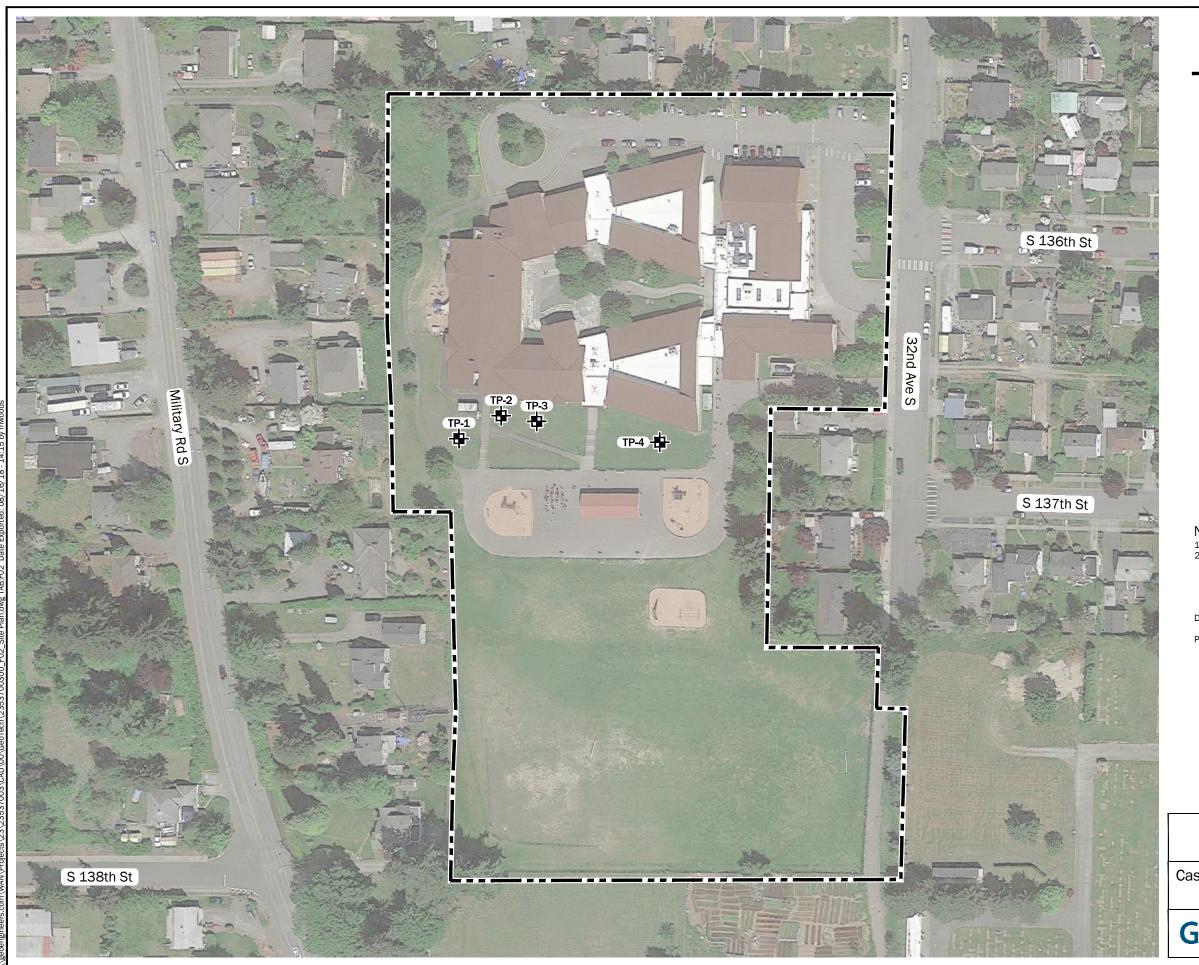


The conclusions, recommendations, and opinions presented in this report are based on our professional knowledge, judgment and experience. No warranty, express or implied, applies to the services or this report.

Please refer to Appendix B titled "Report Limitations and Guidelines for Use" for additional information pertaining to use of this report.







#### Legend

Site Boundary

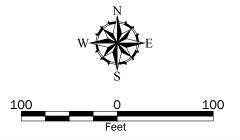
TP-1 Test Pit by GeoEngineers, 2018

#### Notes:

- 1. The locations of all features shown are approximate.
  2. This drawing is for information purposes. It is intended to assist in showing features discussed in an attached document. GeoEngineers, Inc. cannot guarantee the accuracy and content of electronic files. The master file is stored by GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official record of this communication.

Data Source: Aerial from Google Earth Pro dated 5/13/2018.

Projection: NAD83 Washington State Planes, North Zone, US Foot



#### Site Plan

Cascade View Elementary School Improvements Tukwila, Washington



Figure 2

## APPENDIX A Subsurface Explorations and Laboratory Testing

## APPENDIX A SUBSURFACE EXPLORATIONS AND LABORATORY TESTING

#### **Subsurface Explorations**

#### **Test Pits**

Subsurface conditions for the proposed Cascade View Elementary School Improvements project were explored by excavating four test pits on July 26, 2018 at the approximate locations shown on Figure 2. The test pits were excavated to depths between about 5 and 10 feet below ground surface (bgs) using a subcontracted backhoe and operator to GeoEngineers. After each test pit was completed, the excavation was backfilled using the generated material. The backfill was compacted using the bucket of the backhoe.

Our field representative obtained samples, classified the soils encountered, and maintained a detailed log of each exploration. The relative densities noted on the test pit logs are based on the difficulty of excavation and our experience and judgment. The samples were collected and retained in sealed plastic bags and then transported back to our office. The soils were classified visually in general accordance with the system described in Figure A-1, which includes a key to the exploration logs. Summary logs of the explorations are included as Figures A-2 through A-5.

The locations of the test pits were determined via an electronic tablet with global positioning system (GPS) software. The locations of the explorations should be considered approximate.

#### **Laboratory Testing**

Soil samples obtained from the borings were transported to GeoEngineers laboratory. Representative soil samples were selected for laboratory tests to evaluate the pertinent geotechnical engineering characteristics of the site soils and to confirm our field classification.

Our testing program consisted of the following:

- Two grain-size distribution analyses (SA)
- Two moisture content determinations (MC)

Tests were performed in general accordance with test methods of ASTM International (ASTM) or other applicable procedures. The following sections provide a general description of the tests performed.

#### Sieve Analysis (SA)

Grain-size distribution analyses were completed on selected samples in general accordance with ASTM Test Method D 6913. This test method covers the quantitative determination of the distribution of particle sizes in soils. Typically, the distribution of particle sizes larger than 75 micrometers (µm) is determined by sieving. The results of the tests were used to verify field soil classifications and determine pertinent engineering characteristics. Figure A-6 presents the results of our sieve analyses.



#### **Moisture Content (MC)**

The moisture content of selected samples was determined in general accordance with ASTM Test Method D 2216. The test results are used to aid in soil classification and correlation with other pertinent engineering soil properties. The results are presented on the test pit logs at the depth tested.



#### **SOIL CLASSIFICATION CHART**

	MAJOR DIVIS	IONE	SYM	<b>BOLS</b>	TYPICAL	
Į.	VIAJUK DIVIS	IUNS	GRAPH	LETTER	DESCRIPTIONS	
	GRAVEL	CLEAN GRAVELS		GW	WELL-GRADED GRAVELS, GRAVEL - SAND MIXTURES	
	AND GRAVELLY SOILS	(LITTLE OR NO FINES)		GP	POORLY-GRADED GRAVELS, GRAVEL - SAND MIXTURES	
COARSE GRAINED SOILS	MORE THAN 50% OF COARSE	GRAVELS WITH FINES		GM	SILTY GRAVELS, GRAVEL - SAND - SILT MIXTURES	
SOILS	FRACTION RETAINED ON NO. 4 SIEVE	(APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF FINES)		GC	CLAYEY GRAVELS, GRAVEL - SAND CLAY MIXTURES	
MORE THAN 50%	SAND	CLEAN SANDS		sw	WELL-GRADED SANDS, GRAVELLY SANDS	
RETAINED ON NO. 200 SIEVE	AND SANDY SOILS	(LITTLE OR NO FINES)		SP	POORLY-GRADED SANDS, GRAVELI SAND	
	MORE THAN 50% OF COARSE	SANDS WITH FINES		SM	SILTY SANDS, SAND - SILT MIXTUR	
	FRACTION PASSING ON NO. 4 SIEVE	(APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF FINES)		sc	CLAYEY SANDS, SAND - CLAY MIXTURES	
				ML	INORGANIC SILTS, ROCK FLOUR, CLAYEY SILTS WITH SLIGHT PLASTICITY	
FINE GRAINED	SILTS AND CLAYS	LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 50		CL	INORGANIC CLAYS OF LOW TO MEDIUM PLASTICITY, GRAVELLY CLAYS, SANDY CLAYS, SILTY CLAYS LEAN CLAYS	
SOILS				OL	ORGANIC SILTS AND ORGANIC SILT CLAYS OF LOW PLASTICITY	
MORE THAN 50% PASSING NO. 200 SIEVE				МН	INORGANIC SILTS, MICACEOUS OR DIATOMACEOUS SILTY SOILS	
	SILTS AND CLAYS	LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50		СН	INORGANIC CLAYS OF HIGH PLASTICITY	
				ОН	ORGANIC CLAYS AND SILTS OF MEDIUM TO HIGH PLASTICITY	
	HIGHLY ORGANIC	SOILS		PT	PEAT, HUMUS, SWAMP SOILS WITH HIGH ORGANIC CONTENTS	

NOTE: Multiple symbols are used to indicate borderline or dual soil classifications

#### **Sampler Symbol Descriptions**

2.4-inch I.D. split barrel

Standard Penetration Test (SPT)

Shelby tube

Piston
Direct-

Direct-Push

Bulk or grab

Continuous Coring

Blowcount is recorded for driven samplers as the number of blows required to advance sampler 12 inches (or distance noted). See exploration log for hammer weight and drop.

"P" indicates sampler pushed using the weight of the drill rig.

"WOH" indicates sampler pushed using the weight of the hammer.

#### **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SYMBOLS**

SYM	BOLS	TYPICAL
GRAPH	LETTER	DESCRIPTIONS
	AC	Asphalt Concrete
	cc	Cement Concrete
33	CR	Crushed Rock/ Quarry Spalls
1/ 1/1/ 1/1/ 1/1/	SOD	Sod/Forest Duff
	TS	Topsoil

#### **Groundwater Contact**



Measured groundwater level in exploration, well, or piezometer



Measured free product in well or piezometer

#### **Graphic Log Contact**

Distinct contact between soil strata

Approximate contact between soil strata

#### **Material Description Contact**

Contact between geologic units

\_ Contact between soil of the same geologic

#### **Laboratory / Field Tests**

%F Percent fines
%G Percent gravel
AL Atterberg limits
CA Chemical analysis
CP Laboratory compaction test
CS Consolidation test

DD Dry density
DS Direct shear
HA Hydrometer analysis
MC Moisture content
MD Moisture content and dry density

Mohs Mohs hardness scale
OC Organic content

PM Permeability or hydraulic conductivity
PI Plasticity index

PP Pocket penetrometer
SA Sieve analysis
TX Triaxial compression
UC Unconfined compression
VS Vane shear

#### **Sheen Classification**

NS No Visible Sheen SS Slight Sheen MS Moderate Sheen HS Heavy Sheen

NOTE: The reader must refer to the discussion in the report text and the logs of explorations for a proper understanding of subsurface conditions. Descriptions on the logs apply only at the specific exploration locations and at the time the explorations were made; they are not warranted to be representative of subsurface conditions at other locations or times.

#### Key to Exploration Logs



	Date Total Depth (ft) 10				Logge Check	d By ked By	SAH CRN			Kelly's E t Komatsı	xcavating u WB 140 (E	Backhoe)			dwater not observed g not observed			
	Surfac Vertica	e Eleva al Datui	ation (ft) 350 m NAVD88			Eas Nor	sting (X) thing (Y	)			1279319 178880		Coordina Horizont	ate Sys al Datu	tem um	WA State Plane North NAD83 (feet)		
Ì				MPLE				<u>'</u>										
	Elevation (feet)	Depth (feet)	Testing Sample	<u>Sample Name</u> Testing	Graphic Log	Group Classification						TERIAL CRIPTIO				Moisture Content (%)	Fines Content (%)	REMARKS
İ		_				SOD SM	Bro	oroximate wn-gray s	siltv fine	to medi	iums	and with	gravel and	l occasional t) (weathere	nd.			
-	3 <sup>KO</sup>	1 —				SM		glacial ti	II) e sand v	with occ				es (very den		-		
-	3 <sup>k</sup>	2 —		1 SA			_								-	5	22	
-	3 <sup>k7</sup>	3-					-								-			
-	3ho	4 —				SM	Gra	– – – y silty fin dense, n		— — — arse sand	 d with	— — — : n gravel a	nd occasio	onal cobbles	 s (very			
	<sub>O</sub> NO	5 —		2			_								-	-		
	<sub>3</sub> A <sup>A</sup>	6—					_								-	_		
8_TESTPI	er Pro	7—		3			_ Gra	des to de	ense						-	_		
TD_US_JUNE_ZO17.6	zar zar	8—					-								-	_		
EOENGINEERS_DF_S		9-		4			- Gra	des to ve	ery dens	e 								
(23/23537003\GINT\2353700300.GPJ DBLibrary/Library;GEOENGINEERS_DF_STD_US_JUNE_2017.GLB/GEI	Notes: See Figure A-1 for explanation of symbols. The depths on the test pit logs are based on an average of measurements across the test pit and should be considered accurate to ½ foot. Coordinates Data Source: Horizontal approximated based on Aerial Imagery. Vertical approximated based on Google Earth.																	
/23/2										Lo	של ר	of Tes	t Pit T	 P <sub>-</sub> 1				

## GEOENGINEERS

#### Log of Test Pit TP-1

Project: Cascade View Elementary School Improvements

Project Location: Tukwila, Washington
Project Number: 23537-003-00

Date Excavated 7/26/2018 Total Depth (ft) 5.75 Logged By SAH Checked By CRN		Excavator Kelly's Excavating Equipment Komatsu WB 140 (E	Backhoe)	Groundwater not observed Caving not observed	
Surface Elevation (ft)	350	Easting (X)	1279363	Coordinate S	
Vertical Datum	NAVD88	Northing (Y)	178904	Horizontal D	

		SAMPLE						
Elevation (feet)	Depth (feet)	Testing Sample Sample Name Testing	Graphic Log	Group Classification	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	Moisture Content (%)	Fines Content (%)	REMARKS
				SOD	Approximately 2 inches sod (grass)			
	-			SM	Brown-gray silty fine to medium sand with gravel and occasional cobbles (medium dense, moist) (weathered glacial till)			
_ 3 <sup>k9</sup>	1 —			SM	Gray silty fine to coarse sand with gravel and occasional cobbles (very dense, moist) (glacial till)			
_ 3 <sup>&amp;</sup>	2—				-			
_ 3 <sup>&amp;\</sup>	3 —	1 MC			-	4		
_ 3 <sup>k©</sup>	4 —				-			
_3 <sup>4</sup> 5	5 —							
		2						

Notes: See Figure A-1 for explanation of symbols. The depths on the test pit logs are based on an average of measurements across the test pit and should be considered accurate to  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot. Coordinates Data Source: Horizontal approximated based on Aerial Imagery. Vertical approximated based on Google Earth.

#### Log of Test Pit TP-2

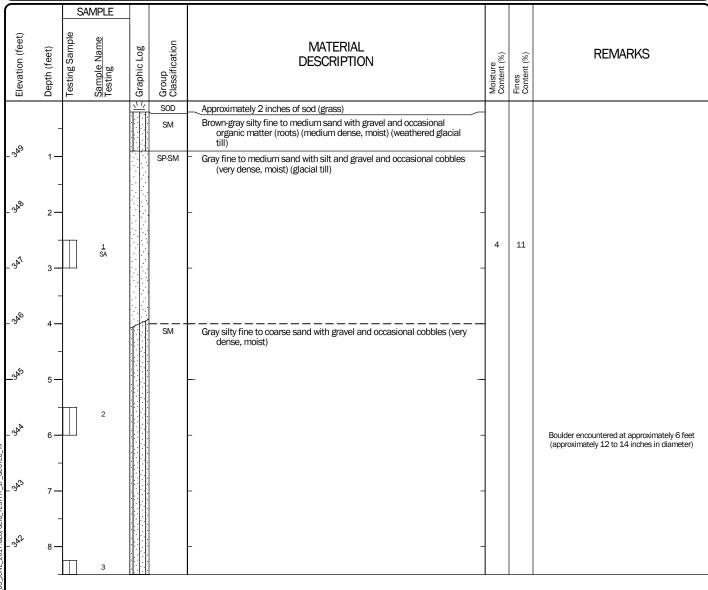


Project: Cascade View Elementary School Improvements

Project Location: Tukwila, Washington Project Number: 23537-003-00

Figure A-3 Sheet 1 of 1

Date 7/26/2018 Excavated	Total Depth (ft) 8.5	Logged By SAH Checked By CRN	Excavator Kelly's Excavating Equipment Komatsu WB 140 (E	Backhoe)	Groundwater not observed Caving not observed
Surface Elevation (ft)	350	Easting (X)	1279400	Coordinate S	
Vertical Datum	NAVD88	Northing (Y)	178898	Horizontal D	



Notes: See Figure A-1 for explanation of symbols. The depths on the test pit logs are based on an average of measurements across the test pit and should be considered accurate to  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot. Coordinates Data Source: Horizontal approximated based on Aerial Imagery. Vertical approximated based on Google Earth.

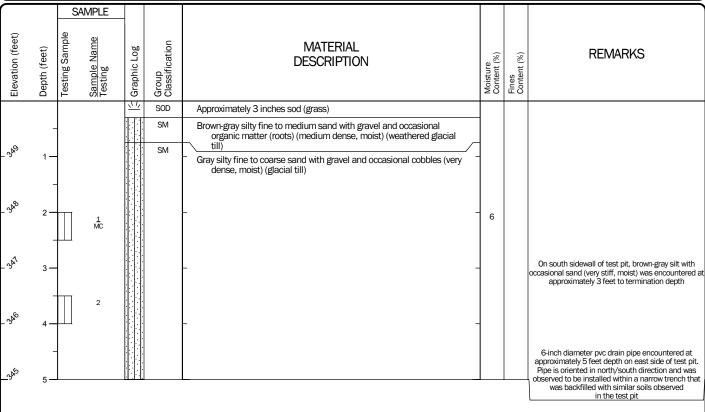
#### Log of Test Pit TP-3



Project: Cascade View Elementary School Improvements

Project Location: Tukwila, Washington Project Number: 23537-003-00

Date Total Depth (ft) 5	Logged By SAH Checked By CRN	Excavator Kelly's Excavating Equipment Komatsu WB 140 (Backho	Groundwater not observed oe) Caving not observed
Surface Elevation (ft) 350	Easting (X)		ordinate System WA State Plane North
Vertical Datum NAVD88	Northing (Y)		dizontal Datum NAD83 (feet)



Notes: See Figure A-1 for explanation of symbols. The depths on the test pit logs are based on an average of measurements across the test pit and should be considered accurate to ½ foot. Coordinates Data Source: Horizontal approximated based on Aerial Imagery. Vertical approximated based on Google Earth.

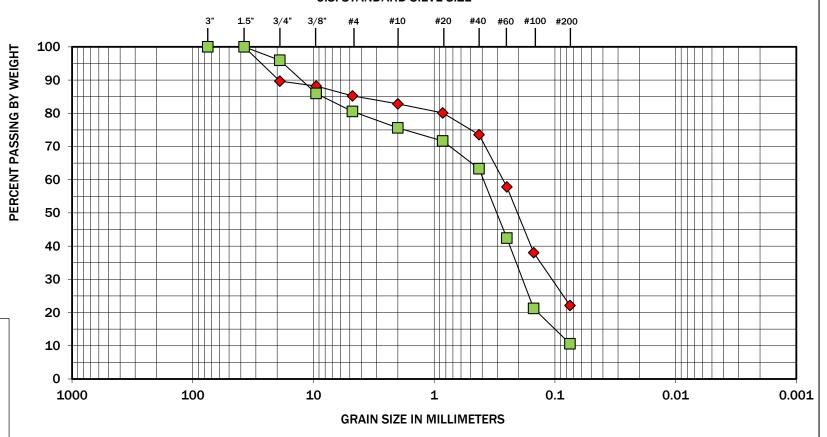




Project: Cascade View Elementary School Improvements

Project Location: Tukwila, Washington
Project Number: 23537-003-00





COBI	COBBLES	GR/	AVEL		SAND		SILT OR CLAY
COBI		COARSE	FINE	COARSE	MEDIUM	FINE	SILI OR CLAT

Symbol	Test Pit Number	Depth (feet)	Moisture (%)	Laboratory Soil Description
<b>•</b>	TP-1	2	5	Silty fine sand with occasional gravel (SM)
	TP-3	2.5	4	Fine to medium sand with silt and gravel (SP-SM)

Note: This report may not be reproduced, except in full, without written approval of GeoEngineers, Inc. Test results are applicable only to the specific sample on which they were performed, and should not be interpreted as representative of any other samples obtained at other times, depths or locations, or generated by separate operations or processes.

The grain size analysis results were obtained in general accordance with ASTM D 6913.

# GEOENGINEERS /

Cascade View Elementary School Improvements

Sieve Analysis Results

Tukwila, Washington

INEERS Figure A-6

## **APPENDIX B**Report Limitations and Guidelines for Use



## APPENDIX B REPORT LIMITATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR USE<sup>1</sup>2

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 Tukwila School District, No. 406 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 Tukwila School District, No. 406 dated July 24, 2018 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 Cascade View Elementary School in Tukwila, 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:



 $<sup>^{</sup>f 1}$  Developed based on material provided by ASFE, Professional Firms Practicing in the Geosciences; www.asfe.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.

#### **Environmental Concerns are Not Covered**

Unless environmental services were specifically included in our scope of services, this report does not provide any environmental findings, conclusions, or recommendations, including but not limited to, the likelihood of encountering underground storage tanks or regulated contaminants.

#### **Information Provided by Others**

GeoEngineers has relied upon certain data or information provided or compiled by others in the performance of our services. Although we use sources that we reasonably believe to be trustworthy, GeoEngineers cannot warrant or guarantee the accuracy or completeness of information provided or compiled by others.

#### **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.

#### **Information Provided by Others**

GeoEngineers has relied upon certain data or information provided or compiled by others in the performance of our services. Although we use sources that we reasonably believe to be trustworthy, GeoEngineers cannot warrant or guarantee the accuracy or completeness of information provided or compiled by others.

#### **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.

#### **Do Not Redraw the Exploration Logs**

Geotechnical engineers and geologists prepare final boring and testing logs based upon their interpretation of field logs and laboratory data. The logs included in a geotechnical engineering or geologic report should never be redrawn for inclusion in architectural or other design drawings. Photographic or electronic reproduction is acceptable, but separating logs from the report can create a risk of misinterpretation.

#### **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 confer with GeoEngineers and/or 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.

#### **Biological Pollutants**

GeoEngineers' Scope of Work specifically excludes the investigation, detection, prevention or assessment of the presence of Biological Pollutants. Accordingly, this report does not include any interpretations, recommendations, findings or conclusions regarding the detecting, assessing, preventing or abating of Biological Pollutants, and no conclusions or inferences should be drawn regarding Biological Pollutants as they may relate to this project. The term "Biological Pollutants" includes, but is not limited to, molds, fungi, spores, bacteria and viruses, and/or any of their byproducts.

A Client that desires these specialized services is advised to obtain them from a consultant who offers services in this specialized field.

