

City of Blaine
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RE: East Maple Ridge SEPA and Hearing
File# 2020021

SEPA and Hearings Officers:

This letter addresses a flaw in the above referenced project submittals. The proposal relies on a wetland study completed in 2004 based on the 1987 State Wetland Delineation Manual. The manuals were updated in 2010 and the attached email makes it clear as of March 14, 2011 the new manuals had to be used. City Code states:

Article VI. Wetlands

17.82.300 Wetland designation.

Wetlands shall be designated based on the Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual (Washington State Department of Ecology, March 1997, Ecology Publication No. 96-94) as updated. This manual is consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (January 1987). (Ord. 2729 § 2 (Exh. A), 2009)

This section of code requires the updated manuals be used. Per code and state law the City must require a new delineation. The old delineation is based on manuals no longer in use. The City followed code in requiring an update of the old wetland rating per code below. The same is required of the delineation and a new delineation and wetland report is needed to meet city code and state requirements .

17.82.310 Wetland rating (classification).

Wetlands shall be rated (classified) as Category I, Category II, Category III, or Category IV based upon the Washington State Department of Ecology's Washington State Wetlands Rating

Regards,

s AJ Bredberg
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AJ Bredberg

From: "ECY RE Wetlands Information" <wetlandsinformation@ECY.WA.GOV>
To: <WETLANDS-INFORMATION@LISTSERV.WA.GOV>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 5:18 PM
Subject: Amendment to state rules changes the wetland delineation manual

Amendment to state rules changes the wetland delineation manual

State laws require that wetlands protected under the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act be delineated using a manual that is developed by Ecology and adopted into rules (RCW 36.70A.175; RCW 90.58.380). The Department of Ecology adopted a wetland delineation manual in 1997 (WAC 173-22-080) that was based on the original 1987 Corps of Engineers manual and subsequent Regulatory Guidance Letters.

During the last few years the Army Corps of Engineers has updated and expanded their delineation manual with regional supplements. To maintain consistency between the state and federal delineations of wetlands, Ecology has repealed WAC 173-22-080 (the state delineation manual) and replaced it with a revision of WAC 173-22-035 that states delineations should be done according to the currently approved federal manual and supplements. **The changes are effective, today, March 14, 2011.**

The latest federal delineation manual and its supplements should now be used to delineate wetlands in the state.

You can find the federal delineation manual and its supplements on Ecology's Wetland Delineation web page: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/delineation.html>.

Please note that the Washington State Code Reviser's Office web pages have not yet been updated to reflect the rule changes. To see the updated rule language go to: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/SMA2010/1007.html>.

If you have any questions about wetland delineation, contact:

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For more information on wetlands, go to Ecology's Wetlands home page: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands>.