



July 6, 2024

Kelly Clark  
Aktiv LLC  
10661 Old Frontier Road NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

Re: Assessment of Poulsbo Creek for Aktiv SPR in Poulsbo, Washington.

Dear Kelly:

Ecological Land Services, Inc. (ELS) was contracted to provide an assessment of Poulsbo Creek, which lies within 200 feet of the project site in response to an email from Rod Malcolm, Suquamish Tribe biologist, dated June 5, 2024. This assessment addresses the comments that relate to stream route and typing, required buffers, and stormwater drainage to an “open drainage tributary.” A rough map showing the location of Poulsbo Creek in relationship to the project site and photos are included to visually document conditions described in this assessment letter.

The project site is located at 18681 State Highway 305 in Poulsbo and is comprised of Kitsap County Tax Parcel Nos. 232601-1-092-2005 and 232601-1-093-2004, which are 0.14 acres and 0.51 acres, respectively. Harrison Street lies on the east and south sides and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue lies to the west. The project site is currently undeveloped and composed of a wide gravel area in the southwestern two thirds with a steep bank up to the east and north. The gravel area generally slopes down to the southwest with the lowest point at the intersection of Harrison Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There is no vegetation on either property except dense blackberry thickets on the steep banks and across the south end. These properties have been undeveloped and in their current condition since at least 1969 and over the years have been used as parking for nearby commercial businesses. Residential homes at city density lie west of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Shops, one in a standalone building immediately and several in a strip, lie to the north.

### **Stream Assessment**

There are four segments along the two forks of Poulsbo Creek that are indicated on Attachment #1. These segments include open channels that flow through sometimes heavily developed properties, so the channels have been altered to create landscape features and tightlined segments under roads and existing development. The assessment includes a description of each segment to provide an overall view of this entire stream system. Photos are included, most of which were obtained using Google Earth Street View because they provide the best overview along with a few photos taken during the site reconnaissance where the stream was most accessible.

Segment 1a, which includes the North Fork beginning at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue consists mostly of an open stream channel through residential properties but has been manipulated where it is adjacent to homes and other residential development. The stream as it exits the culvert flows alongside a single-family home before entering the Hostmark of Village Cove Apartments (Photoplate 1, Photo 3) at the corner of Hostmark Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It then flows southerly between two

homes and crosses Harrison Street (Photoplate 1, Photo 4). After flowing under Harrison Street, the stream enters an undeveloped property on the south side of the road (Photoplate 1, Photo 4). The stream was not accessible on the apartment complex, but a photo was obtained from a rental website that shows a portion of that segment. This portion of Poulsbo Creek appears to mostly be a Type N water until it reaches the landscape ponds of the home at the corner of Ryen Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue as indicated on Attachment #2 (Photoplate 2, Photos 6 and 7).

Segment 1b represents the South Fork of Poulsbo Creek as it exits the pipe from under the Liberty Bay Presbyterian Church parking lot at the west edge of that property. It flows westerly and enters the North Fork about 500 feet after daylighting and flows alongside and through residentially developed properties. Because it is on private properties and cannot be readily observed, it is presumed to be a Type N stream.

Segment 2 appears to be tightlined beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Ryen Street (Photoplate 2, Photo 7), which extends across at least two residential properties between Sommerseth and Ryen Streets (Attachment #1). Photos were not available of this segment because of private properties and absence of roads for a street view.

Segment 3 appears to be within an open channel up to homes west of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue just south of its intersection with Ryen Street (Photoplate 2, Photo 8 and Photoplate 2, Photo 9). The end of the tightline could not be observed because of private property but based on mapping, it appears that the open channel begins about midway between Ryen Street and Sommerseth Street (Attachment #1). The open channel continues behind homes along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and ends about 75 feet and one residential lot north of Matson Street. This segment is visible on Google Earth images and based on measurements, is about 3 feet wide on average, which meets the criteria for a Type F water.

Segment 4 is tightlined beginning just north of Matson Street and continues under Lions Park, Fjord Drive, and the Poulsbo Yacht Club before entering Liberty Bay (Photoplate 3, Photos 10, 11, and 12). This segment meets the Type F criteria because it flows into Liberty Bay.

### **Stream Buffers**

City of Poulsbo Municipal Code (PMC), Chapter 16.20 Critical Areas, Section 300 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCA) specifies buffers based on water type, use by salmonids, and hydroperiod. The buffer required for Type Np waters is 100 feet while buffers for Type Ns waters range from 50 to 75 feet depending on the connection to other typed waters (PMC Table 16.20.315). Buffers are measured horizontally from the ordinary high water mark of streams and for this project, the buffer of the North Fork is 100 feet because it is a Type Np. The South Fork appears to be a Type Ns1 because it is connected to a Type F/Np water and requires a 75-foot buffer. As measured from the southwest property corner, the South Fork is about 280 feet from the project site, which is well over the required width, and the North Fork is about 80 feet upslope.

Although the project site is within 100 feet of the North Fork, the buffer does not extend onto the project site per *PMC 16.20.120.K.1*, which states “*Where a legally established, preexisting use of the buffer exists (such as a road or structure that extends into the current regulated buffer), those proposed activities that are within the wetland or stream buffer, but are separated from the critical area by an existing permanent substantial improvement, which serves to eliminate or greatly*

*reduce the impact of the proposed activity upon the critical area, are exempt from establishing full width of the buffer; provided, that impacts to the critical area do not increase.”* Because of the roadway between the project site and the North Fork, the 100-foot buffer will not extend onto the project site. The buffer of the South Fork is entirely composed of existing pavement and the Presbyterian Church so there is no function or line of sight between the stream and the project site.

### **SEPA Checklist and Critical Areas Identification**

- The Suquamish Tribe comments reference the SEPA checklist where it refers to the two forks of Poulsbo Creek. It appears the SEPA checklist was referring to the South Fork when it states that *“Poulsbo Creek daylights over 300’ from the SW extent of the property line”*, because it is within 300 feet of the project site and discharges from a pipe into an open channel. The South Fork also appears to be the reference for answer no for *“Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters?”* because it is downslope of the project site. The North Fork was not identified on the checklist most likely because it is upslope of the project site and there will be no direct or indirect impacts by the project construction even though there is an open channel beginning on the west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- This assessment provides an overview of buffers required for the different stream types within the City of Poulsbo in the Stream Buffers section. Regardless of the stream types, the buffers from the North and South Forks will not and would not extend onto the project site because of existing roads and structures, *“...which serve to eliminate or greatly reduce the impact of the proposed activity upon the critical area...”* (PMC 16.20.120.K.1).
- The drainage report map shows the drainage path, which was determined to be *“...vague to the precise route of the discharge from the proposed underground storage facility at the NORTH end of the property, particularly to where it enters what the Drainage Report calls an “open drainage tributary”.*” Sheet 5 of the project plans prepared by RDCJR Engineering shows the proposed location of the underground stormwater facility at the north end and the outlet to the east (Attachment #2). The stormwater will be piped around the east and south sides of the project site (along Harrison Street) before crossing Harrison Street to connect with the City of Poulsbo’s existing stormwater system. Water flow from the property, therefore, will be in a southerly direction and *“...into an existing enclosed conveyance system (south of Harrison Street) that discharges to an open drainage tributary that discharges to Liberty Bay”* per the Preliminary Drainage Report dated November 29, 2023. The open drainage tributary appears to be referring to the South Fork of Poulsbo Creek, which lies downslope of the project site. It is clear from the drainage plan that the existing enclosed conveyance system currently discharges into the South Fork of Poulsbo Creek. There will be no stormwater entering the North Fork from this project site because it is upslope and there does not appear to be an existing enclosed conveyance system entering that segment of Poulsbo Creek, based on Sheet 5 of the site plan set.

### **Conclusions**

The North Fork of Poulsbo Creek originates about 80 feet from the project site as measured from the northwest corner and is about 2 feet higher in elevation. The lowest point at the southwest corner is about 300 feet downslope of that segment of the stream and about 7 feet lower in elevation. Because the property lies downslope of the stream as it emerges from the culvert under 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the project site slopes moderately down to the south, the project will not result in discharge of water or new impacts to the North Fork. The South Fork exits a pipe emerging from

beneath Liberty Bay Presbyterian Church parking lot and flows westerly, joining the North Fork about 500 feet to the west. The flow of treated stormwater will exit the detention facility at the east end and water will be conveyed into the existing closed conveyance system into the South Fork of Poulsbo Creek, which appears to be the open drainage tributary referenced in the Suquamish Tribal biologist comments. There will be no discharge into the North Fork of Poulsbo Creek or impact to this stream from the project because it is downslope and separated by existing roads that provide no buffer function.

This project is proposed on an existing impervious gravel parking area that has been otherwise undeveloped for many years. It is downslope of the start of the stream system at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and because it slopes southerly, any stormwater generated on the project site will drain southerly and away from this upper segment of this stream. The downstream segments will not be negatively affected because runoff will be routed into the existing closed conveyance system. In addition, the project will result in an exchange of impervious surfaces from one on which sediment and pollutants can be generated to one on which mostly clean water (no vehicle pollutants) will be generated.

If there are any questions regarding the stream assessment, please contact me at [joanne@ecoland.com](mailto:joanne@ecoland.com).

Sincerely,

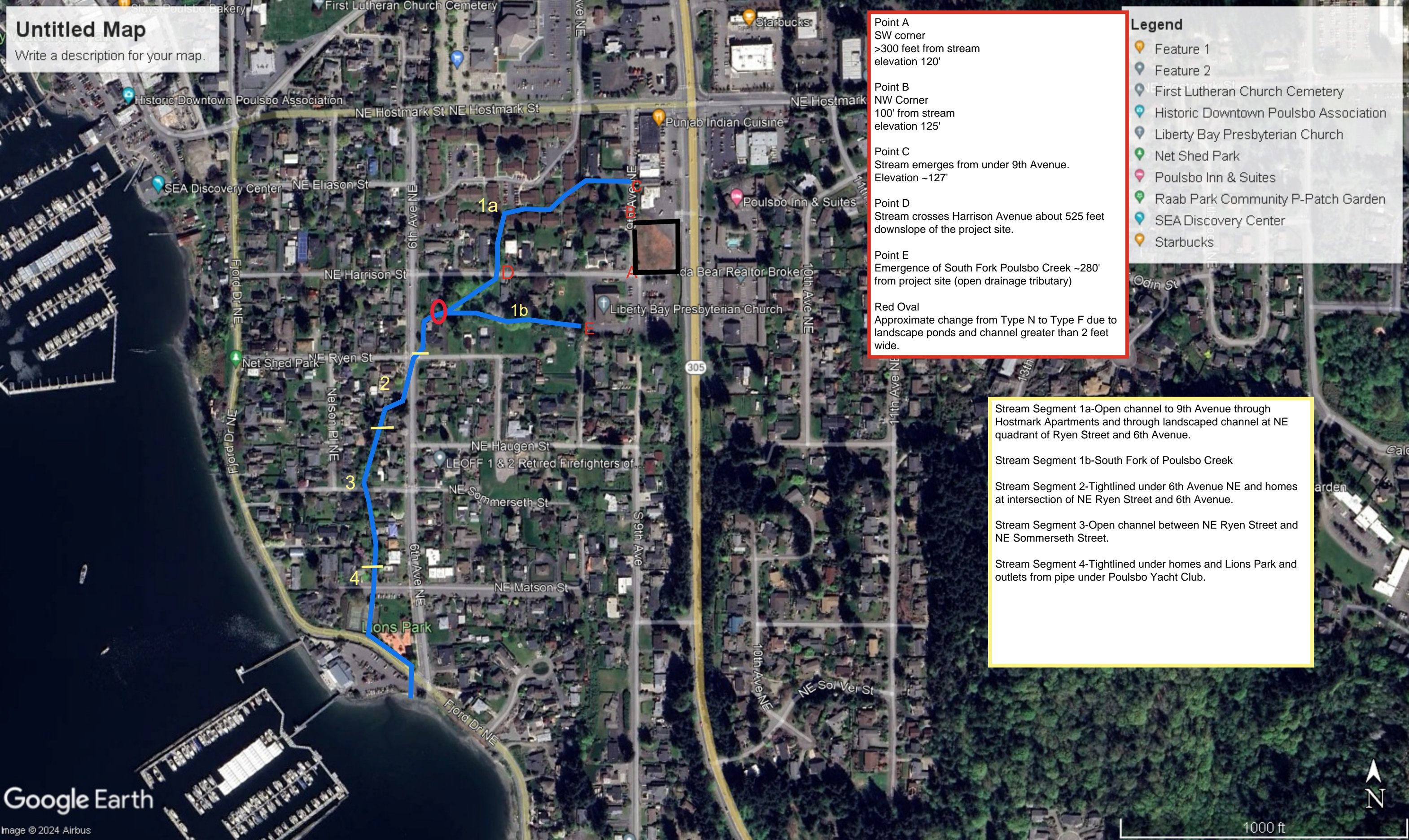


Joanne Bartlett, SPWS  
Professional Biologist

**Attachments**

- Attachment #1-Rough Stream Route map
- Attachment #2-RCDJR Sheet 5 Composite Utility Plan
- Attachment #3-Photoplates





# Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

- Point A  
SW corner  
>300 feet from stream  
elevation 120'
- Point B  
NW Corner  
100' from stream  
elevation 125'
- Point C  
Stream emerges from under 9th Avenue.  
Elevation ~127'
- Point D  
Stream crosses Harrison Avenue about 525 feet  
downslope of the project site.
- Point E  
Emergence of South Fork Poulsbo Creek ~280'  
from project site (open drainage tributary)
- Red Oval  
Approximate change from Type N to Type F due to  
landscape ponds and channel greater than 2 feet  
wide.

- ### Legend
- Feature 1
  - Feature 2
  - First Lutheran Church Cemetery
  - Historic Downtown Poulsbo Association
  - Liberty Bay Presbyterian Church
  - Net Shed Park
  - Poulsbo Inn & Suites
  - Raab Park Community P-Patch Garden
  - SEA Discovery Center
  - Starbucks

- Stream Segment 1a-Open channel to 9th Avenue through Hostmark Apartments and through landscaped channel at NE quadrant of Ryen Street and 6th Avenue.
- Stream Segment 1b-South Fork of Poulsbo Creek
- Stream Segment 2-Tightlined under 6th Avenue NE and homes at intersection of NE Ryen Street and 6th Avenue.
- Stream Segment 3-Open channel between NE Ryen Street and NE Sommerseth Street.
- Stream Segment 4-Tightlined under homes and Lions Park and outlets from pipe under Poulsbo Yacht Club.





DESIGN	RDC
DRAWN	RDC
CHECKED	RDC
MANAGER	RDC
DATE	9/22/2021
SCALE	AS NOTED

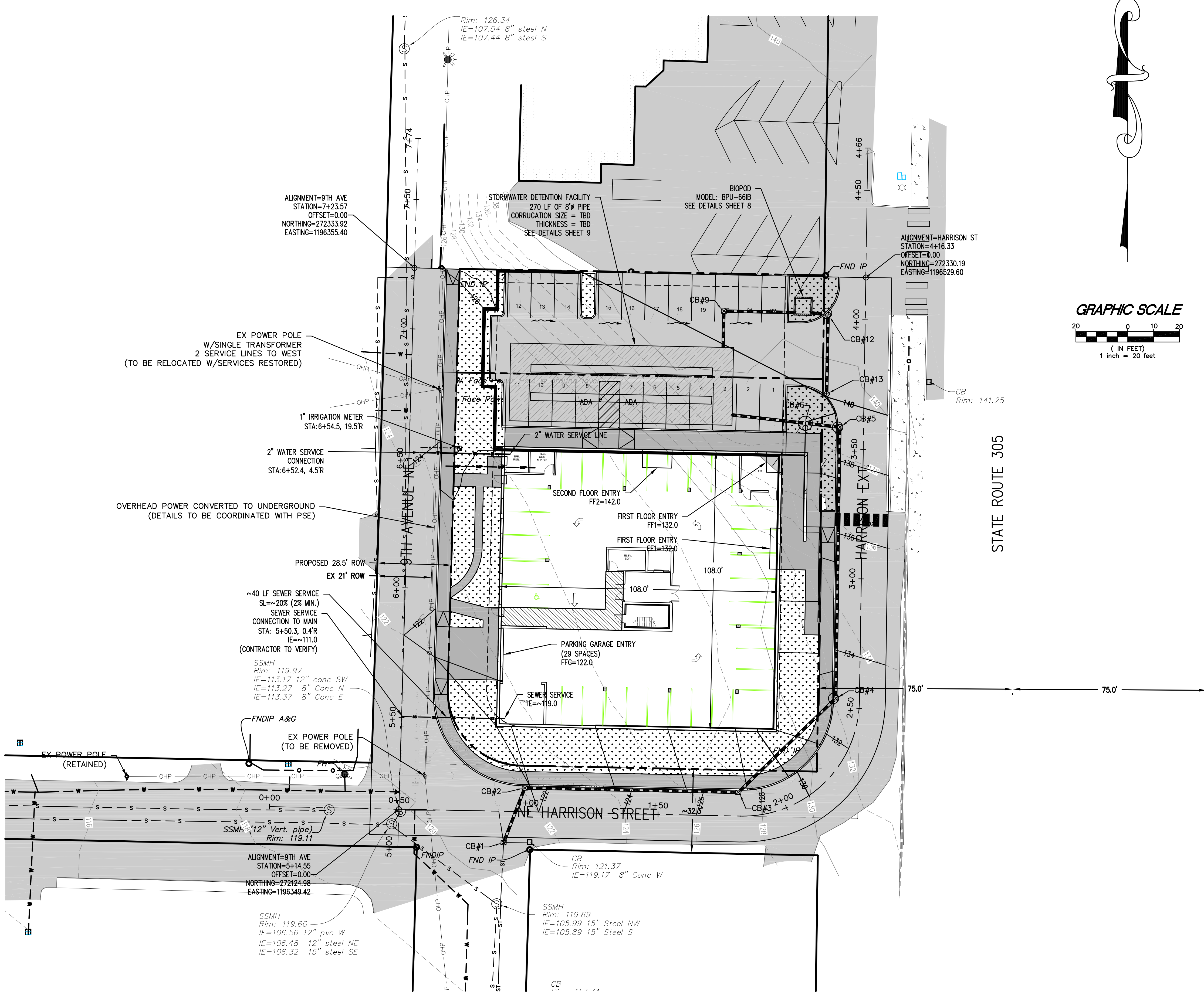
REVISION BLOCK: #	DESCRIPTION:	BY:	DATE:



PROJECT: AKTIV - SPR  
COMPOSITE UTILITY PLAN

CLIENT: CHINOOK PROPERTIES, INC.  
KELLY CLARK  
10861 OLD FRONTIER ROAD NW  
SILVERDALE, WA 98383  
(360) 613-4098  
KELLY@CHINOOKCONTRACTORS.COM

16330 STATE HWY 305, SUITE 120  
POULSBO, WA 98370  
(360) 265-1037 CELL  
RON@RDCJRENGINEERING.COM



Z:\005\_AKTIV\_1\Drawings\SPR\005\_SBP.dwg, 17/06/2023, 10:41:49 AM, 1:1

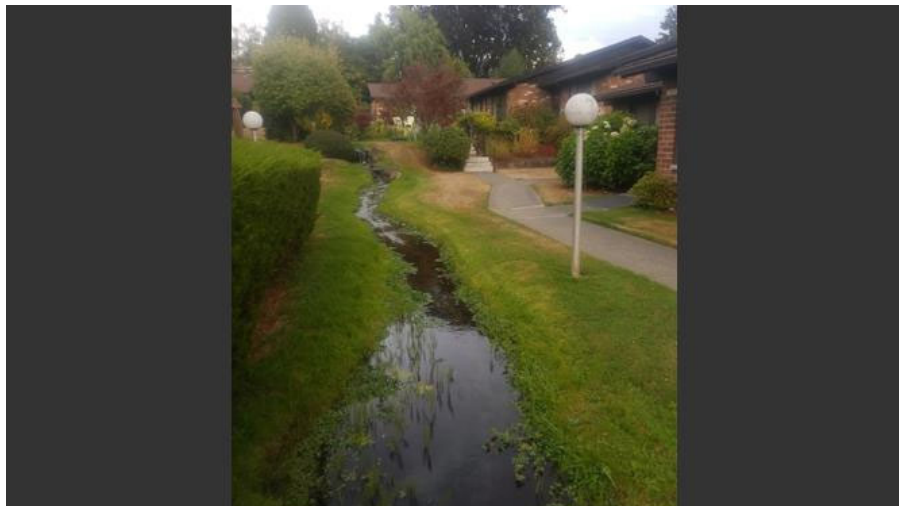




**Photo 1** from Google Earth Street View shows the stream after it emerges from the culvert under 9th Avenue, which is the start of Segment 1.



**Photo 2** from Google Earth Street View shows 9th Avenue as it slopes southerly and away from the stream.



**Photo 3** was obtained from a rental website to document the stream as it crosses the Hostmark of Village Cove Apartment complex.



**Photo 4** from Google Earth shows a portion of Segment 1 that flows in a narrow vegetation zone north of Harrison Street.

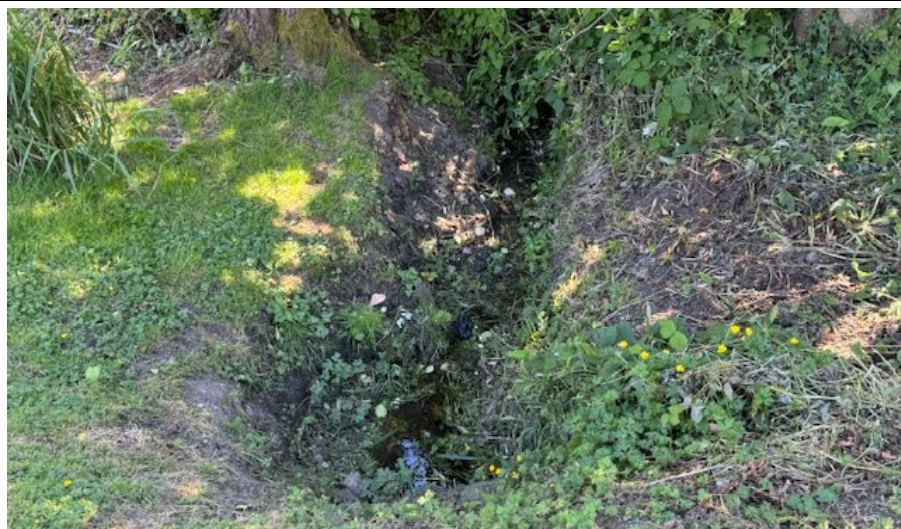


1157 3rd Ave., Suite 220A  
 Longview, WA 98632  
 Phone: (360) 578-1371  
 Fax: (360) 414-9305

DATE: 6/17/24  
 DWN: JB  
 PRJ. MGR: JB  
 PROJ.#: 4112.01

**Photoplate 1**  
 Aktiv SPR  
 Aktiv LLC  
 Poulsbo, Washington





**Photo 5** shows the stream as it exits the culvert under Harrison Street. It appears to be 1.5 to 2 feet wide in this location of Segment 1.



**Photo 6** from Google Earth shows the stream in Segment 1 as it flows through landscape ponds in the backyard of the home.



**Photo 7** from Google Earth shows the home at 6th Avenue and Ryen Street at the south end of Segment 1. The stream is armored on this lot.



**Photo 8** from Google Earth shows the open section of Segment 3 on the north side of Sommerseth Street.



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**Photoplate 2**  
Aktiv SPR  
Aktiv LLC  
Poulsbo, Washington





**Photo 9** from Google Earth looks south along the channel after it exits the culvert under Sommerseth Street in Segment 3.



**Photo 10** from Google Earth looks north from the Lions Park parking lot toward the assumed route of the tightlined channel in Segment 4.



**Photo 11** from Google Earth looks south across the parking lot and Lions Park along the assumed route of the tightlined channel in Segment 4.



**Photo 12** from Google Earth looks southerly across the southern extent of the tightlined channel in Segment 4. It enters Liberty Bay beyond the cars.



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**Photoplate 3**  
Aktiv SPR  
Aktiv LLC  
Poulsbo, Washington