August 24, 2022

City of La Center WA, Public Works

CC: Troy Johns
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the request from the City of La Center to provide information about critical areas located on tax lot 209121000. There was one Oregon White Oak, Quercus garryana, on this parcel on the southeast area which is considered a critical area per LMC 18.350 and WDFW critical areas. The oak tree is in an area that is historically and currently farmed, there is no vegetation in the dripline as it was tilled almost to the trunk, the untilled is weeds. There are no other trees of concern in the development area.

The following should be the management plan for development around the Oak:

- There should be no development within the dripline of the Oak. The Oak on the property is older in age and therefore the dripline should be the root extent.
- The root systems are normally relatively shallow making ground disturbing activities difficult. The placement of a fence around the Oak tree or in the dripline needs to not have holes dug or no fence in the dripline.
- Porous materials (grasses, bark) should try to be used above nonporous (turf) around the tree and in the dripline.
- Manage invasive weeds preferably hand pulling, or spot herbicide spraying if necessary.
- Be careful of overwatering a mature oak. Established oaks are adapted to summer drought and do not require watering. Try to manage the tree water as it has historically been watered.

If these recommendations are followed there should be no need for mitigation for this project. Thank you for your time and please let me know if there is anything else I can do.

Sincerely,

Annakate Martin
Annakate Martin, Senior Biologist