

November 7, 2003

Memo to Kamuron Gurol

RE: Proposal to dedicate time for GIS updates to CAO maps

Kamuron,

As we begin the process of reviewing Best Available Science to support the update to the CAO, it has become apparent that some of the best new science that we have exists in our updated GIS database. This is especially true of the LiDAR data and it's potential use in updating the Geohazard maps and surface hydrology.

Our initial discussions with the Technical Review Committee have supported our initial thoughts that one of the biggest steps we can make in updating our CAO is to improve our local knowledge and confidence in our maps. Some examples include, more detailed maps of steep slopes and historic slides, flood plain and channel migration zone identification, and improved surface hydrology to name a few. These maps could improve our permitting efficiencies by updating the maps in the LIS system. More accurate stream maps will provide better information at the counter when discussion of buffer widths and building setbacks occur.

I spoke with Dave Nash to get an idea of the amount of time it would take him to complete updated Geohazard and surface hydrology maps. He estimated 2-3 weeks for the geohazard maps and 2-3 months for the surface hydrology maps.

The LiDAR data is Kitsap County's best new Best Available Science and it has the potential to improve both our maps and our ability to analyze data. However it will require a dedicated effort to create the appropriate maps and data sets that we can then use for supporting planning decisions.

The Natural Resource program proposes we take the opportunity to update our maps during this Critical Areas Ordinance review process and dedicate the time and resources necessary to our GIS staff to complete these tasks.

Sincerely,

The Ghost of 716 Sidney