

ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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ROADS DIVISION

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William E. Oakes, P.E., Director/County Engineer - Steve Marx, Asst. Director - Connie Bowers P.E.,
Asst. County Engineer

June 15, 2016

Mr. Robert Y. Elphick/President
West Beach Road Association
1033 Seacliff Lane
Coupeville WA 98239

This letter is in response to your petition and letter requesting that the county reevaluate the design of an infiltration system installed along West Beach Road. This is in answer to flooding that occurred in the winter of 2015/2016. That winter we experienced historic rainfall, with the National Weather Service reporting the wettest rainfall year ever recorded. There was significant surface ponding above our till soils in many locations countywide, with reports of flooding in areas that have never been experienced before.

The county development standard, which is applied to private development, provides storm water protection from a 25 year storm or a storm that has a 4% chance of happening in any given year. The county designs public systems, like the West Beach Road system, to a higher standard with protection from a 100 year storm or a storm that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. The consulting engineers on the West Beach system added an additional safety factor of two to the soils infiltration rate, which doubled the infiltration surface area. The infiltration system was designed to significantly exceed the requirements the county places on private development.

As you indicate in your documentation, there was significant runoff from the private properties upstream of West Beach Road that contributed to the flooding. That water flowed into our infiltration system and out the overflow under the road. Any local neighborhood runoff would also have added to the flooding. The neighborhood west of the county road is composed of private properties and private roads. The county encourages the neighborhood to work on a neighborhood solution that protects the area from the level of flooding that the neighborhood wants.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. OAKES, P.E.
Director/County Engineer Island County Public Works

WEO:gs
c: BOCC

PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS