DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
450 110th Ave NE., P.O. BOX 90012
BELLEVUE, WA 98009-9012

OPTIONAL DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) NOTICE MATERIALS

The attached materials are being sent to you pursuant to the requirements for the Optional DNS Process (WAC 197-11-355). A DNS on the attached proposal is likely. This may be the only opportunity to comment on environmental impacts of the proposal. Mitigation measures from standard codes will apply. Project review may require mitigation regardless of whether an EIS is prepared. A copy of the subsequent threshold determination for this proposal may be obtained upon request.

File No.	08-115480 GH
Project Name/Address:	COB Upper Vasa Creek rock check dams
Planner:	Heidi M. Bedwell
Phone Number:	425-452-4862

Minimum Comment Period: July 31, 2008

Materials included in this Notice:

- [x] Blue Bulletin
- [x] Checklist
- [x] Vicinity Map
- [ ] Plans
- [ ] Other:

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

RECEIVED
JUL 15 2008
PERMIT PROCESSING

7/15/08

If you need assistance in completing the checklist or have any questions regarding the environmental review process, please visit or call the Permit Center (425-452-6864) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (Wednesday, 10 to 4). Our TTY number is 425-452-4636.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Property Owner: City of Bellevue

Proponent: City of Bellevue Utilites

Contact Person: Stephen H. Noeske PE

(If different from the owner. All questions and correspondence will be directed to the individual listed.)

Address: PO Box 9012

Bellevue WA 98009-9012

Phone: (425) 452-5271 Email: snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Proposal Title: Upper Vasa Creek Interim Check Dam Repairs

Proposal Location: Between 151st Ave SE and 152nd Place SE and between SE 46th Way and SE 45th St a.k.a. Horizon Heights Open Space

(Street address and nearest cross street or intersection) 15165 SE 46th Way

Provide a legal description if available. Horizon Heights No.1

Please attach an 8 ½" x 11" vicinity map that accurately locates the proposal site.

Give an accurate, brief description of the proposal's scope and nature:

1. General description:

   Three existing instream rock check dams are to be repaired under this proposal. Check dams #7, #12 and #13 were sustained damage in storms during the Winter of 2007 and these were also identified as being the most severely damaged with a high likelihood of sustaining more damage in future storm events. This proposed project will construct interim repairs on these rock check dams so their damage is not worsened during the upcoming winter months. The proposed work is to be accomplished utilizing manual labor and low impact construction equipment. This will minimize disturbing ground surfaces while delivering rock materials to each specific site. Placing materials with manual labor will further protect the ground surfaces from disturbances. The design of proposed interim repairs to dams #7, #12 and #13 are intended to be supplemented in a future phase with more extensive repairs, along with several other dams, in a larger project proposed for Summer 2009.

2. Acreage of site: 5.1 acres
3. Number of dwelling units/buildings to be demolished: None
4. Number of dwelling units/buildings to be constructed: None
5. Square footage of buildings to be demolished: Not applicable
6. Square footage of buildings to be constructed: Not applicable
7. Quantity of earth movement (in cubic yards):

   No large scale excavations are being proposed for this project. Only minor excavations, by manual labor methods, may be needed to construct these repairs, properly anchor, embed or secure the new rock materials or for enhancing access. Excavated materials will be reused onsite by backfilling removed materials in close proximity from where they came.

8. Proposed land use: This proposed project does not change the current land use.

9. Design features, including building height, number of stories and proposed exterior materials:

No buildings are being constructed as part of this proposal. Work under this proposal consists of placing rock materials into each existing dam's core and in their downstream toe. This will provide each dam with adequate support to minimize further damage during future stream flows.

10. Other

None

Estimated date of completion of the proposal or timing of phasing:

The City received FEMA funding approval in April 2008 which expires in June 2009 to repair the damaged check dams in this reach of Vasa creek. However, due to the length of time needed to obtain permits from the City and other agencies this proposal will be implemented in two phases. This proposal addresses the first phase where the City proposes to construct interim repair measures during this summer's fish window between July 16th and September 30th. The entire fish window is expected to be needed because of the anticipated time needed to construct these repairs using manual labor and low impact construction methods.

The intent with this proposal is to complete these interim repairs by September 2008 thereby potentially preventing additional damages from occurring.

A second phase will consist of a larger repair project where the proposed interim repairs are supplemented with additional support materials and the remaining lesser damaged dams will receive permanent repairs. The second phase is anticipated to be constructed during the Summer 2009 fish window.

Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes, as previously discussed this proposal will be the first of two phases. Phase two work will involve more extensive work. All damaged dams will be repaired along with the interim repaired ones. Additionally, maintenance activities will occur on the check dams as may be needed following future storm events or after unusually heavy rainfall events.

List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by FEMA, document reference identification FEMA DR-1159.0011WA, titled "Upper Vasa Creek Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization" dated December 3, 1998 wherein it was determined "Findings of No Significant Impact". This EA may need to be updated to account for the environmental regulation changes that have occurred between then and now. A copy of this document has been included with this application.

A wetland delineation report was prepared by Herrera Environmental Consultants, titled Upper Vasa Creek Erosion Control and Stabilization Project Bellevue Washington dated October 11, 1999. A copy of this document has been included with this application.

Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. List dates applied for and file numbers, if known.

There are no other known applications pending governmental approval that would directly affect or regard this proposal.

List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. If permits have been applied for, list application date and file numbers, if known.

City of Bellevue Clearing and Grading with SEPA, applied on May 9, 2008.
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval
United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit
Washington State Department of Ecology

Please provide one or more of the following exhibits, if applicable to your proposal.

(Please check appropriate box(es) for exhibits submitted with your proposal):

☐ Land Use Reclassification (rezone) Map of existing and proposed zoning

☐ Preliminary Plat or Planned Unit Development
Preliminary plat map

☐ Clearing & Grading Permit
Plan of existing and proposed grading
Development plans

☑ Building Permit (or Design Review)
Site plan
Clearing & grading plan

☐ Shoreline Management Permit
Site plan

A. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site: ☐ Flat ☐ Rolling ☐ Hilly ☑ Steep slopes ☐ Mountains ☐ Other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The proposed project involves working in a stream situated in the bottom of a ravine bounded on either side by steep slopes. The steepest stream channel slope within the project site is approximately 5.2%. Ravine walls, adjacent to the stream but not associated with the work in this proposal are sloped approximately 40%.

c. What general types of soil are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, and muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service classifies the soils within the project site as AgC – Alderwood, gravelly sandy loam with 6-15% slopes and AmC-Arents, Alderwood materials with 6-10% slopes.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Yes, there are visible signs the adjacent ravine slopes consist of historically unstable soils. The original project was constructed to protect an existing wastewater conveyance pipe from exposure from stream flows eroding soils away from around the wastewater pipe. The rock check dams protect both the bottom and sides of the stream channel from erosion helping reduce sediment transport and depositions into downstream reaches. The proposed interim repairs will help keep this functioning as originally intended by keeping the existing check dams from totally being destroyed.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The purpose of this proposal is to place rock fill materials into existing cores and downstream slope toes to stabilize the remaining rock check dam structures. This will require approximately 60 cubic yards of large rock and approximately 20 cubic yards of quarry spalls. Materials will be placed into the same existing locations but in such a manner as to prevent further degradation of the existing structures. Contractors will provide materials from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) certified sources.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

The intended purpose of this project proposal is to prevent erosion of stream bed material from occurring. Erosion due to Contractor's construction activities could possibly occur but will be avoided

with the installation and maintenance of all required and appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's). Based on similar experiences with past permit requirements, this work in this proposal will be allowed to occur within the months of July and September of a given year which will provides an additional measure of protection from erosion since this is typically the driest time of year.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

This project does not propose to construct any new impervious surfaces. Existing rock surfaces will be submerged during the winter months. Summer stream are predominantly subsurface exposing the check dams.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

During construction, the Contractor will be required to implement appropriate BMP's such as erecting and maintaining erosion control fencing where applicable, diverting stream flows around the work sites, constructing and maintaining construction access ways with quarry spalls and other measures dictated by weather, site conditions and/or Utilities staff.

2. AIR

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e. dust, automobile odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

While under construction, emissions from internal combustion engine construction equipment will be emitted into the air. Once the project is completed only minimal emissions will be emitted from City vehicles as staff drive to the site to monitor and complete maintenance activities.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

There are no known off-site sources of emissions or odors that may affect this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any:

The Contractor, through the use of good business practices, will minimize vehicle and equipment emissions by not allowing them to idle unnecessarily.

3. WATER

a. Surface

(1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes, this proposal will be undertaken within the water boundaries of the upper reach of Vasa Creek. This stream is classified as a type 4. It has been verified it is not fish bearing. (Final Report, City of Bellevue Stream Typing Inventory, Watershed Company, August 14, 2001)

(2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If Yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, the proposed work will take place within the ordinary water level of upper Vasa Creek.

(3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Approximately 100 cubic yards of new materials will be placed into the stream under this proposal. These materials will originate from WSDOT certified quarries.

(4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

A diversion pipe already exists onsite from the original construction project. It will be used again to divert stream flows around the work zones and it will be recapped once work is complete. The diversion to prevent water turbidity, construction sediment transports and allow work to proceed unhindered.

(5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No, this proposal does not lie within a 100 year flood plain.

(6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No, this proposal does not involve any discharges of waste materials into surface waters.

b. Ground

(1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description.

No, this proposal will not withdraw groundwater or discharge water to ground water during construction or once it is completed.

(2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.) Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No, waste materials will be discharged from the project during construction or once it is completed.

c. Water Runoff (Including storm water)

(1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

This proposal involves repairing existing manmade stream features whose sole purpose is to prevent erosion. Stormwater will continue flowing in its current direction towards Lake Sammamish. Runoff from surrounding streets and residential developments are currently directed towards the stream through existing pipes and there is no change to any existing discharges being proposed with this project.

(2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Waste materials will not enter ground or surface water during construction or once this project is completed.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

No measures are being proposed to reduce or control surface water runoff on this project.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

☑ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

☑ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

☑ shrubs

☐ grass

☐ pasture

☐ crop or grain

☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

The proposed project will be constructed using manual labor and low impact construction equipment, however, during the course of construction some existing vegetation may be disturbed. All disturbed vegetation will be restored to a condition as close to what existed prior to beginning work.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no known threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the proposed project site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

No specific landscaping is being proposed as part of this project. The use of manual labor and low impact equipment minimize disturbing existing vegetation and any areas disturbed will be restored after all construction activities have ceased. Restoration will preferably occur during the wet season to improve plant survival.

5. ANIMALS

a. Check or circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

☑ Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

☑ Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

☐ Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no known threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the proposed project site.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The proposed project site is not know to be part of a migration route.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

No measures to enhance wildlife are being proposed for the repair proposed project. Wildlife will be preserved by diverting stream flows around the repair locations protecting wildlife from harm during construction activities.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy need? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

No energy will be needed for the completed project.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

This proposal will not affect the use of solar energy by adjacent properties because the site lies much lower than other surrounding properties.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of the proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

No energy conservation measures are being implemented for the completed project since this proposal requires no energy to be consumed when completed.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No environmental health hazards will occur after the proposal is completed.

(1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services will be required after the proposal is completed.

(2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

No measures are being proposed to reduce or control environmental health hazards since none are being created after the proposal is completed.

b. Noise

(1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example, traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Noises from motor vehicles, human beings, wildlife and flowing water currently exist at the proposed project but will not adversely affect the completed project.

(2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example, traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short term noises will come from the contractor's construction vehicles and equipment. These noises will only occur during the fish window and in accordance with the City's normal construction hours as prescribed in the City's noise ordinance.

Long terms noises coming from the completed proposal will be likely limited to the sound of running water, song birds and occasionally from humans using the trails adjacent to the creek.

(3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

In the short term, noises from the Contractor's equipment will only occur during the permissible work hours and through the use of the Contractor's good business practices where equipment is not left idling unnecessarily.

8. **Land and Shoreline Use**

a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**

The site is currently being used as an open space by the City of Bellevue Parks department. Adjacent properties are being used as single family residences.

b. **Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.**

It is unknown whether this site was used for agriculture. It appears to be unlikely given the topography.

c. **Describe any structures on the site.**

There is an existing wooden foot bridge within the proposed project boundaries.

d. **Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

No structure are being demolished under this proposal.

e. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

The current zoning classification for the site is R-5.

f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

The current comprehensive designation for this site is single family.

g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

N/A

h. **Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**

Review of the City of Bellevue's online environmentally sensitive area information shows it to have steep slopes and a stream which has been classified as a type 4 non fish bearing stream.

Wetlands were identified to be adjacent to and within the project limits. These wetlands have been delineated and a copy of the original delineation is attached with this checklist.

l. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

N/A

j. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

N/A

k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:**

N/A

i. **Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**

N/A

9. **Housing**

a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

N/A

b. **Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

N/A

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**

N/A

10. Aesthetics

a. **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

N/A

b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

N/A

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

N/A

11. Light and Glare

a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

None

b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

No

c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

None

d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light or glare impacts, if any:**

None

12. Recreation

a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

The project site is located within what is known as the Horizon Heights Open Space. The site contains existing walking trials and foot bridge used by neighboring residents to walk adjacent to the creek.

b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

The project would temporarily displace recreational use. Existing pathway may be utilized by the Contractor to transport construction materials to the various check dam repair locations. For the public's safety, these areas will be temporarily closed for the duration of the fish window.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**

Any measures reducing or controlling impacts to recreational use will be difficult to implement and may still expose the public to dangerous conditions. The paths around the work sites will be temporarily cordoned off and reopened after completion. Informational signs will be utilized to inform users the trail is temporarily closed. Work is typically limited by WDFW to occur between the months of July and September of any given year. The actual work is expected to last between six to eight weeks.

13. **Historic and Cultural Preservation**

a. **Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

None are known to exist.

b. **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.**

None are known to exist.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

N/A

14. **Transportation**

a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

The project site is bounded by SE 46th Way along its southerly limits and by SE 45th Street along its northerly limits and 151st Ave SE along the west and 152nd Ave SE on the east.

b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

The project site is currently served by King County METRO bus service. The nearest bus stop is located two properties west on SE 46th St along the northerly boundary of the site.

c. **How many parking spaces would be completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

N/A

d. **Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not Including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

There is no roadway work proposed for this project.

e. **Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

No water, rail or air transportation will be used for this proposed project.

f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

No daily vehicular trips will be generated by the completed project.

g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

N/A

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for the public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The completed project will not result in an increased need for public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

N/A

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other,

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

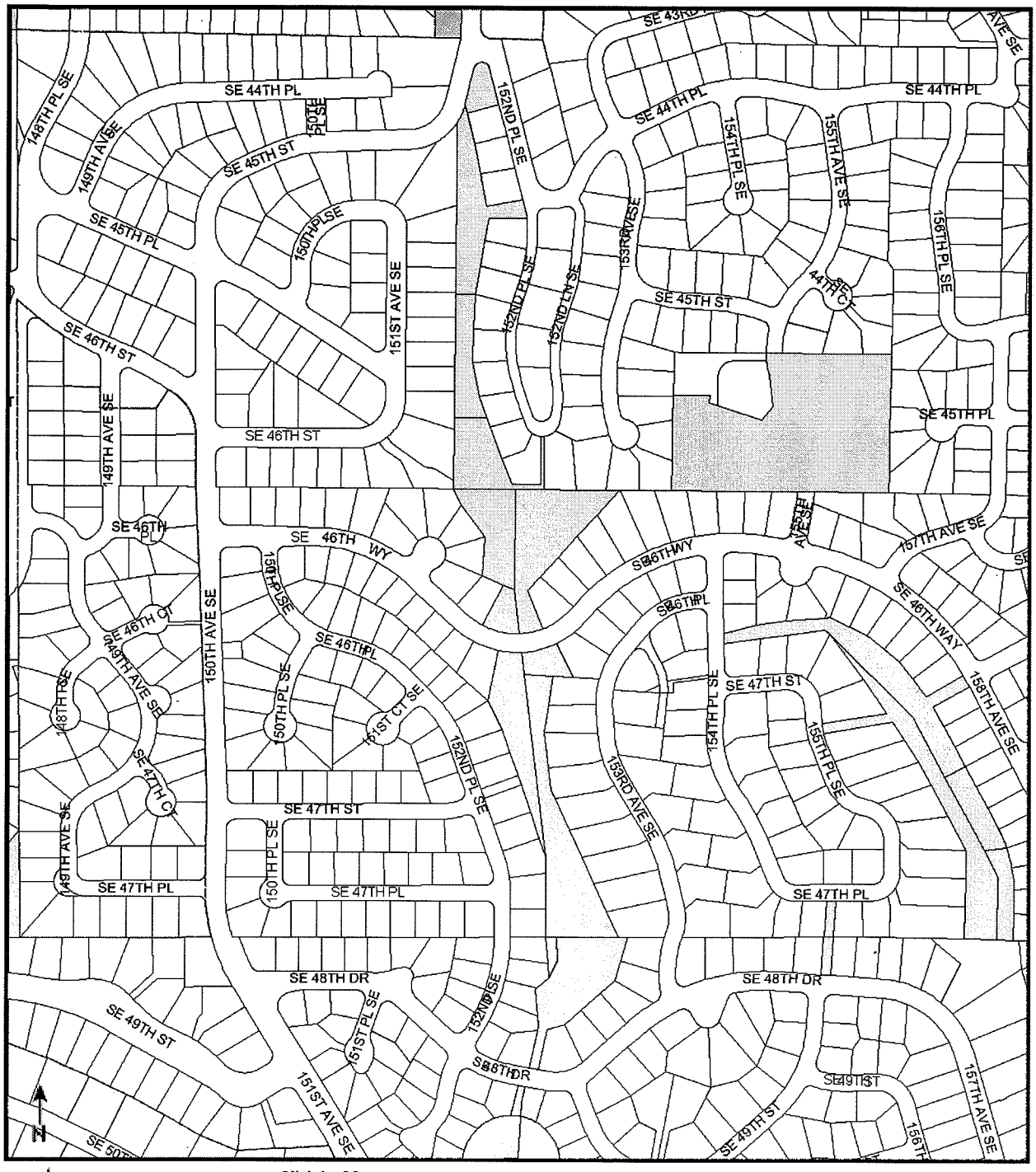
No new utilities are being proposed for this project.

Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature.....

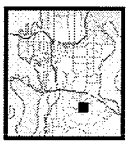
Date Submitted.....July 15, 2008.....



Vicinity Map

Vasa Creek Rock check dam repairs

Park
School



VICINITY MAP

City of Bellevue
Information Technology
Geographic Information Services
July 15, 2008

This map is derived from the Bellevue Geographic Information System and designed for City staff use.
It is not guaranteed accurate.

If you have specific questions regarding this map, contact the department shown.