



CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
3100 BELMONT BLVD, SUITE 102
WEST RICHLAND, WA 99353

March 7, 2019

The City of West Richland previously provided notice to residents that it has been actively investigating standing water in the City's storm drainage facilities in the general area around your neighborhood since September 2017. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update since the November 2018 letter and let you know what the City is doing to investigate the matter further.

The City hired a hydrogeologist / geotechnical consultant, GeoEngineers, to assist with the City's investigation to determine the hydrogeologic and geotechnical conditions that are potentially causing the observed elevated groundwater levels and drainage problems. On February 14, 2019, the City received the Phase 1 Hydrogeologic Investigation Report from GeoEngineers. This report has been posted on the City's website, [www.westrichland.org/download/Public%20Works%20Documents/Phase-1-Report West-Richland-DPA.pdf](http://www.westrichland.org/download/Public%20Works%20Documents/Phase-1-Report%20West-Richland-DPA.pdf).

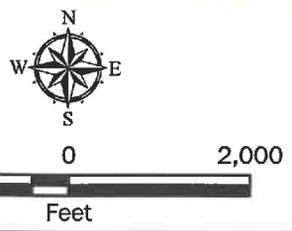
The Phase 1 investigation was based on the review of existing information, which was sufficient to derive general conclusions regarding the hydrogeologic framework underpinning the observed elevated water levels and drainage issues in the general area around your neighborhood. The City's consultant concluded that the elevated groundwater cannot be explained through water main leakage, precipitation trends and due to the topography cannot be explained by large-scale farm irrigation, canal leakage, or other agricultural influences. However, the City's consultant suspects that the primary factor causing the elevated groundwater levels is over-irrigation of residential lawns. This conclusion is based on the evaluation of City water use data and the City's observation that groundwater levels rise through the summer lawn irrigation season and peak during the late fall. Additional information is needed to 1) delineate the causes and extent of elevated groundwater within this area, 2) predict the extent that groundwater impacts could spread to other areas, and 3) identify actions that could mitigate observed and future groundwater impacts.

While the City moves forward with Phase 2 investigation to obtain additional information and with spring hopefully around the corner, **the City is asking for residents in the drainage problem area boundary (please see attached vicinity map) to voluntarily reduce irrigation water use by a minimum of 25% to reduce the elevated groundwater impact to the City's storm drainage facilities and to your neighbors. The City is also asking for residents to switch from the practice of deep watering of lawns to a more frequent shorter duration watering practice to contain water within the lawn's root zone and to limit over-irrigating of lawns.**

Updates on the City's investigation of the elevated groundwater issue will be posted on the City's website, www.westrichland.org. Please direct questions to the following email address, rslade@westrichland.org.

Sincerely,

Roscoe Slade, Public Works Director
City of West Richland



Notes:

1. The locations of all features shown are approximate.
2. This drawing is for information purposes. It is intended to assist in showing features discussed in an attached document. GeoEngineers, Inc. cannot guarantee the accuracy and content of electronic files. The master file is stored by GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official record of this communication.

Data Source: Mapbox Open Street Map, 2018
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

Vicinity Map	
Drainage Problem Area City of West Richland, Washington	
GEOENGINEERS	Figure 1

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