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Skamania County Department of Planning and Community Development

Skamania County Courthouse Annex Post Office Box 790 Stevenson, Washington 98648 509 427-9458 FAX: 509 427-4839

Director's Decision

APPLICANT:

Skamania County Public Works Department

FILE NO.:

NSA-96-75

PROJECT:

Soil Nailing to stabilize slope.

LOCATION:

Cook-Underwood Road, in Section 23 of T3, R9E, W.M., Tax Parcel

Number #3-9-24-3190.

ZONING:

Commercial Forest Land (F-1).

DECISION:

Based upon the entire record before the Director, including particularly the Staff Report, the application by the Public Works Department, described above, subject to the conditions set forth in this Decision, is found to be consistent with Title 22 SCC and is hereby approved.

Approval of this request does not exempt the applicant or successors in interest from compliance with all other applicable local, state, and federal laws.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

The following conditions are required to ensure that the subject request is consistent with Skamania County Title 22. This document, outlining the conditions of approval, must be recorded in the deed records of the Skamania County Auditor in order to ensure notice of the conditions of approval to successors in interest. SCC §22.06.050(C)(2).

- The following procedures shall be effected when cultural resources are discovered 1) during construction activities.
 - Halt Construction. All construction activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall cease. The cultural resources shall remain as found; further disturbance is prohibited.
 - Notification. The project applicant shall notify the Planning Department and b) the Gorge Commission within 24 hours of the discovery. If the cultural

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A copy of this Decision, including the Staff Report, was sent to the following:

Persons submitting written comments in a timely manner Yakama Indian Nation
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Nez Perce Tribe
Columbia River Gorge Commission
U.S. Forest Service - NSA Office

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NATIONAL SCENIC AREA LAND USE APPLICATION

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2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

As shown on the vicinity Map, Figure 1, the project site lies along Cook-Underwood Road approximately one-half mile southeast of Mill A, Washington. The road has been cut into a steep slope which forms the western valley wall of the Little White Salmon River. The project site lies approximately 500 feet above river level. The Columbia River lies approximately 2 miles south of the site.

The project site is a 600-foot stretch of Cook-Underwood road at approximately MP 2.8. In this area the road grades downhill in a generally southerly direction at slopes of 2% to 5%. Hill slopes on the east (downhill) side of the road range from 28 ' to 78 ', typically 40 ' to 45 '. No development is present along this portion of the road. We understand that this section of Cook-Underwood Road was widened and improved in 1988.

For the purposes of this report we have divided the project area into the upper slide and lower slide areas (see Figure 2, Ricpioration Location Plan). The upper slide is approximately 120 feet in width and extends from the shoulder of Cook-Underwood Road down to the Little White Salamin River, failure of approximately 500 feet (vertically). At its closest location to the road the edge of the failure occurred fairly rapidly following a period of very heavy precipitation in Pebruary. The lower slide is approximately 600 feet south of the upper slide and is also located behind the guardrail on the east side of the road. The lower slide is approximately 80 feet in length and consists of a maximum 6 to 7-foot high scarp exposed after the fill slope dropped away from the road. A power pole is located at the center of the lower slide area in the plane of the scarp.

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

We understand that Skamania County desires to develop permanent repairs to the two slide areas. In light of the subsurface conditions encountered in the explorations, AGI will develop remedial retention alternatives and preliminary construction cost estimates to assist the County with selection of the appropriate alternative.

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5.0 SUBSURFACT CONDITIONS

5.1 SITE GEOLOGY

The project site is underlain by basalts of the Grande Ronde member of the Yakima Basalt Subgroup, Columbia River Basalt Group. Columbia River Basalts were deposited widely across Oregon and Washington as numerous broad sheet flows. Basalts in the project area are dated at between 15 and 17.5 million years before present.

The bedrock has subsequently been deformed by folding and faulting. A fault is expressed in the road cut immediately west of the upper slide. Exposure of the fault in the area is limited to one road cut. The amount of displacement on this fault could not be determined. Fault plane orientation cannot be measured with certainty, but the fault plane appears to strike nearly north-that the feature is a fault. Other possibilities include an intrusive body or intercanyon flow. Determination of the geologic process was not considered essential for developing the repair

In addition to fractures created by tectonic processes, basalt observed within the project area exhibits a joint style known as backly fracture or "brickbat" jointing, in which the basalt, during cooling, has separated into irregular fragments ranging in size from a few inches to about one foot. The jointing may represent the entablature, or upper portion, of a basalt flow. The jointing appears to be pervasive in this area.