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January 11, 2016

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San Mateo County Planning and Building Department  
455 County Center, 2nd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Attn: James Castaneda, AICP  
Subject: **Ascension Heights** - Job No. 2010135 C1

Dear James:

As you know, local, state and federal laws mandate that new residential construction in California meet a variety of water related requirements ranging from water conservation to storm water runoff retention systems. San Mateo County requires projects such as this to retain storm water so that no runoff can leave the site at a rate larger than the predevelopment rate. Lea & Braze has designed a system for the Ascension Heights project that will meet the following needs for the 19 homes, the open space preserve, the entire project site, and the surrounding neighborhood. In particular, the project system is designed to:

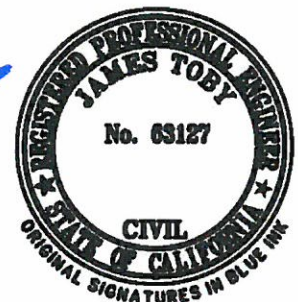
- Utilize industry proven designs and technology that have been successfully constructed throughout San Mateo County and the State on similarly sloped parcels;
- Accommodate San Mateo County's 10-year storm capacity requirement and also manage a 100-year storm projection with capacity to spare;
- Create a closed system which incorporates 19 individual systems that all feed into a main system, carefully metering water flow into the County's main storm drain system so that runoff will not exceed, but be less than the predevelopment rate;
- Prevent future erosion issues throughout the project site and prevent untreated runoff from flowing onto Parrott Drive parcels, County streets and the nearby watershed.

Lea & Braze has designed and overseen installation and operational maintenance of hundreds of these systems in the Bay Area on slopes similar and even greater than what is proposed for Ascension Heights. Many of our systems have been approved by San Mateo County Public Works Department and a listing of some are attached.

The project includes a proven storm water retention system that our engineers design on a daily basis for almost any project we work on. I assure you that what we are proposing for the Ascension Heights project is very similar to numerous other projects that we have worked on over several years. Those systems have not resulted in any adverse impacts to the project sites or surrounding areas. Please let me know if you need any additional information or technical details.

Very truly yours,

Jim Toby, P.E., P.L.S.  
Principal



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### SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECTS LIST

**The following are projects within San Mateo County where Lea & Braze Engineering, Inc., has placed similar retention systems on comparably sloped parcels.**

#### **Town of Hillsborough**

- **New Place Rd** – Moderately sloping site with topography similar to that of Ascension Heights. This site actually has two systems that are closed conduit and the pipes are sitting in the slope. Runoff is metered into a closed pipe system that leads to a through curb drain.
- **Pullman Rd** – Moderately sloping downhill site with closed retention system. This system releases runoff through a metered release onto the hillside below.
- **Glenbrook Rd** – Moderately sloping site with a closed retention system. Runoff is metered into a closed pipe system that leads to a through curb drain.

#### **San Mateo County (unincorporated areas)<sup>1</sup>**

- **Emerald Estates Court (near Redwood City)** – New retention system and metering device similar to those proposed for the Ascension Heights project. The retention system is located just above a very steep downslope. Runoff is lead to a closed pipe system that eventually enters the subdivision's overall storm drain system.
- **Winding Way (near San Carlos)** – New closed conduit retention system placed adjacent to a very steep drop off. This system is very similar to what is proposed on the Ascension Heights Project.

## SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECTS LIST - Continued

### **Town of Woodside**

**Tripp Rd (#1)** – Very steep upsloping site with a history of landslides. We placed copies of the Planning & Building Department files containing the plans and other details of the retention systems installed for these projects are hereby incorporated by reference into the record of proceedings for this matter. Upon request, copies of these documents will be furnished to the County closed conduit retention system in an area of active landslides. This was appropriate since the system was closed conduit and not perforated. Thus, there was no threat of water leaking into the surrounding soils.

- **Tripp Road (#2)** – Moderately steep down-sloping lot. As with the other Tripp Road project, this area is also prone to landslides and we proposed a closed conduit system to comply with the Town's requirement for retention.
- **Stadler Drive** – Moderately steep down-sloping lot. This project also included a closed conduit retention system placed in a moderate slope.
- **Old La Honda** – This large property has many retention systems that allow the runoff to be dispersed throughout the site, but allows the runoff to be released at a predevelopment rate.

### **Town of Atherton**

- **Ridgeview Drive** – Large moderately down-sloping lot with a new retention system. After being retained, runoff is allowed to flow onto the steep hillside below.
- **Belbrook Drive** – Large upsloping lot with a new retention system placed in the moderately sloping hillside. Runoff is allowed to flow to a City storm drain system.
- **Fletcher Drive** – Large moderately upsloping lot with a new retention system. Runoff is released onto the hillside.