

## **Staff Report for Decision**

File Number: DP001080

DATE OF MEETING December 18, 2017

AUTHORED BY DAVE STEWART, PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING AND

SUBDIVISION

SUBJECT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP1080 -

3062 HAMMOND BAY ROAD

### **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To present for Council's consideration a development permit application to allow landscape alterations, including an outdoor kitchen, within the watercourse setback.

### Recommendation

That Council issue Development Permit No. DP1080 at 3062 Hammond Bay Road with the following variance:

 reduce the watercourse setback measured from the natural boundary of the ocean from 15m to 7.1m.

### **BACKGROUND**

A development permit application, DP1080, was received from Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd. on behalf of Shujing Mao to permit landscape alterations, including an outdoor kitchen, within 15m of the natural boundary of the ocean.

### **Subject Property**

Zoning	R1 – Single Dwelling Residential			
Location	The subject property is located on Hammond Bay Road with shoreline			
	along the north side of Departure Bay.			
Total Area	1,212m <sup>2</sup>			
Official	Map 1 – Future Land Use – Neighbourhood;			
Community Plan	unity Plan   Map 3 – Development Permit Area No. 2 – Environmentally Sensitive			
	Areas			

The subject property includes a single residential dwelling accessed from Hammond Bay Road and is included within the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association boundaries. The existing single residential dwelling is non-conforming in siting and is located approximately 13m from the natural boundary of the ocean, a 2m intrusion into the required watercourse setback.

The aquatic setback area of the subject property includes four existing landscape components:

- lawn area to the rear of the house and single residential dwelling intrusion;
- sloped area adjacent to the ocean with invasive plants;
- coastal bluff Garry oak ecosystem with native and invasive plants; and,
- two existing beach accesses.



### **DISCUSSION**

### **Proposed Development**

The landowners would like to undertake the following improvements within the 15m development permit area:

- construct a new patio with an outdoor kitchen and foot wash area in the rear yard;
- repair two existing beach access staircases and install new handrails;
- replace the existing fence with a new chain link fence in the rear yard and along the west property line in the location shown on Attachment C;
- replace a failing retaining wall with a new rock retaining wall along the top of the slope at the east side of the property; and,
- implement an extensive landscape management plan for the rear yard area, including invasive species removal and restoration with native plant species.

The proposed 23m² outdoor kitchen/patio will be located within the existing lawn area and will not require the removal of any native vegetation. The patio area will be constructed with permeable materials. As part of the proposed landscape restoration, the owner will replace the grass lawn with clover, a drought-tolerant plant that requires no fertilization. In addition to the patio area, the owners will repair two existing beach accesses that lead to separate, isolated beaches. The Qualified Environmental Professional states repairs to the beach accesses will ensure safe access to the beach and will be contained within the footprint of the existing stairs.

To compensate for the landscape alterations within the development permit area, landscape restoration will be required. The restoration plan involves the removal of all invasive species and re-vegetation of the watercourse setback area with native species characteristic of a coastal bluff Garry oak ecosystem. A five-year maintenance period will be required to ensure the eradication of invasive species and establishment of native plant species within both the slope and coastal bluff landscape.

The proposed landscape restoration will restore the coastal bluff ecosystem and will significantly improve the ecological function of the coastal area with no net loss of habitat.

### **Proposed Variances**

Minimum Watercourse Setback

The required water setback is 15m, measured from the natural boundary of the ocean. The proposed outdoor kitchen and patio is to be located 7.1m from the natural boundary, a proposed variance of 7.9m. The existing house is setback 13m from the natural boundary.

Staff support the proposed variance and landscaping improvements, which will restore a significant coastal bluff ecosystem and improve the ecological function of the coastal area with no net loss of habitat.

For more information, see the Attachments.



### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Development Permit Application No. DP1080 proposes a watercourse setback variance to permit an outdoor kitchen and landscape alternations.
- The proposed landscape restoration plan includes invasive species removal and replanting with native species characteristic of the coastal bluff Garry oak landscape.
- The proposed restoration plan will significantly improve the coastal bluff ecosystem and will result in no net loss of habitat.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A: Permit Conditions
ATTACHMENT B: Location Plan
ATTACHMENT C: Landscape Plan

ATTACHMENT D: Environmental Assessment

ATTACHMENT E: Aerial Photo

### Submitted by:

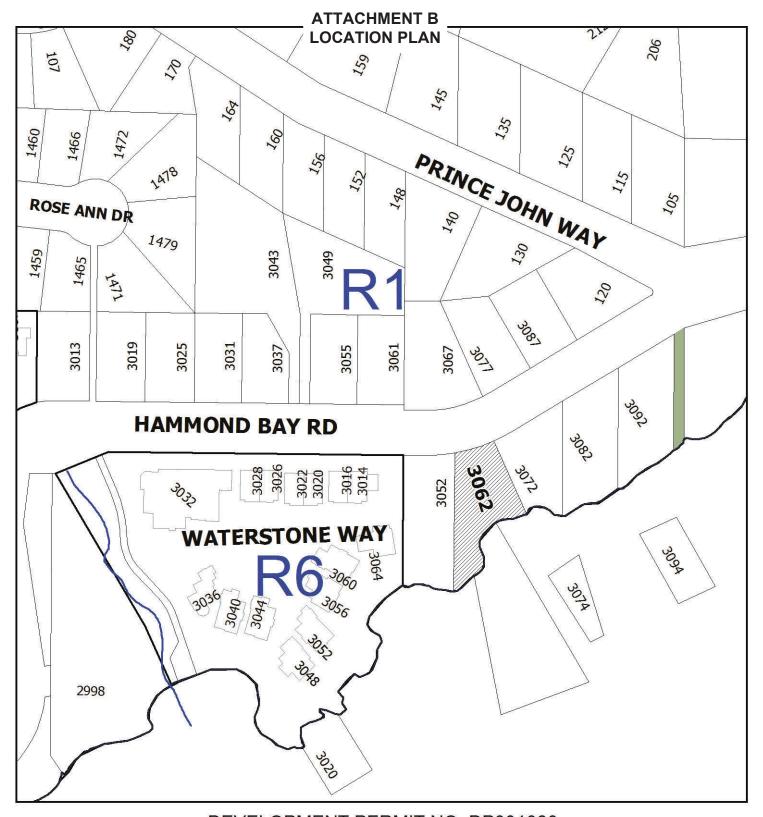
### Concurrence by:

L. Rowett, Manager Current Planning and Subdivision D. Lindsay, Director Community Development

# ATTACHMENT A PERMIT CONDITIONS

#### **CONDITIONS OF PERMIT**

- 1. The riparian area improvements shall be completed in substantial compliance with the Landscape Plan prepared by Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd. dated 2017-NOV-30 as shown on Attachment C.
- 2. A permanent fence shall be installed as per the landscape plan prepared by Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd. dated 2017-NOV-30 as shown on Attachment C.
- 3. The subject property shall be developed generally in accordance with the environmental assessment prepared by Toth and Associates Environmental Services dated 2017-NOV-30 as shown on Attachment D.
- 4. A landscape bond is required for 100% of the landscape estimate prepared by Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd., and contained in the Landscape Plan dated 2017-NOV-30 as shown on Attachment C.
- 5. A five-year maintenance period with two assessments per year is required. A certified letter of completion is required from the Qualified Environmental Professional at the end of the five-year maintenance period.
- 6. The applicant is to obtain the necessary provincial approvals for any improvements that are located within the foreshore area.



DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. DP001080

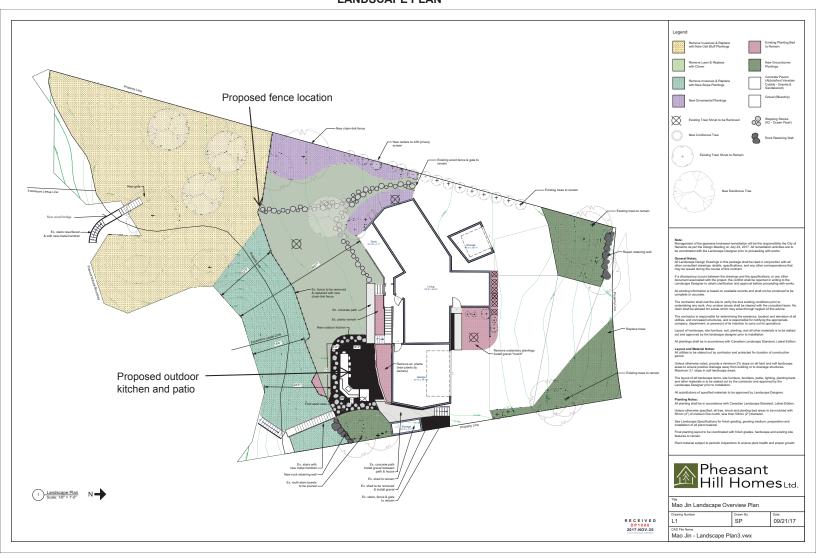


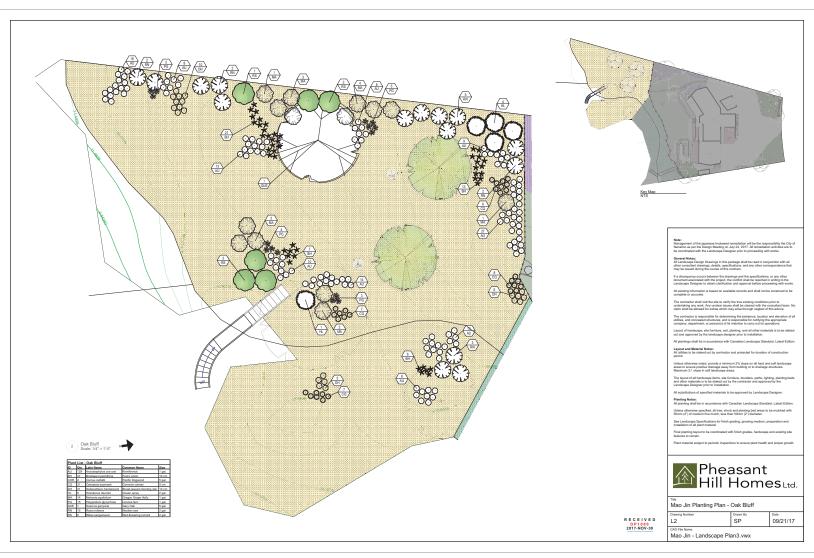
### **LOCATION PLAN**

Civic: 3062 Hammond Bay Road Lot 2, Section 9, Wellington District,

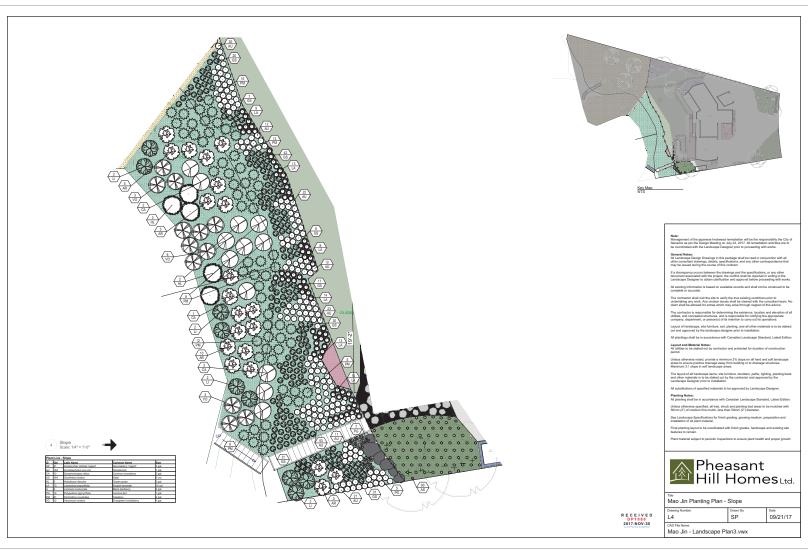
Plan 13866















### Mao Jin Landscape Estimate

12/4/2017

Project: Mao Jin Landscape							
Description	Details	Code		Estimate			
Demolition	Remove invasive plants and trees from aquatic set-back. Remove fence.	1250	\$	15,000			
Fence	New chain-link fence along south and west property lines.	2360	\$	9,000			
Landscaping	Supply and install plants, topsoil, mulch and pathways as specified in detailed landscape plan.	2350	\$	16,000			
Sub-total:			\$	40,000			
GST:			\$	2,000.00			
Total:			\$	42,000.00			

NOTE: This budget is offered for work to be performed on a "Cost-plus" basis, where builder mark-up and GST will be added to all actual costs. While every effort has been made to offer pricing that includes contingencies and adequate allowances, a few variables still exist which may affect final costs. Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd. will reduce costs where possible and improve finishes and update costs where desired by clients.

# ATTACHMENT D ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### Toth and Associates Environmental Services

6821 Harwood Drive, Lantzville, B.C. V0R 2H0

Tel: (250) 390-7602 E-mail: stoth@shaw.ca

November 30, 2017

### Sarah Plamondon

Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd. #101 - 5170 Dunster Road, Suite 524 Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4

Re: Environmental review of proposed redevelopment within the 15 m Coast Setback on 3062 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo (PID# 004-428-102).

### **Introduction**

I, Steve Toth, AScT, R.P.Bio. (Toth and Associates Environmental Services) conducted an assessment of potential environmental impacts and constraints associated with the proposed redevelopment of the 0.30 acre oceanfront property located at 3062 Hammond Bay Road (Figure 1) on January 17, 2017. A meeting with City staff was held on April 25, 2017 and a site meeting was held with City staff and the landowners on May 2, 2017. This report was revised on September 25, 2017 to reflect changes as a result of those meetings.

The current development proposal includes renovation of the existing older residence (Photograph 1) and modifications to the existing yard and landscaping. Section 6.3.1.2. of the City of Nanaimo's Zoning Bylaw (No. 4500, 2015) indicates that "the leave strip adjacent to the sea shall include that area between the water's edge and a perpendicular line inland 15 m from the natural boundary". The existing residence intrudes approximately 2.0 m within the 15 m Ocean setback at the southeast corner of the building with a total intrusion area calculated at 30 m² (Figure 2). All of the rear yard area is within the Coast setback.

### **Biophysical Setting**

The subject property is moderately steep with approximately 17% grade between Hammond Bay Road and the south edge of the rear yard, and a nearly vertical slope approximately 6 m in height between the southeast edge of the rear yard (Photograph 2) and present natural boundary (PNB) of the ocean (Photograph 3), transitioning to 3-4 m in the southwest corner of the property. The steep slope between the PNB of the ocean and the fence along the top of slope is heavily vegetated with Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), and invasive species including Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), and common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*).

Currently the property is treed with mixed age native Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), arbutus (*Arbutus menzeisii*) and Garry oak (*Quercus garryanus*) trees as well as several non-native trees including plum, apple and magnolia (likely *Liriodendron tulipifera*).

The southwest corner of the property contains a small area of Coastal Bluff ecosystem including mature Garry oak trees (Photograph 4), common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and tall Oregongrape (*Mahonia aquifolium*). The Coastal Bluff area also has a heavy infestation of introduced invasive plants (Photograph 5) including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Himalayan blackberry and spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*).

### **Development Proposal**

As part of the renovations, the landowners would like to undertake several projects within the 15 m Coast setback including:

- 1. repair two existing beach access stair cases and install new handrails;
- 2. replace the existing fence along the west property line with a new chain link fence;
- 3. replace the existing fence along the top of steep slope in the rear yard with a new chain link fence:
- 4. construct a new patio that will include an outdoor kitchen and foot wash area in the rear yard;
- 5. install a new rock retaining wall along the top of steep slope at the east side of the property to replace the failing one; and,
- 6. implement an extensive landscaping plan for the rear yard area including invasive plant species removal and revegetation according to the plan prepared by Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd.

The rear yard area (Photographs 1, 2 and 6) where the proposed outdoor kitchen / patio would be situated is currently composed of lawn. The area of the outdoor kitchen / patio is approximately 23 m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2). The patio would not require the removal of any native vegetation and would be constructed from pervious pavers and gravel.

The City of Nanaimo's Management and Protection of Trees Bylaw 2013 (No. 7126) allows a landowner to remove a tree, other than a significant tree from that owner's parcel of land, to a maximum total of four (4) trees in a calendar year. This exemption is void where a subdivision or other development permit has been applied for. It is my understanding that the proposed works will include removal of 3 small trees from the Coast setback area including two over-mature, non-producing fruit trees, and an introduced invasive black locust.

### **Invasive Plant Removal**

To compensate for the intrusion into the 15 m Coast setback caused by the outdoor kitchen / patio and achieve a "no net loss" of habitat the owners intend to remove invasive plant species within the Coast setback on the property, including the Coastal Bluff area in the southwest corner of the property and re-vegetate these areas with native species.

At the Design Review Meeting held with the City of Nanaimo on July 24, 2017, the City committed to undertaking or covering the cost of the removal of invasive plants located on the steep slope between the existing lawn and PNB. Special consideration to personal safety, handling and disposal is required when conducting invasive plant removal. The City of Nanaimo has produced an excellent publication on controlling invasive plants (including disposal) available at: http://www.nanaimo.ca/assets/Departments/Parks~Rec~Culture/Parks/invasive plants.pdf

### Revegetation

Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd. has provided a professional Landscape Plan for the property (Figure 3). The Landscape Plan includes a wide variety of native and non-native plant species suitable for Coastal Bluff ecosystems including 1,054 plants comprised of 27species (8 herbaceous species, 16 shrub species and 3 tree species). The list of plant species and quantities is indicated in Table 1.

Table 1. Proposed Revegetation Plant Species List and Quantities

Plant List - Oak Bluff							
ID	Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Size			
AU	129	Arctostaphylos uva ursi	Kinnikinnick	1 gal.			
BH	47	Brodiaea hyacinthina	Fool's onion	10 cm			
COR	2	Cornus nuttallii	Pacific Dogwood	5 gal.			
CQ	31	Camassia quamash	Common camas	9 cm			
DH	21	Dodecatheon hendersonii	Broad-leaved shooting star	10 cm			
HL	5	Holodiscus discolor	Ocean spray	2 gal.			
MA	14	Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon Grape Holly	1 gal.			
PG	15	Polypodium glycyrrhiza	Licorice fern	1 gal.			
QUE	1	Quercus garryana	Garry Oak	5 gal.			
RN	15	Rosa nutkana	Nootka rose	2 gal.			
RS	6	Ribes sanguineum	Red-flowering currant	2 gal.			
Plant List	Plant List - Ornamental						
ID	Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Size			
	Seed	Trifolium repens	Clover	1670 sq'			
THU	2	Thuja occidentalis 'pyramidalis'	Pyramid cedar	5 gal.			
RC	9	Rhododendron 'catawbiense album'	White catawba rhododendron	2 gal.			
RA	7	Rhododendron 'alena'	Rhododendron 'alena'	1 gal.			
MN	65	Mahonia nervosa	Dull Oregon-grape	1 gal.			
LA	55	Lavandula angustifolia	English lavender	10 cm			
LS	35	Leucanthemum × superbum	Shasta daisy	10 cm			
BH	8	Brodiaea hyacinthina	Fool's onion	10 cm			
EL	7	Eriophyllum lanatum	Woolly sunflower 9 c				
FIC	1	Ficus carica 'Desert King'	'Desert king' fig	5 gal.			
VO	6	Vaccinium ovatum	Evergreen huckleberry	1 gal.			
Plant List	- Slope						
ID	Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Size			
AR	21	Amelanchier alnfolia 'regent'	Serviceberry 'regent'	2 gal.			
AU	184	Arctostaphylos uva ursi	Kinnikinnick	1 gal.			
CA	12	Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry	2 gal.			
GS	184	Gaultheria shallon	Salal	9 cm			
HL	5	Holodiscus discolor	Ocean spray	2 gal.			
LA	73	Lavandula angustifolia	English lavender	10 cm			
LI	9	Lonicera involucrata	Black twinberry	2 gal.			
PG	12	Polypodium glycyrrhiza	Licorice fern	1 gal.			
PM	61	Pachistima myrsinites	Falsebox	2 gal.			
VO	12	Vaccinium ovatum	Evergreen huckleberry	1 gal.			

The number of plants indicated in the Landscape Plan should be considered preliminary. Currently the high density of invasive species present within the treatment area make it difficult to ascertain how many native plants may be present, and therefore how many additional native plants will be required.

### **Recommendations**

I recommend that an assessment of the treatment area be conducted immediately following removal of invasive plants to determine an accurate number of new plantings required.

Vegetation maintenance will be as detailed in Pheasant Hill Homes Ltd's Landscape Plan Project Specifications, and includes initial maintenance of exterior landscape work to be completed on a regular basis by a Contractor for a period of one (1) year followed by preventative maintenance on a bi-annual basis for an additional minimum of four (4) years.

### **Conclusions**

The problems with the existing vegetation cover relate to historic planting / colonization of invasive species and a lack of recent maintenance (i.e. pruning, thinning, shaping and removal of over mature specimens and invasive species). The removal of invasive species (i.e. Japanese knotweed, Himalayan blackberry, St. John's wort, periwinkle, spurge laurel and others) should begin with an aggressive campaign to significantly reduce the occurrence of these species on the property. However, it is acknowledged that due to the presence of infestations on adjacent properties and the high densities of invasive species on the subject property, total eradication of these invasive species is not likely to be achieved in a single growing season, and therefore invasive species removal must form part of an ongoing vegetation maintenance program for the property.

Repairs to the two existing beach access stair cases are required primarily to provide safe access to the beach and will not represent new development footprints or additional environmental impacts within the Coast setback.

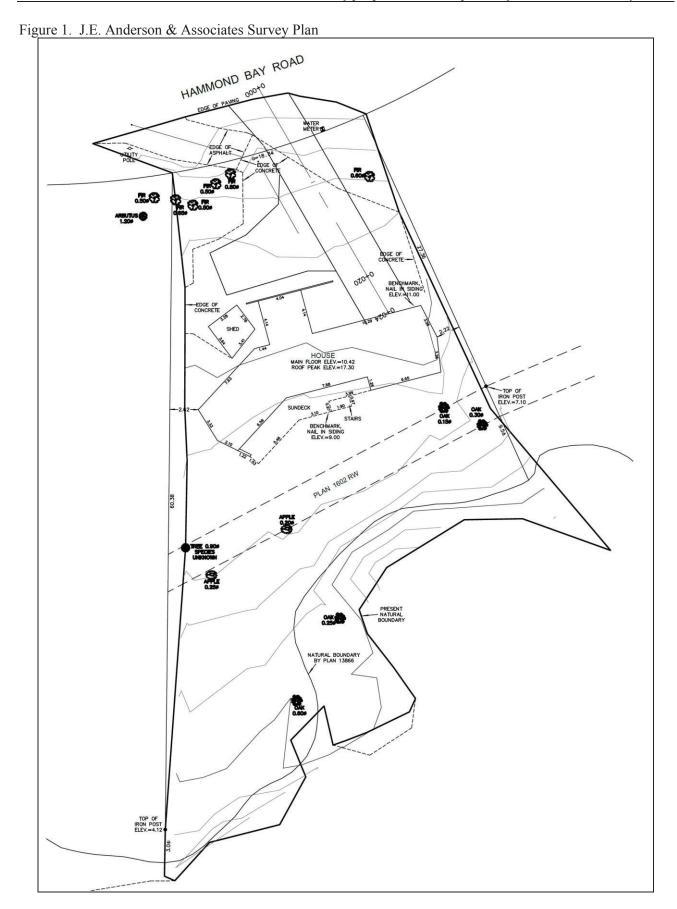
Based on my assessment of the current conditions within the Coast setback on the property and review of the proposed works within the Coast setback under the current development plan, it is my conclusion that the proposed Landscape Plan will result in significant improvements in the ecological function / vegetation conditions within the Coast setback. I would consider these improvements to be more than adequate compensation for the small area of footprint / disturbance associated with the proposed outdoor kitchen and rock retaining wall replacement.

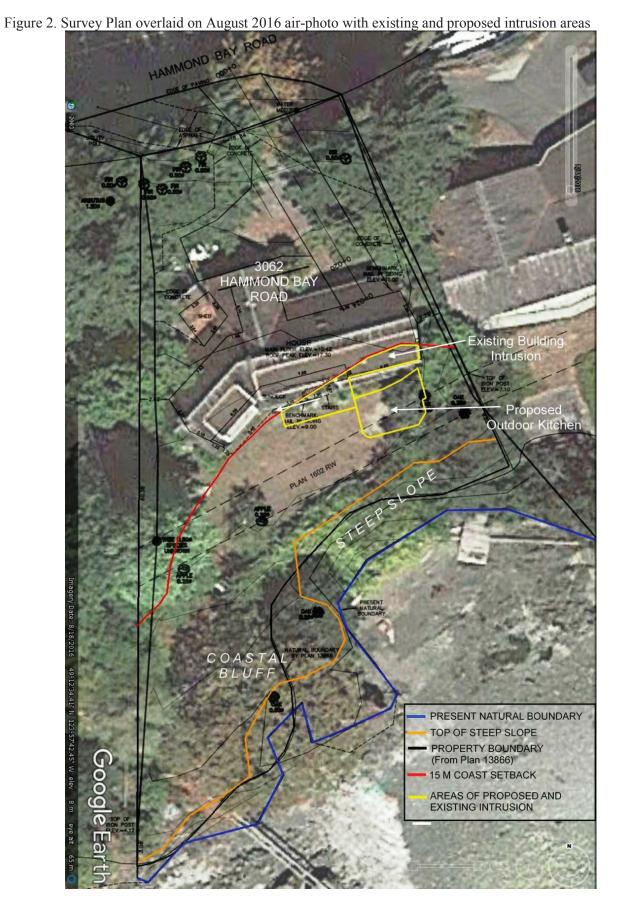
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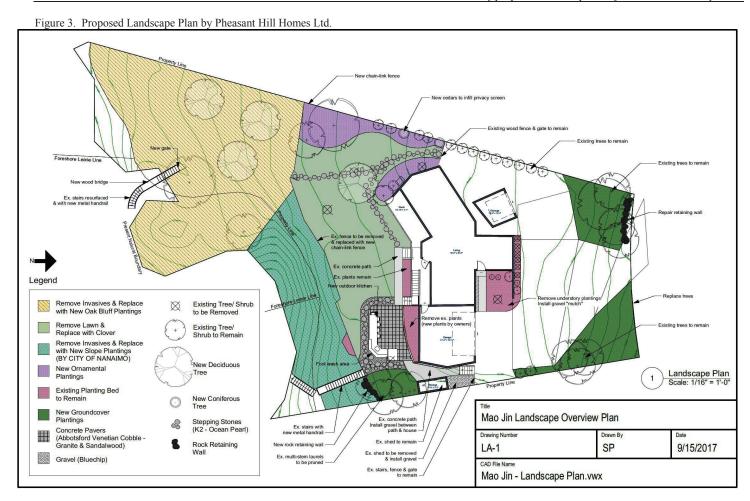
Sincerely,

Steve Toth, AScT, R.P.Bio.

**Toth and Associates Environmental Services** 









Photograph 1. View west through the rear yard area.



Photograph 2. View west through rear yard showing existing fence along the top of steep slope.



Photograph 3. View of dense shrub plant community growing on steep slope along the PNB.



Photograph 4. View west from beach to mature Garry oak on Coastal Bluff.



Photograph 5. View of infestation of St. John's wort in Coastal Bluff area.



Photograph 6. View east through rear yard to proposed outdoor kitchen area.

# ATTACHMENT E AERIAL PHOTO



DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. DP001080

