



City of Stevenson

Nick Hogan, City Administrator

Phone (509)427-5970
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7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

Greg Stafford
291 NW Roosevelt St
Stevenson, WA 98648

December 9, 2016

Re: Cottonwood tree

Dear Mr. Stafford,

I received your letter dated December 6, 2016, regarding the cottonwood tree felled by the City of Stevenson onto School District property adjacent to your property. I also received a copy of the complaint you filed yesterday with the Department of Ecology.

As you know, the City felled the tree due to root damage caused by an emergency water line repair in the immediate area. I spoke to the Department of Ecology about how best to address the tree and whether or not to remove it from the area. The Department of Ecology advised us that it is ecologically desirable to leave felled trees to decay naturally in the woods whenever possible, and to disturb areas as little as possible. They asked that we return to the site and remove any branches that are in or close to the water, which we will do. We will remove any branches that are in the water or close to the high-water mark to ensure no disruption to water flow.

I'm sorry that you are dissatisfied with this decision, but I want to assure you that City staff are not laughing about your complaint as you reported to the Department of Ecology. We took your concern seriously and spent a significant amount of time researching the issue with professionals to learn the best way to deal with the felled cottonwood. At this time, we plan to follow the advice received from the Department of Ecology as described above.

Sincerely,
Nick Hogan
City Administrator