



DATE: October 4, 2018

TO: SEAW Earthquake Engineering Committee and Structural Design Engineers

FROM: Gregg Schrader, PE, SE, Building Official, City of Bellevue Development Services Department

RE: **Incorporation of Basin Effects**
Washington State Building Code Seismic Amendments
Structural Height Limit for SRCSW SFRS – 240 vs. 265 feet

Incorporation of Basin Effects

Effective December 1, 2018, consistent with the City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) effective date, all building designs utilizing site-specific ground motion procedures shall incorporate basin effects in accordance with the attached policy.

Washington State Building Code Seismic Amendments

Effective January 1, 2019, based on vesting of a complete building permit application, the attached State of Washington building code amendments to the 2015 IBC and ASCE 7-10 will apply. These changes were approved September 14, 2018 by the State Building Code Council. These amendments were discussed at the Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW) statewide Earthquake Engineering Committee meetings and are in alignment with the amendments adopted by the City of Seattle with the 2015 codes.

Structural Height Limit

Effective immediately, the City of Bellevue does not follow the City of Seattle Director's Rule 5-2015 which allows the maximum structural height of a prescriptively designed Special Reinforced Concrete Shear Wall (SRCSW) seismic force-resisting system (SFRS) to increase from 240 feet to 265 feet without engaging a Performance-Based Design process.

If you have questions, please contact:

Kai Ki Mow, PE, SE
425-452-5251
KMow@bellevuewa.gov