

# REPORT

## GEOLOGIC HAZARDS RECONNAISSANCE

### SILVER BELL ESTATES LOT 63

### NORDIC VALLEY DRIVE AND VIKING DRIVE

### EDEN, WEBER COUNTY, UTAH



*Prepared for*

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August 22, 2017

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**SUBJECT:** Geologic Hazards Reconnaissance  
Silver Bell Estates Lot 63  
Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
Eden, Weber County, Utah

Dear Ms. Crook:

This report presents results of an engineering geology and geologic hazards review and evaluation conducted by Western GeoLogic, LLC (Western GeoLogic) for Lot 63 in the Silver Bell Estates Subdivision in unincorporated Weber County, Utah, Utah (Figure 1 – Project Location). The Project consists of a 2.1-acre parcel identified as Weber County Assessor's parcel number 22-036-0001. The parcel is not currently addressed, but is southeast of the intersection of Nordic Valley and Viking Drives. The site is at the eastern base of the Wasatch Range, at the southern end of Nordic Valley on the northwestern margin of Ogden Valley in the SE1/4 Section 32, Township 7 North, Range 1 East (Salt Lake Base Line and Meridian; Figure 1). Elevation of the site ranges from about 5,560 feet to 5,680 feet above sea level. It is our understanding that the property is currently part of real estate transaction and there are currently no formalized development plans.

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose and scope of this investigation is to identify and interpret surficial geologic conditions at the site to identify potential risk from geologic hazards to the Project. This investigation is intended to: (1) provide preliminary geologic information and assessment of geologic conditions at the site; (2) identify potential geologic hazards that may be present and qualitatively assess their risk to the intended site use; and (3) provide recommendations for additional site- and hazard-specific studies or mitigation measures, as may be needed based on our findings. Such recommendations could require further multi-disciplinary evaluations, and/or may need design criteria that are beyond our professional scope. No hazard-specific evaluations or subsurface exploration were conducted for this report or within the scope of our study.

The following services were performed in accordance with the above stated purpose and scope:

- A site reconnaissance conducted by an experienced certified engineering geologist to assess the site setting and look for adverse geologic conditions;

- Review of readily-available geologic maps, reports, and air photos; and
- Evaluation of available data and preparation of this report, which presents the results of our study.

The engineering geology section of this report has been prepared in accordance with Bowman and Lund (2016) and current generally accepted professional engineering geologic principles and practice in Utah, and meets specifications provided in Chapter 27 of the Weber County Land Use Code within the above stated scope. We do not include discussion of radon hazard potential, as recommended in Bowman and Lund (2016), because radon gas poses an environmental health hazard and indoor levels are heavily influenced by several post-construction, non-geologic factors. The hazard from radon should be evaluated by long-term testing following construction.

## HYDROLOGY

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map of the Huntsville Quadrangle shows the site is on the western margin of Ogden Valley on slopes northeast of the mouth of Pole Canyon Creek overlooking the southern end of Nordic Valley (Figure 1). Pole Canyon Creek flows to the north along the eastern Project boundary. Nordic Valley Ski Area is about 0.7 miles to the northwest. Other than Pole Canyon Creek on the eastern site margin, no active drainages are shown crossing the site on Figure 1, and no springs or seeps were observed at the site or are shown in the site area on Figure 1.

The site is the western margin of Ogden Valley about 1.3 miles northwest of the north arm of Pineview Reservoir. The valley bottoms to the east are dominated by unconsolidated lacustrine and alluvial basin-fill deposits, whereas slopes bounding the east side of Nordic Valley are in Tertiary-age tuffaceous bedrock and slopes on the west are in Paleozoic Maple Canyon Formation bedrock. Both bedrock units are a source for numerous landslides in the area that have occurred since Late Pleistocene time. No site-specific groundwater information was available for the Project, but the Utah Division of Water Rights Well Driller Database shows three nearby water wells (Figure 1) with reported depths to static groundwater of 34 to 75 feet. Given the above, we anticipate the depth to groundwater at the Project is generally greater than 30 feet; however, areas within 50 feet of Pole Canyon Creek may have shallower depths, and groundwater depths at the site also likely vary seasonally from snowmelt runoff and annually from climatic fluctuations. Such variations would be typical for an alpine environment. Perched conditions above less-permeable, clay-rich bedrock layers may also be present in the subsurface that could cause locally shallower groundwater levels.

Avery (1994) indicates groundwater in Ogden Valley occurs under perched, confined, and unconfined conditions in the valley fill to depths of 750 feet or more. A well-stratified lacustrine silt layer forms a leaky confining bed in the upper part of the valley-fill aquifer. The aquifer below the confining beds is the principal aquifer, which is in primarily fluvial and alluvial-fan deposits. The principal aquifer is recharged from precipitation, seepage from surface water, and subsurface inflow from bedrock into valley fill along the valley margins (Avery, 1994). The

confined aquifer is typically overlain by a shallow, unconfined aquifer recharged from surface flow and upward leakage. Groundwater flow is generally from the valley margins into the valley fill, and then toward the head of Ogden Canyon (Avery, 1994). Based on topography, we expect groundwater flow at the site to be to the northeast.

## GEOLOGY

### Surficial Geology

The site is located on the northwestern margin of Ogden Valley, a sediment-filled intermontane valley within the Wasatch Range, a major north-south trending mountain range marking the eastern boundary of the Basin and Range physiographic province (Stokes; 1977, 1986). Surficial geology of the site is mapped by Coogan and King (2016; Figure 2) as mainly Pleistocene-age alluvial-fan deposits (units Qafb and Qafp), with a narrow area of Holocene- to Pleistocene-age debris- and mud-flow deposits along Pole Canyon Creek (unit Qmdf).

Coogan and King (2016) describe surficial geologic units in the site area on Figure 2 as follows:

***Qal, Qal1, Qal2, Qal2?** – Stream alluvium and flood-plain deposits (Holocene and uppermost Pleistocene).* Sand, silt, clay, and gravel in channels, flood plains, and terraces typically less than 16 feet (5 m) above river and stream level; moderately sorted; unconsolidated; along the same drainage Qal2 is lower than Qat2 and has likely been subject to flooding, at least prior to dam building; present in broad plains along the Bear, Ogden, and Weber Rivers and larger tributaries like Deep, Cottonwood, East Canyon, Lost, and Saleratus Creeks, along Box Elder, Heiners, and Yellow Creeks, and in narrower plains of larger tributary streams; locally includes muddy, organic overbank and oxbow lake deposits; composition depends on source area, so in back valleys typically contains many quartzite cobbles recycled from the Wasatch Formation; mostly Holocene, but deposited after regression of Lake Bonneville from the late Pleistocene Provo shoreline; width in Morgan Valley is combined flood plain of Weber River and East Canyon and Deep Creeks; 6 to 20 feet (2-6 m) thick and possibly as much as 50 feet (15 m) along Weber River and thinner in the Kaysville quadrangle; greater thicknesses (>50 feet [15 m]) are reported in Morgan Valley (Utah Division of Water Rights, well drilling database), but likely include Lake Bonneville and older Pleistocene deposits.

Suffixes 1 and 2 indicate ages where they can be separated, with 1 including active channels and 2 including low terraces 10 to 20 feet (3-6 m) above the Weber and Ogden Rivers, and the South Fork Ogden River that may have been in the flood plain prior to damming of these waterways. Qal2 queried in low terraces above Bear River, Saleratus Creek, and Dry Creek where deposits may not be in the flood plain.

***Qaf, Qafy, Qaf3, Qaf3?, Qaf4, Qaf4?, Qaf5*** – *Alluvial-fan deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene)*. Mostly sand, silt, and gravel that is poorly bedded and poorly sorted and that is not close to late Pleistocene Lake Bonneville and is geographically in the Huff Creek and upper Bear River drainages; variably consolidated; includes debris flows, particularly in drainages and at drainage mouths (fan heads); generally less than 60 feet (18 m) thick. Qaf with no suffix used where age uncertain or for composite fans where portions of fans with multiple ages cannot be shown separately at map scale; toes of some fans have been removed by human disturbances, so their age cannot be determined.

Where possible, subdivided into relative ages, indicated by letter and number suffixes (like Qa and Qat suffixes) and relative ages only apply to the local drainage, with unit Qafy being the lowest (youngest) fans and unit 3 may or may not post-date Lake Bonneville. Relative ages of these fans are partly based on heights above present drainages at drainage-eroded edge of fan. The relative age is queried where the age is uncertain, generally due to the height not fitting into the typical order of surfaces. The various deposits listed, Qafy and Qaf3 through Qaf5, are 20 to 140 feet (6-40 m) above and west of Saleratus Creek, and also above Yellow Creek and the Bear River. Qafy fans are active, impinge on present-day floodplains, divert active streams, and overlie low terraces.

***Qafp, Qafp?, Qafb, Qafb?, Qafpb, Qafpb?*** – *Lake Bonneville-age alluvial-fan deposits (upper Pleistocene)*. Like undivided alluvial fans, but height above present drainages appears to be related to shorelines of Lake Bonneville and is within certain limits (see table 1); these fans are inactive, unconsolidated to weakly consolidated, and locally dissected; fans labeled Qafp and Qafb are related to the Provo (and slightly lower) and Bonneville shorelines of late Pleistocene Lake Bonneville, respectively, while unit Qafpb is used where fans may be related to the Provo or Bonneville shoreline (for example Qafpb is ~40 feet [12 m] above Lost Creek Valley), or where fans of different ages cannot be shown separately at map scale; Qafp fans typically contain well-rounded, recycled Lake Bonneville gravel and sand and are moderately well sorted; generally 10 to less than 60 feet (3-18 m) thick. Lake Bonneville-age fans are queried where relative age is uncertain (see Qaf for details); fans labeled Qafpb? are above the Bonneville shoreline and might be Qafo or like Qafm; see the note under Qao about two possible ages of older alluvium (Qao, Qato, and Qafo).

Most of the Lake Bonneville-age fans in the James Peak quadrangle are far from the Bonneville shoreline and their age is inferred from their stratigraphic relationship(s) to coeval Pinedale glacial outwash (see age equality in Table 3).

The channels (Qafp/Qdlb) on the Weber River delta and Lake Bonneville fines (Qafp on Qlfb) probably record scour and fill during the rapid drawdown of the lake as it fell from the Bonneville shoreline to the Provo shoreline.

***Qap, Qap?, Qab, Qab?, Qapb*** – *Lake Bonneville-age alluvium (upper Pleistocene)*. Like undivided alluvium but height above present drainages appears to be related to shorelines of Lake Bonneville and is within certain limits, and unconsolidated to weakly consolidated; alluvium labeled Qap and Qab is related to Provo (and slightly lower) and Bonneville shorelines of Lake Bonneville (at ~4800 to 4840 feet [1463-1475 m] and 5180 feet [1580 m] in Morgan Valley), respectively; suffixes partly based on heights above adjacent drainages near Morgan Valley (see tables 1 and 2); Qap is typically about 15 to 40 feet (5-12 m) above present adjacent drainages, but is locally 45 feet (12 m) above; Qapb is used where more exact age cannot be determined, typically away from Lake Bonneville, or where alluvium of different ages cannot be shown separately at map scale; Qap is up to about 50 feet (15 m) thick, with Qapb and Qab, at least locally up to 40 and 90 feet (12 and 27 m) thick, respectively. Queried where classification or relative age uncertain (see Qa).

A prominent surface (“bench”) is present on Qap and Qatp at about 4900 feet (1494 m) elevation and about 25 to 40 feet (8-12 m) above the Weber River in Morgan Valley and along the South Fork Ogden River.

In the Devils Slide quadrangle, the Qab that is mapped about 80 to 95 feet (24-29 m) above Round Valley and 40 to 50 feet (12-15 m) above adjacent drainages at the mouth of Geary Hollow appears unique. Based on heights above adjacent drainages, these deposits would be Qao (see table 1), but similar alluvial deposits to the east near Phil Shop Hollow have a Bonneville shoreline cut in them and are much thinner than 40 feet (12 m). The lack of a Bonneville shoreline, and small thickness and heights above drainages indicate the deposits could be a Bonneville shoreline fan-delta.

***Qmdf, Qmdf?*** – *Debris- and mud-flow deposits (Holocene and upper and middle? Pleistocene)*. Very poorly sorted, clay- to boulder-sized material in unstratified deposits characterized by rubbly surface and debris-flow levees with channels, lobes, and mounding; variably vegetated; in drainages typically form mounds, an indication of more viscous Qmdf, rather than being flat like unit Qac; Qmdf queried where may not be mostly debris- and mud-flow deposits; many debris flows cannot be shown separately from alluvial fans at map scale; 0 to 40 feet (0-12 m) thick. Age(s) uncertain; deposits in drainages likely post-date the Provo shoreline of Lake Bonneville, while deposits above drainages, like north of the Right Hand Fork Peterson Creek, are likely as old as Bull Lake glaciation, but could pre-date Bull Lake glaciation and be middle Pleistocene.

***Qms, Qms?, Qmsy, Qmsy?, Qmso, Qmso?*** – *Landslide deposits (Holocene and upper and middle? Pleistocene)*. Poorly sorted clay- to boulder sized material; includes slides, slumps, and locally flows and floods; generally characterized by hummocky topography, main and internal scarps, and chaotic bedding in displaced blocks; composition depends on local sources; morphology becomes more subdued with time and amount of water in material during emplacement; Qms may be in contact with Qms when landslides are different/distinct; thickness highly variable, up to about 20

to 30 feet (6-9 m) for small slides, and 80 to 100 feet (25-30 m) thick for larger landslides. Qmsy and Qmso queried where relative age uncertain; Qms queried where classification uncertain. Numerous landslides are too small to show at map scale and more detailed maps shown in the index to geologic mapping should be examined.

Qms without a suffix is mapped where the age is uncertain (though likely Holocene and/or late Pleistocene), where portions of slide complexes have different ages but cannot be shown separately at map scale, or where boundaries between slides of different ages are not distinct. Estimated time of emplacement is indicated by relative-age letter suffixes with: Qmsy mapped where landslides deflect streams or failures are in Lake Bonneville deposits, and scarps are variably vegetated; Qmso typically mapped where deposits are “perched” above present drainages, rumped morphology typical of mass movements has been diminished, and/or younger surficial deposits cover or cut Qmso. Lower perched Qmso deposits are at Qao heights above drainages (95 ka and older) and the higher perched deposits may correlate with high level alluvium (QTa<sub>1</sub>) (likely older than 780 ka) (see table 1). Suffixes y and o indicate probable Holocene and Pleistocene ages, respectively, with all Qmso likely emplaced before Lake Bonneville transgression. These older deposits are as unstable as other slides, and are easily reactivated with the addition of water, be it irrigation or septic tank drain fields.

***Qls, Qls?, Qlsp, Qlsb, Qlsb?*** – *Lake Bonneville sand (upper Pleistocene)*. Mostly sand with some silt and gravel deposited nearshore below and near the Provo shoreline (Qlsp) and between the Provo and Bonneville shorelines (Qlsb); Qls mapped downslope from slope break below Provo shoreline beach deposits where thin Lake Bonneville regression sand may overlie transgression sand; grades downslope into unit Qlf with decreasing sand content and laterally with more gravel into units Qdlp, Qdlb, and upslope with more gravel into unit Qlgb; Qls and Qlsb queried where grain size or unit identification uncertain; may be as much as 75 feet (25 m) thick, and thickest near Ogden; typically less than 20 feet (6 m) thick in Morgan Valley; may include small deltas and deltas that lack typical delta shape.

***Qla, Qla?*** – *Lake Bonneville lacustrine deposits and post- and pre-Lake Bonneville alluvial deposits, undivided (Holocene and upper? Pleistocene)*. Mostly poorly sorted and poorly bedded sand, silt, and clay, with some gravel; mapped where Lake Bonneville deposits are reworked by later stream action or covered by thin stream and fan deposits, and where lake deposits are thin and overlie older alluvial deposits; unit queried where may be dominantly alluvium; deposits typically eroded from shallow Norwood Formation; mostly mapped near Bonneville shoreline; also mapped in Peterson quadrangle along upper Deep Creek above Bonneville shoreline where lake deposits seem to indicate landslide dam of creek; thickness uncertain.

***Tn, Tn?*** – *Norwood Formation (lower Oligocene and upper Eocene)*. Typically light-gray to light-brown altered tuff (claystone), altered tuffaceous siltstone and sandstone, and conglomerate; unaltered tuff, present in type section south of Morgan, is rare;

locally colored light shades of red and green; variable calcareous cement and zeolitization; involved in numerous landslides of various sizes; estimate 2000-foot (600 m) thick in exposures on west side of Ogden Valley (based on bedding dip, outcrop width, and topography). Norwood Formation queried where poor exposures may actually be surficial deposits. For detailed Norwood Formation information see description under heading “Sub-Willard Thrust - Ogden Canyon Area” since most of this unit is in and near Morgan Valley and covers the Willard thrust, Ogden Canyon, and Durst Mountain areas.

**Zmcg, Zmcg?** – *Maple Canyon Formation, Lower (green arkose) member (Neoproterozoic)*. Grayish-green, fine-grained arkosic (feldspathic) meta-sandstone and sandy argillite (meta-graywacke), with local quartzite lenses up to 200 feet (60 m) thick; weathers darker gray to brown to greenish-gray and greenish-brown; 500 to 1000 feet (150-305 m) thick and lower thickness would eliminate the need for faulting in southwest part of Huntsville quadrangle. This unit is prone to slope failures.

**Zpu, Zpu?** – *Formation of Perry Canyon, Upper member (Neoproterozoic)*. Olive drab to gray, thin-bedded slate to argillite to phyllite to micaceous meta-siltstone to meta-graywacke to meta-sandstone in variable proportions such that unit looks like both the “greywacke-sandstone” and “mudstone” members of previous workers; unit identification based on underlying diamictite in Mantua quadrangle; rare meta-gritstone and meta-diamictite (actually conglomerate?); locally schistose; meta-sandstone contains poorly sorted lithic, quartz, and feldspar grains in silty to micaceous matrix; meta-sandstone is quartzose in outcrops on west margin of Mantua quadrangle (Crittenden and Sorensen, 1985a) and medial zone of sandstone is feldspathic east of Ogden Valley, where mapped and described as argillite member of Maple Canyon Formation by Crittenden (1972) and Sorensen and Crittenden (1979); thickness uncertain, but appears to be about 600 feet (180 m) thick on west flank of Grizzly Peak in the Mantua quadrangle and about 1000 feet (300 m) thick between Ogden Canyon and North Ogden divide. In Ogden Valley typically non-resistant and tan weathering such that gray to green to dark-gray fresh color is seldom seen except in cut slopes and excavations. This unit is prone to slope failures.

*Citations, tables, and figures above are not provided herein, but are in Coogan and King (2016).*

### **Seismotectonic Setting**

The property is located at the western margin of Ogden Valley, a roughly 40 square-mile back valley described by Gilbert (1928) as a structural trough similar to Cache and Morgan Valleys to the north and south, respectively. The back valleys of the northern Wasatch Range are in a transition zone between the Basin and Range and Middle Rocky Mountains provinces (Stokes, 1977, 1986). The Basin and Range is characterized by a series of generally north-trending elongate mountain ranges, separated by predominately alluvial and lacustrine sediment-filled valleys and typically bounded on one or both sides by major



normal faults (Stewart, 1978). The boundary between the Basin and Range and Middle Rocky Mountains provinces is the prominent, west-facing escarpment along the Wasatch fault zone at the base of the Wasatch Range. Late Cenozoic normal faulting, a characteristic of the Basin and Range, began between about 17 and 10 million years ago in the Nevada (Stewart, 1980) and Utah (Anderson, 1989) portions of the province. The faulting is a result of a roughly east-west directed, regional extensional stress regime that has continued to the present (Zoback and Zoback, 1989; Zoback, 1989). The back valleys are morphologically similar to valleys in the Basin and Range, but exhibit less structural relief (Sullivan and others 1988).

Ogden Valley occupies a structural trough created by up to 2,000 feet of vertical displacement on normal faults bounding the east and west sides of the valley. The Ogden Valley southwestern margin fault (Black and others, 2003) is mapped on Figure 2 near the southwest corner of the Project. However, the most recent movement on this fault is pre-Holocene (Sullivan and others, 1986). The fault is concealed where mantled by Late Pleistocene and Holocene surficial deposits (Figure 2, dashed and dotted bold lines). Norwood Formation mapped in the site area (Figure 2, unit Tn) likely represents an in-place faulted block preserved between the faults (Jon King, Utah Geological Survey, verbal communication, February 29, 2016).

The site is also situated near the central portion of the Intermountain Seismic Belt (ISB). The ISB is a north-south-trending zone of historical seismicity along the eastern margin of the Basin and Range province which extends for approximately 900 miles from northern Arizona to northwestern Montana (Sbar and others, 1972; Smith and Sbar, 1974). At least 16 earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater have occurred within the ISB since 1850, with the largest of these events the  $M_S$  7.5 1959 Hebgen Lake, Montana earthquake. However, none of these events have occurred along the Wasatch fault zone or other known late Quaternary faults in the region (Arabasz and others, 1992; Smith and Arabasz, 1991). The closest of these events to the site was the 1934 Hansel Valley ( $M_S$  6.6) event north of the Great Salt Lake and south of the town of Snowville.

### **Lake Bonneville History**

Lakes occupied nearly 100 basins in the western United States during late-Quaternary time, the largest of which was Lake Bonneville in northwestern Utah. The Bonneville basin consists of several topographically closed basins created by regional extension in the Basin and Range (Gwynn, 1980; Miller, 1990), and has been an area of internal drainage for much of the past 15 million years. Lake Bonneville consisted of numerous topographically closed basins, including the Salt Lake and Cache Valleys (Oviatt and others, 1992). Portions of Ogden Valley were inundated by Lake Bonneville at its highstand. Sediments from Lake Bonneville are not mapped at the site, but are shown at lower elevations to the east and northeast on Figure 2.

Timing of events related to the transgression and regression of Lake Bonneville is indicated by calendar age estimates of significant radiocarbon dates in the Bonneville Basin (Oviatt, 2015). Approximately 30,000 years ago, Lake Bonneville began a slow transgression (rise)

to its highest level of 5,160 to 5,200 feet above mean sea level. The lake rise eventually slowed as water levels approached an external basin threshold in northern Cache Valley at Red Rock Pass near Zenda, Idaho. Lake Bonneville reached the Red Rock Pass threshold and occupied its highest shoreline, termed the Bonneville beach, around 18,000 years ago. During the transgression and highstand, major drainages that emanate from within the Wasatch Range (such as the Weber River) formed large deltaic complexes in the lake at their canyon mouths. Headward erosion of the Snake River-Bonneville basin drainage divide then caused a catastrophic incision of the threshold and the lake level lowered by roughly 360 feet in fewer than two months (Jarrett and Malde, 1987; O'Conner, 1993). The Project is above the elevation for the lake highstand.

Following the Bonneville flood, the lake stabilized and formed a lower shoreline referred to as the Provo shoreline between about 16,500 and 15,000 years ago. Climatic factors then caused the lake to regress rapidly from the Provo shoreline, and by about 13,000 years ago the lake had eventually dropped below historic levels of Great Salt Lake. Oviatt and others (1992) deem this low stage the end of the Bonneville lake cycle. Great Salt Lake then experienced a brief transgression around 11,600 years ago to the Gilbert level at about 4,250 feet before receding to and remaining within about 20 feet of its historic average level (Lund, 1990). Drainages that fed Lake Bonneville began downcutting through stranded deltaic complexes and near-shore deposits as the lake receded.

## SITE CHARACTERIZATION

### **Empirical Observations**

On August 14, 2017, Mr. Bill D. Black of Western GeoLogic conducted a reconnaissance of the property. Weather at the time of the site reconnaissance was partly cloudy with temperatures in the 70's (°F). The site is at the western margin of Ogden Valley on heavily vegetated northeast-facing slopes overlooking the upper (southern) part of Nordic Valley. Pole Canyon Creek flows northward along the eastern boundary of the site. Native vegetation appeared to consist of heavy oak brush and grasses. Pole Canyon Creek was flowing at a very low flow level at the time of the reconnaissance. No other active streams, springs, or seeps were observed, and no bedrock outcrops were evident at the site or in adjacent slopes. Surficial soils appeared to consist of gravelly clayey sand to clayey sandy gravel (SM/GM) with scattered cobbles. Slopes in the upper western part of the site are steep and show about a 2:1 (horizontal:vertical) gradient, whereas the eastern half has gentler 4:1 to 6:1 slopes. No evidence for recent or ongoing slope instability, debris flows, active surface faulting, or other geologic hazards was observed.

### **Air Photo Observations**

Black and white aerial photography from 1997, 1-meter bare earth DEM LIDAR from 2011, and orthophotography from 2012 available from the Utah AGRC were reviewed to obtain information about the geomorphology of the Project area (Figures 3A-C, respectively). The Project is on an alluvial fan contemporaneous with late Pleistocene Lake Bonneville that was downcut by Pole Canyon Creek following the lake retreat. The creek

flows northward along the eastern boundary of the site and has a floodplain extending further east. Areas along the drainage are heavily vegetated. The canyon mouth is about 1,700 feet to the southwest of the property. Debris flows and floods generated in the drainage basin are deposited at the canyon mouth and downstream, although the depositional pattern has likely varied. No debris flow levees or depositional features were evident at the Project. Given the above, Holocene flows generated in the drainage basin may be deposited well before they reach the Project. No other evidence of geologic hazards was observed on the air photos in the site area.

## GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Assessment of potential geologic hazards and the resulting risks imposed is critical in determining the suitability of the site for development. Table 1 below shows a summary of the geologic hazards reviewed at the site, as well as a relative (qualitative) assessment of risk to the Project for each hazard. A “high” hazard rating (H) indicates a hazard is present at the site (whether currently or in the geologic past) that is likely to pose significant risk and/or may require further study or mitigation techniques. A “moderate” hazard rating (M) indicates a hazard that poses an equivocal risk. Moderate-risk hazards may also require further studies or mitigation. A “low” hazard rating (L) indicates the hazard is not present, poses little or no risk, and/or is not likely to significantly impact the Project. Low-risk hazards typically require no additional studies or mitigation. We note that these hazard ratings represent a conservative assessment for the entire site and risk may vary in some areas. Careful selection of development areas can minimize risk by avoiding known hazard areas.

**Table 1.** *Geologic hazards summary.*

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>...Hazard Rating</b>
<b>Earthquake Ground Shaking</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Surface Fault Rupture</b>			<b>X</b>	
<b>Liquefaction and Lateral-spread Ground Failure</b>			<b>X</b>	
<b>Tectonic Deformation</b>			<b>X</b>	
<b>Seismic Seiche and Storm Surge</b>			<b>X</b>	
<b>Stream Flooding</b>		<b>X</b>		
<b>Shallow Groundwater</b>		<b>X</b>		
<b>Landslides and Slope Failures</b>		<b>X</b>		
<b>Debris Flows and Floods</b>		<b>X</b>		
<b>Rock Fall</b>			<b>X</b>	
<b>Problem Soil</b>			<b>X</b>	

### Earthquake Ground Shaking

Ground shaking refers to the ground surface acceleration caused by seismic waves generated during an earthquake. Strong ground motion is likely to present a significant risk during moderate to large earthquakes located within a 60 mile radius of the project area (Boore and others, 1993). Seismic sources include mapped active faults, as well as a random or “floating” earthquake source on faults not evident at the surface. Mapped active faults within this distance include the East and West Cache fault zones; the Brigham City, Weber, Salt Lake, and Provo segments of the Wasatch fault zone; the East Great Salt Lake fault zone; the Morgan fault; the West Valley fault zone; the Oquirrh fault zone; and the Bear River fault zone (Black and others, 2003).

The extent of property damage and loss of life due to ground shaking depends on factors such as: (1) proximity of the earthquake and strength of seismic waves at the surface (horizontal motions are the most damaging); (2) amplitude, duration, and frequency of ground motions; (3) nature of foundation materials; and (4) building design (Costa and Baker, 1981). Based on 2012/2015 IBC provisions, a site class of D (stiff soil), and a risk category of II, USGS calculated uniform-hazard and deterministic ground motion values with a 2% chance of exceedance in 50 years are as follows:

**Table 2.** *Seismic hazards summary.*  
 (Site Location: 41.299004 ° N, -111.857315 ° W)

<b>S<sub>s</sub></b>	<i>1.006 g</i>
<b>S<sub>1</sub></b>	<i>0.350 g</i>
<b>S<sub>MS</sub> (F<sub>a</sub> x S<sub>s</sub>)</b>	<i>1.104 g</i>
<b>S<sub>M1</sub> (F<sub>v</sub> x S<sub>1</sub>)</b>	<i>0.595 g</i>
<b>S<sub>DS</sub> (2/3 x S<sub>MS</sub>)</b>	<i>0.736 g</i>
<b>S<sub>D1</sub> (2/3 x S<sub>M1</sub>)</b>	<i>0.397 g</i>
<b>Site Coefficient, F<sub>a</sub></b>	<i>= 1.098</i>
<b>Site Coefficient, F<sub>v</sub></b>	<i>= 1.700</i>

Given the above information, earthquake ground shaking poses a high risk to the site. The hazard from earthquake ground shaking can be adequately mitigated by design and construction of homes in accordance with appropriate building codes. The Project geotechnical engineer, in conjunction with the builder or architect, should confirm and evaluate the seismic ground-shaking hazard and provide appropriate seismic design parameters as needed.

### Surface Fault Rupture

Movement along faults at depth generates earthquakes. During earthquakes larger than Richter magnitude 6.5, ruptures along normal faults in the intermountain region generally propagate to the surface (Smith and Arabasz, 1991) as one side of the fault is uplifted and the other side down dropped. The resulting fault scarp has a near-vertical slope. The surface rupture may be expressed as a large singular rupture or several smaller ruptures in a broad zone. Ground displacement from surface fault rupture can cause significant damage or even collapse to structures located on an active fault.

The nearest active fault to the site is the Weber segment of the WFZ about four miles to the west, and no evidence of active surface faulting is mapped or was evident at the site. The Ogden Valley southwestern margin fault is mapped by Coogan and King (2016; Figure 2) trending near the southwest corner of the Project, but the most recent movement on this fault is pre-Holocene (Sullivan and others, 1986). Assuming a risk category of IIa, the fault would not be in an activity class recommended for further evaluation by Bowman and Lund (2016). Based on the above, the existing hazard from surface faulting is rated as low.

### **Liquefaction and Lateral-spread Ground Failure**

Liquefaction occurs when saturated, loose, cohesionless, soils lose their support capabilities during a seismic event because of the development of excessive pore pressure. Earthquake-induced liquefaction can present a significant risk to structures from bearing-capacity failures to structural footings and foundations, and can damage structures and roadway embankments by triggering lateral spread landslides. Earthquakes of Richter magnitude 5 are generally regarded as the lower threshold for liquefaction. Liquefaction potential at the site is a combination of expected seismic (earthquake ground shaking) accelerations, groundwater conditions, and presence of susceptible soils.

Soils at the site are mapped by the NRCS (<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>) as well-drained stony to gravelly loams on 3 to 60 percent slopes. Weber County GIS mapping also shows the site in a very low liquefaction hazard zone (zone 1). Given the above, we do not anticipate that conditions conducive to liquefaction are present and rate the risk as low.

### **Tectonic Deformation**

Tectonic deformation refers to subsidence from warping, lowering, and tilting of a valley floor that accompanies surface-faulting earthquakes on normal faults. Large-scale tectonic subsidence may accompany earthquakes along large normal faults (Lund, 1990). Tectonic subsidence is believed to mainly impact those areas immediately adjacent to the downthrown side of active normal faults. No active (Holocene) faults are mapped in the site area, as discussed above. Based on this, the risk from tectonic subsidence is rated as low.

### **Seismic Seiche and Storm Surge**

Earthquake-induced seiche presents a risk to structures within the wave-oscillation zone along the edges of large bodies of water, such as the Great Salt Lake. Given the elevation of the subject property and distance from large bodies of water, the risk to the subject property from seismic seiches is rated as low.

### **Stream Flooding**

Stream flooding may be caused by direct precipitation, melting snow, or a combination of both. In much of Utah, floods are most common in April through June during spring snowmelt. High flows may be sustained from a few days to several weeks, and the potential for flooding depends on a variety of factors such as surface hydrology, site grading and drainage, and runoff.

Pole Canyon Creek flows northward along the eastern boundary of the Project, and areas adjacent to the drainage may have a high risk from stream flooding. However, no other active drainages are present, and areas more than 50 feet from the stream course likely have low risk. The risk from stream flooding is therefore rated as moderate. Site hydrology and runoff should be addressed in the civil engineering design and grading plan for the Project in accordance with all applicable local government guidelines.

### **Shallow Groundwater**

No springs or seeps are shown on the topographic map for the site or were reported or observed, and no site-specific groundwater information was available for the Project. However, groundwater at the site appears to be greater than 30 feet deep based on nearby data. Areas within 50 feet of Pole Canyon Creek may have shallower depths, and groundwater levels at the site also likely vary seasonally and annually. Such variations would be typical for an alpine environment. Perched conditions above less-permeable, clay-rich bedrock layers may also be present in the subsurface that could cause locally shallower groundwater levels. Given all of the above, we rate the risk from shallow groundwater as moderate, although we do not anticipate shallow groundwater will pose a significant development constraint given setbacks typically recommended to reduce risk from stream flooding.

### **Landslides and Slope Failures**

Slope stability hazards such as landslides, slumps, and other mass movements can develop along moderate to steep slopes where a slope has been disturbed, the head of a slope loaded, or where increased groundwater pore pressures result in driving forces within the slope exceeding restraining forces. Slopes exhibiting prior failures, and also deposits from large landslides, are particularly vulnerable to instability and reactivation.

No landslides are mapped at the site, and no evidence for recent or ongoing landsliding or slope instability was observed on air photos or during our reconnaissance. However, slopes at the site are steep in some areas, and landslides are mapped nearby in similar slopes, particularly those underlain by Norwood Formation and Maple Canyon Formation. The hazard from landsliding is therefore equivocal and rated as moderate. Given the above, we conservatively recommend that stability of slopes at the site be evaluated in a geotechnical engineering evaluation prior to building, based on site-specific data and subsurface information. Recommendations for reducing the risk from landsliding should be provided if factors of safety are determined to be unsuitable. The stability evaluation should be conducted after development plans have been formalized, will involve some subsurface exploration that may require further geologic characterization, and should take into account possible perched groundwater and fluctuating seasonal levels. Care should also be taken that site grading does not destabilize slopes in this area without prior geotechnical analysis and grading plans, and that proper drainage is maintained.

### **Debris Flows**

Debris flow hazards are typically associated with unconsolidated alluvial fan deposits at the mouths of large range-front drainages, such as those along the Wasatch Front. Debris

flows have historically significant damage in the Wasatch Front area. Pole Canyon Creek flows along the eastern boundary of the site. No evidence for debris-flow channels, levees, or other debris-flow features was observed at the site on air photos or during our reconnaissance, but low-lying areas adjacent to the creek may experience some flooding and debris from large flows and flows emanating from the canyon mouth about 1,700 feet to the southwest. Given the above, we rate the risk as moderate. Setback guidelines typically recommended for reducing stream flooding risk will similarly reduce the debris flow/flood risk.

### **Rock Fall**

No bedrock outcrops were observed at the site or in higher slopes that could present a source area for rock fall clasts. Based on the above, we rate the hazard from rock falls as low.

### **Swelling and Collapsible Soils**

Surficial soils that contain certain clays can swell or collapse when wet. A geotechnical engineering evaluation should be performed to address soil conditions and provide specific recommendations for site grading, subgrade preparation, and footing and foundation design.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The only geologic hazards posing a high relative risk to the site is earthquake ground shaking. Stream flooding, shallow groundwater, landslides, and debris flows/floods also pose moderate-risk hazards either because the hazard is equivocal or only affects portions of the property. The following recommendations are provided with regard to the geologic characterizations in this report:

- **Seismic Design** – All habitable structures developed at the property should be constructed to current seismic hazards to reduce the risk of damage, injury, or loss of life from earthquake ground shaking.
- **Site Grading and Drainage** – No unplanned cuts should be made in the slopes at the site without prior geotechnical analyses, and proper site drainage should be maintained.
- **Geotechnical Investigation** - A design-level geotechnical engineering study should be conducted after formalization of development plans, but prior to construction to: (1) address soil conditions at the site for use in foundation design, site grading, and drainage; (2) provide recommendations regarding building design to reduce risk from seismic acceleration; and (3) evaluate stability of slopes at the site, including providing recommendations for reducing the risk of landsliding if the factors of safety are deemed unsuitable. The stability evaluation should account for possible perched groundwater, seasonal fluctuations, and water from sources such as landscape irrigation and septic systems.

The above geotechnical study will require site-specific data from subsurface exploration, as well as a cross section based on geologic characterizations. We should be contacted to review the subsurface data obtained from the geotechnical study and provide a geologic cross section for the stability evaluation, as well as to observe and document any subsurface exploration that may be conducted. A cost estimate for these services can be prepared once the scope of the geotechnical evaluation has been determined.

- **Stream Flooding** – The civil engineering design for the development should assess site hydrology and surface drainage, in accordance with all applicable local government guidelines. We anticipate setbacks typically recommended for reducing the stream flooding risk will similarly reduce risks from shallow groundwater and debris flows/floods.
- **Availability of Report** - The report should be made available to architects, building contractors, and in the event of a future property sale, real estate agents and potential buyers. This report should be referenced for information on technical data only as interpreted from observations and not as a warranty of conditions throughout the site. The report should be submitted in its entirety, or referenced appropriately, as part of any document submittal to a government agency responsible for planning decisions or geologic review. Incomplete submittals void the professional seals and signatures we provide herein. Although this report and the data herein are the property of the client, the report format is the intellectual property of Western Geologic and should not be copied, used, or modified without express permission of the authors.



## LIMITATIONS

This investigation was performed at the request of the Client using the methods and procedures consistent with good commercial and customary practice designed to conform to acceptable industry standards. The analysis and recommendations submitted in this report are based upon the data obtained from site-specific observations and compilation of known geologic information. This information and the conclusions of this report should not be interpolated to adjacent properties without additional site-specific information. In the event that any changes are later made in the location of the proposed site, the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report shall not be considered valid unless the changes are reviewed and conclusions of this report modified or approved in writing by the engineering geologist.

This report has been prepared by the staff of Western GeoLogic for the Client under the professional supervision of the principal and/or senior staff whose seal(s) and signatures appear hereon. Neither Western GeoLogic, nor any staff member assigned to this investigation has any interest or contemplated interest, financial or otherwise, in the subject or surrounding properties, or in any entity which owns, leases, or occupies the subject or surrounding properties or which may be responsible for environmental issues identified during the course of this investigation, and has no personal bias with respect to the parties involved.

The information contained in this report has received appropriate technical review and approval. The conclusions represent professional judgment and are founded upon the findings of the investigations identified in the report and the interpretation of such data based on our experience and expertise according to the existing standard of care. No other warranty or limitation exists, either expressed or implied.

The investigation was prepared in accordance with the approved scope of work outlined in our proposal for the use and benefit of the Client; its successors, and assignees. It is based, in part, upon documents, writings, and information owned, possessed, or secured by the Client. Neither this report, nor any information contained herein shall be used or relied upon for any purpose by any other person or entity without the express written permission of the Client. This report is not for the use or benefit of, nor may it be relied upon by any other person or entity, for any purpose without the advance written consent of Western GeoLogic.

In expressing the opinions stated in this report, Western GeoLogic has exercised the degree of skill and care ordinarily exercised by a reasonable prudent environmental professional in the same community and in the same time frame given the same or similar facts and circumstances. Documentation and data provided by the Client, designated representatives of the Client or other interested third parties, or from the public domain, and referred to in the preparation of this assessment, have been used and referenced with the understanding that Western GeoLogic assumes no responsibility or liability for their accuracy. The independent conclusions represent our professional judgment based on information and data available to us during the course of this assignment. Factual information regarding operations, conditions, and test data provided by the Client or their representative has been assumed to be correct and complete. The conclusions presented are based on the data provided, observations, and conditions that existed at the time of the field exploration.

It has been a pleasure working with you on this project. Should you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,  
Western GeoLogic, LLC

Reviewed by:



Bill. D. Black, P.G.  
Senior Engineering Geologist



Craig V. Nelson, P.G.  
Principal Engineering Geologist

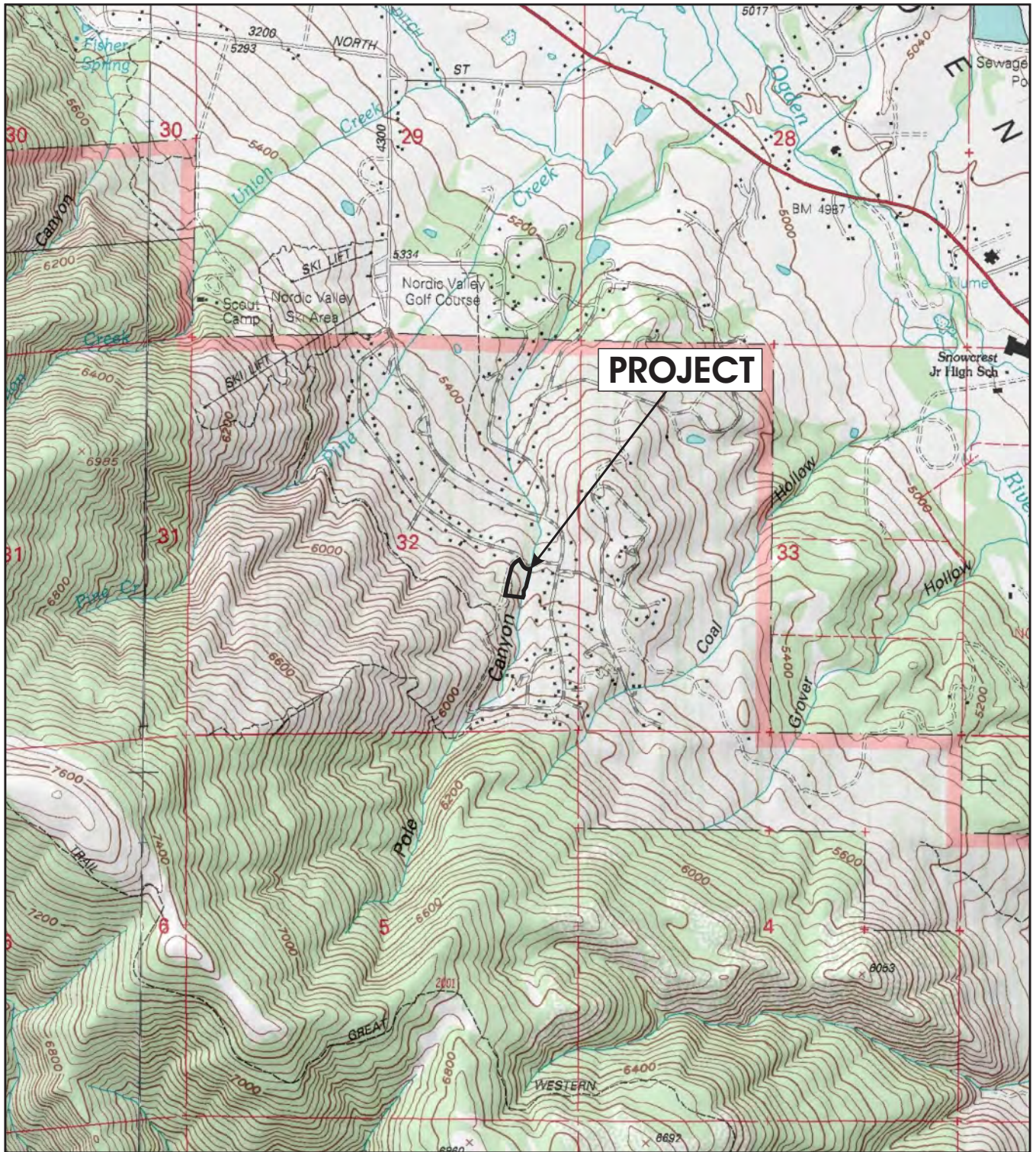
#### ATTACHMENTS

- Figure 1. Location Map (8.5"x11")
- Figure 2. Geologic Map (8.5"x11")
- Figure 3A. 1997 Air Photo (8.5"x11")
- Figure 3B. 2011 LIDAR Image (8.5"x11")
- Figure 3C. 2012 Air Photo (8.5"x11")
- Appendix. Photographic Record of Site Reconnaissance

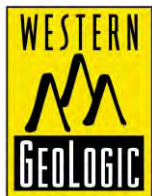
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Source: U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Maps, Utah - Huntsville, 1998;  
 Project location SE1/4, Section 32, T7N, R1E (SLBM).



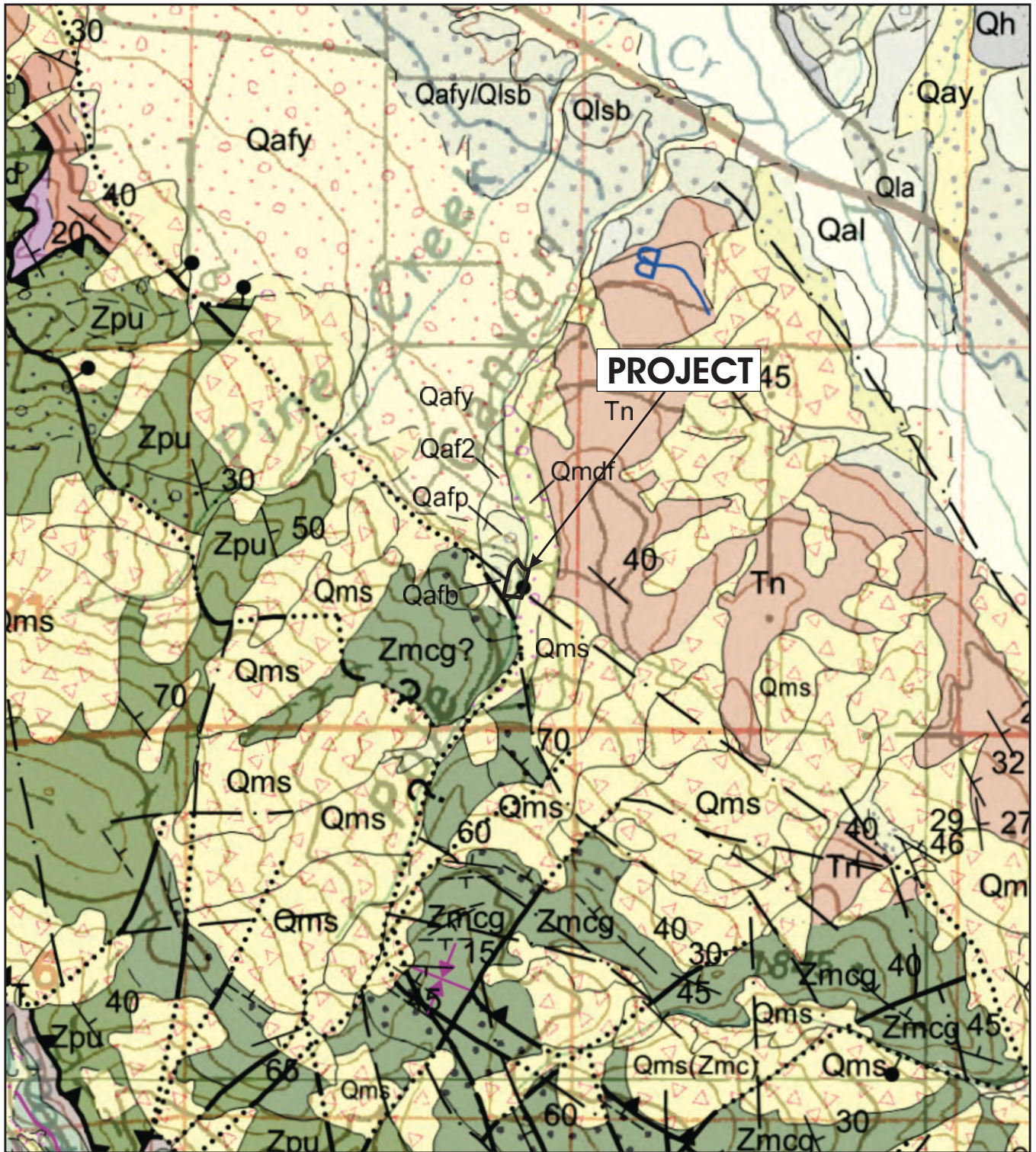
Scale 1:24,000  
 (1 inch = 2000 feet)

## LOCATION MAP

### GEOLOGIC HAZARDS RECONNAISSANCE

Silver Bell Estates Lot 63  
 Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
 Eden, Weber County, Utah

**FIGURE 1**



Source: Coogan and King (2016), original map scale 1:100,000.  
 See text for explanation of nearby surficial geologic units.

## GEOLOGIC MAP

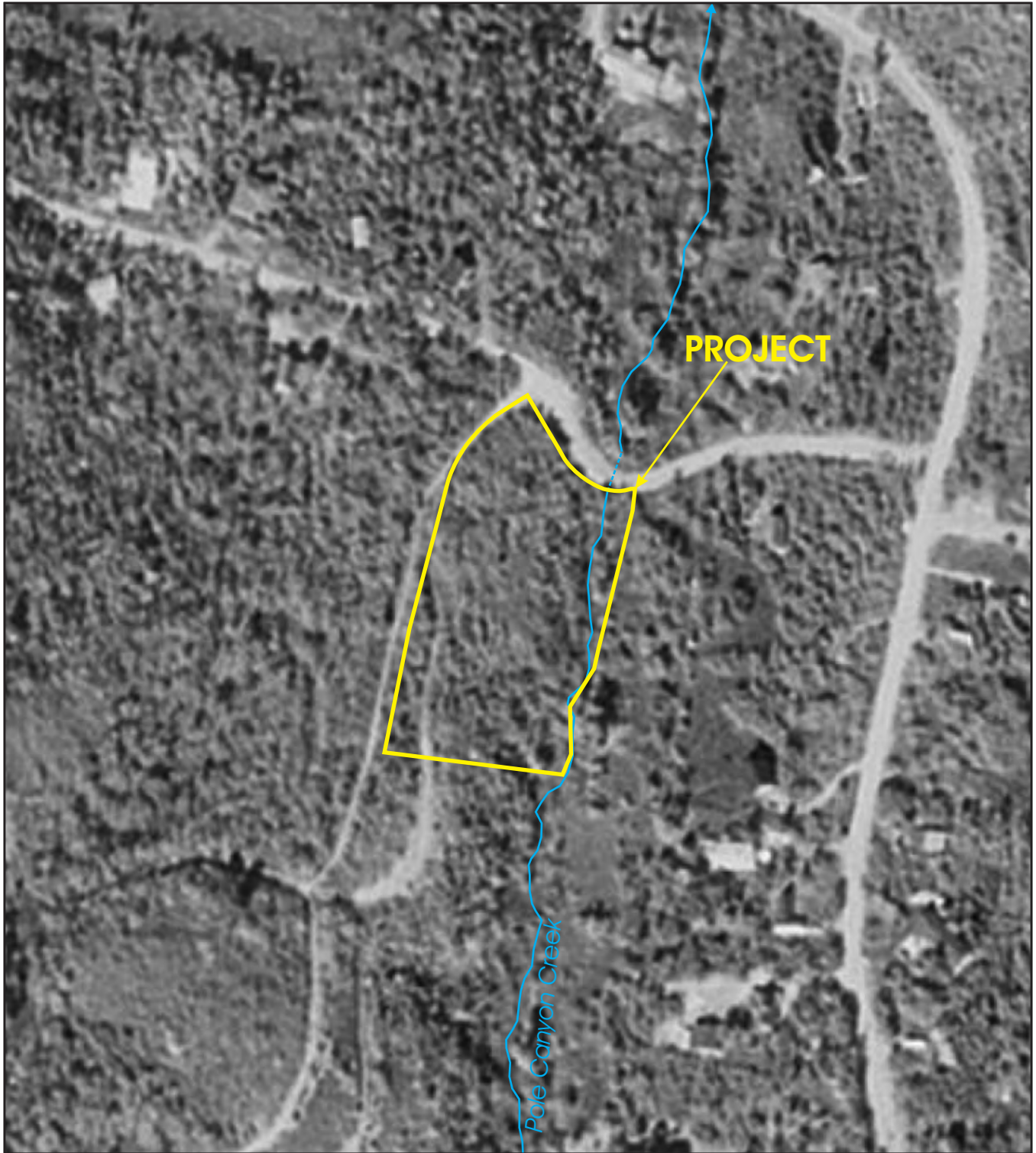
### GEOLOGIC HAZARDS RECONNAISSANCE

Silver Bell Estates Lot 63  
 Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
 Eden, Weber County, Utah

FIGURE 2



Scale 1:24,000  
 (1 inch = 2000 feet)



Source: Utah AGRC Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle.

**1997 AERIAL PHOTO**

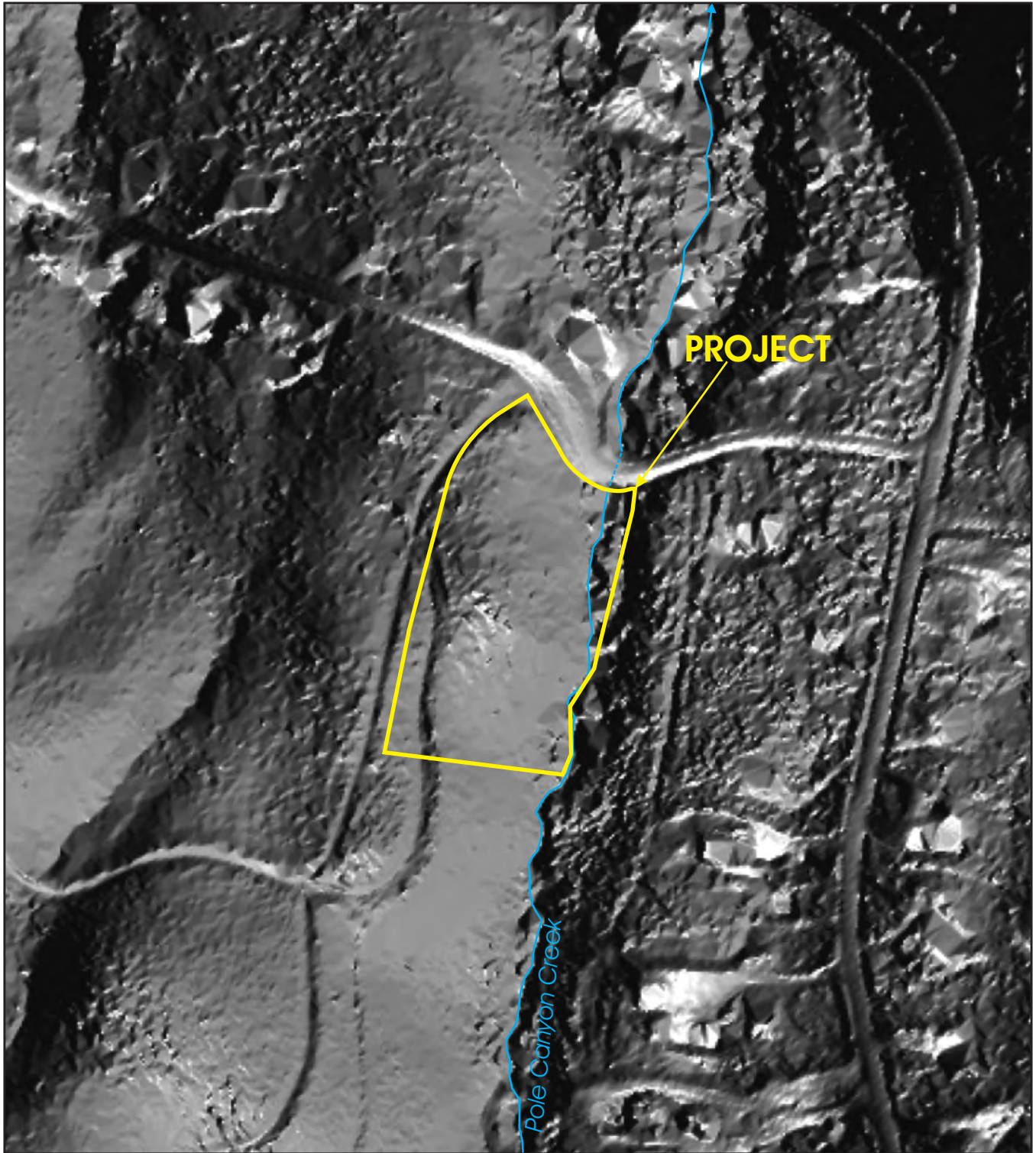
**GEOLOGIC HAZARDS RECONNAISSANCE**

Silver Bell Estates Lot 63  
Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
Eden, Weber County, Utah

**FIGURE 3A**



Scale 1:2,400  
(1 inch = 200 feet)



Source: Utah AGRC, 2011 LIDAR Bare Earth DEM, one meter resolution.



Scale 1:2,400  
(1 inch = 200 feet)

## 2011 LIDAR IMAGE

### GEOLOGIC HAZARDS RECONNAISSANCE

Silver Bell Estates Lot 63  
Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
Eden, Weber County, Utah

**FIGURE 3B**





Source: Utah AGRC, 2012 High Resolution Orthophoto, six inch resolution;  
parcel boundary from Weber County GIS data.



Scale 1:2,400  
(1 inch = 200 feet)

## 2012 AIR PHOTO

### GEOLOGIC HAZARDS RECONNAISSANCE

Silver Bell Estates Lot 63  
Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
Eden, Weber County, Utah

**FIGURE 3C**

**Photographic Record of Site Reconnaissance  
Silver Bell Estates Lot 63 - Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
Eden, Weber County, Utah**

Photo 1. North side of Project.



Photo 2. East side of Project.



**Photographic Record of Site Reconnaissance  
Silver Bell Estates Lot 63 - Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
Eden, Weber County, Utah**

Photo 3. Pole Canyon Creek.



Photo 4. Typical surficial soils.



**Photographic Record of Site Reconnaissance  
Silver Bell Estates Lot 63 - Nordic Valley Drive and Viking Drive  
Eden, Weber County, Utah**

Photo 5. Typical vegetation at Project.



Photo 6. Clearing in southwest part of Project.

