



RFI 19-45 INITIATED QUESTIONS & RESPONSES:

Whatcom County Responses in blue

Updated July 1, 2019

Submittal #1

1: Would Berm Gravel Type 1 really need to be washed? 140,000 tons is A LOT of gravel to run through a wash plant. It would definitely be cheaper to not have to wash it.

Yes, both gravels, Type 1 and Type 2, both need to be washed. Permits require that no fines shall be washed into the bay during tidal shifts.

2: Would the county consider putting out a separate bid to supply the gravel before the bid to do the beach work? Several reasons I am asking this.

With our federal funding, the process of approval and obligation of funds does not lend us this flexibility. Basically, we would not be able to get a materials contract out any faster than we would the entire construction contract. This would also require us to re-examine the structure of our contract which is nearly complete.

A: The county would not have to pay contractor mark up on the gravel.

This markup I assume would still be applied once this material is incorporated into the construction of the project.

B: The gravel supplier could get a head start on producing the material, since it will take a fair amount of time to screen that quantity of rock.

This is true but not feasible for the reasons previously stated.

C: The cost of the project would be lower, allowing more competition in the bidding process by giving contractors a chance who may not be large enough to finance and/or bond the project otherwise.

The bid for construction would potentially be lower but the cost of the project would not necessarily be lower, and the County would have to administer two contracts. The contractor will need to have the capacity to deliver the project.

Submittal #2

Regarding the Birch Bay rock specs per RFI 19-45,

The type 1 gravel requires 98-100% passing the 2" sieve... 60-75% passing the 1-1/2" sieve, this is problematic. This means 98-100% of all the rock needs to pass a 2" sieve but only a maximum of 75% passing the 1-1/2" ... meaning 25% of the rock has to be larger than 1-1/2" and 98% has to be smaller than 2". If you look at standard rock sieves for our area (whatcom county region) you see that only about 2-5% of the rock naturally occurring is sized between the 1-1/2" and 2" sieves. Thus, supplying 140,000 tons of specified product means that 1-2+ million tons of pit run would need to be processed to supply the job quantity.

I would suggest some slight modifications to the spec to widen the sieve bands to reduce the amount of processing time and by products. A simple solution would be to revert to the WSDOT AASHTO grading # 4 spec, which is similar but cheaper to obtain, or a combination of current spec and WSDOT #4.

	CURRENT	WSDOT #4	Suggestion
2"	98-100	99-100	96-100
1-1/2"	60-75	90-100	75-95
1"	30-45	20-55	20-55
3/4"		0-15	0-15
1/2"	0-8		
3/8"		0-5	0-5
1/4"	0-5		
#10	0-4		
#200	0-1		0-2

Type 2 is similar in the fact the gradation specified is not naturally occurring and would require processing and/or blending to meet spec. Understand the need for a "rocky" material but I would suggest at minimum to widen the gradation ranges on the upper end to allow for less and more cost effective processing. There really isn't a close or similar WSDOT spec to reference, the closest one would be WSDOT 9-03.9(1) Ballast but you would have to change the #200 to a max 0-2 and eliminate the crushed language in the specifics. etc.

	CURRENT	Suggestion
6"	98-100	98-100
2"	85-100	85-100
1-1/2"	65-85	70-90
1"	50-70	50-85
1/4"	35-50	30-60
#20	10-20	10-20
#100	0-8	0-8
#200	0-2	0-2

Submittal #3

Thank you for reaching out to the Aggregate Industry for our input regarding the Birch Bay Pedestrian Facility project. After reviewing the current aggregate specifications our concerns are as follows:

- *The amount of 2"-1" aggregate required to achieve the specification would be extremely challenging to meet, due to the availability of this size aggregate.
- *The tight Specification on Type 1 and Type 2 materials will drive the cost's up
- * A Large portion the specified material is aggregate need for asphalt production/road building
- *Currently our stationary wash and sizing plants are not configured to produce these gradations.
- * To move into a borrow source to produce the specified materials will require additional permitting, water source for washing, power source, screening and washing equipment, multiple loaders and stockpiling equipment. When producing this volume of specified material it will generate an enormous amount of reject material driving material production costs up.

Suggestions:

*Survey local aggregate suppliers in Whatcom and Skagit Counties to see what is readily available, currently produced and in stock. Build the specifications around these materials.

*This may require materials from multiple sources

* Will blending of materials onsite be allowed? **Not under the current specifications.**