

July 9, 2017

San Juan County
Community Development
PO Box 947
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

S.J.C. DEPARTMENT OF

JUL 12 2017

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I saw the notice of proposed development (permit number PCUP00-17-0018) to install a large propane storage tank at 27 Aeroview Lane (tax parcel 27115801127) in Eastsound. I am writing to make clear my objection to placing a large propane storage tank adjacent to Eastsound's most densely populated subdivision, Buena Vista Heights that includes Seaview Street, Mountain View Street and Blanchard Road where I am a property owner.


While the installation of a propane storage tank may meet zoning and land use requirements, it clearly is not rational to place a large fuel storage tank next to the most densely populated development in Eastsound.

There are many incidents, such as one in West Virginia, where vapors from a storage tank ignited and exploded killing four people and seriously injuring five others, that cause one to consider why a large propane storage tank would be allowed adjacent to the most densely zoned development on the island. With 55 square miles that are mostly rural there is no logical reason to put development/profit interests above public safety. While the propane industry claims that storage tanks are safe, there are many incidents where human error has caused storage tank accidents and explosions. With this in mind, clearly a rational person would not support placing a large storage tank next to a populated subdivision, regardless of zoning.

On a more personal note, my one-year-old grandson lives in the Aviator Complex, several hundred feet from the proposed installation site. He is too young to write a letter, but I am hopeful that San Juan County will consider his safety and deny locating this large fuel storage tank so close to families and children.

Accidents do happen and I strongly believe that there are more appropriate places on Orcas Island to safely locate this propane storage tank.

Sincerely,


Philip McCullum, Ph.D.