

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Linda Ann Kuller
Cc: Erika Shook
Subject: FW: Comments to San Juan County Council and Planning Commission on Shoreline Master Program (SMP)

Hi,

Please see the SMP comment below.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: Don Stillman
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:57 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey ; DL - Council
Subject: Comments to San Juan County Council and Planning Commission on Shoreline Master Program (SMP)

TO: SAN JUAN COUNTY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION

My first grandson is due to arrive on this earth on September 23, which is also my birthday.

I could not be more excited as I ponder what he will achieve during a life that likely will extend beyond the year 2100. Will he write the great American novel, discover a cure for cancer, win the World Series for the Mariners, and play a concerto at Carnegie Hall? Probably not.

But I hope he lives a full and committed life and experiences the joys and wonder that I have. One such joy is to sit on the point of land my wife and I own between Olga and Doe Bay and see orca whales frolic a few hundred yards out as they transit Rosario Strait a few times each year.

I worry that this dream for him and my granddaughter will be denied unless the San Juan County Council and Planning Commission take the strong actions within their power to support and protect the Southern Resident Killer Whales and the Chinook salmon those whales need to survive.

On August 17, the Council and Commission will hold a Joint Public Hearing on proposed amendments on the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update.

This hearing occurs just days after all of us witnessed heartbreaking moments as J35 mourned her dead calf by carrying her through our waters for 17 days, unwilling to let her go. At the same time, we watched as whale experts tried to intervene with J50, who is sick and emaciated and may soon die.

The revisions of the SMP regulations provide an opportunity for San Juan County to step up and take actions that will help the recovery of the Chinook salmon and the Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Our County beaches and nearshore support forage fish that feed Chinook salmon. It is those Chinook salmon that our Southern Resident Killer Whales eat to survive.

Since the 1998 SMP update, those salmon and the whales that feed on them have both been listed under the Endangered Species Act. Despite this, the adopted SMP failed to comply with the law and to ensure "no net loss" of ecological functions.

I'm grateful for Councilmember Jamie Stephens (who serves on the Governor's task force studying the steps that need to be taken to save our orca population) who said, "Nothing will get better with the status quo."

I have thoughts on the concrete steps that the County can take beyond that status quo. Let me recommend the following aimed at preventing the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of our shorelines:

1. Require mitigations to occur within the same watershed as the impact on all County islands where development could occur.
2. Thoroughly comply with the required changes to the criteria for new or expanded soft shoreline armoring and the definition of soft shoreline armoring, and
3. Require an annual evaluation of shoreline developments' cumulative impacts on shoreline conditions and a process to make corrections as needed, to ensure No Net Loss of the ecological functions that support forage fish, Chinook salmon, and Southern Resident Killer Whales.

I fully support the views submitted to the Council and Commission on August 13 by Stephanie Buffum of Friends of the San Juans.

Separately, I hope the Council will take more aggressive and appropriate steps to oppose the TransMountain Pipeline which would mean more than 400 tanker ships transiting through the San Juans carrying diluted bitumen from Canada to Asia. The threat here is clear. The noise of those huge tankers will be extremely harmful to the Southern Resident Killer Whales. And the likelihood of one of those tankers running aground threatens the entire ecosystem and economy of the Salish Sea.

If the Council and Commission take these actions, the chances of my grandchildren being able to experience the wonder and beauty of our orca whales will improve greatly.

Thank you for considering my views.

Don Stillman

1442 Pioneer Hill Road

Olga, WA 98279