

## Jessi Roberts

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**From:** Amy Dearborn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2015 9:59 AM  
**To:** Cliff Strong  
**Cc:** Wayne Fitch  
**Subject:** RE: Critical Areas CAC agenda for 1/21/15

Hi Cliff,  
I have some comments on the NES letter.

Comment 3: the 75 foot rule was initially a health issue, then a water resource issue. The intent was not only to protect water quality in the aquifer, but to assure that wells went to the second aquifer, not the first, so that there was little to no possibility to draw down the wetland from water well use.

Comment 4: stormwater should not discharge directly to a wetland, except as approved by an admin. Stormwater needs to be treated and detained prior to introduction to the wetland. Bioswales incorporate treatment and flow reduction, but splash blocks and dispersion trench systems are commonly used too. Dirty, flashy water is not healthy for a wetland.

Comment 5: The CAA was intended to capture local nuances that the HA does not. There are species and habitat that are protected in Whatcom County that are not required to be addressed in the typical HA. For example, FEMA has no interest in piliated woodpecker or its habitat.

Comment 6: The purpose of the building setback is to assure that no structures are build up to the wetland buffer edge. Access within 10 feet of a building is needed for maintenance and safety. If there is buffer up to the edge of a structure, then intrusion into the buffer would be likely. Pervious materials and landscaping are allowed in the setback, just no structures.

Comment 9: Most of our CAA reports and mitigation reports received are due to impacts to wetlands, habitat areas, or buffers. These impacts need to be addressed no matter how big or small. It would be difficult to devise thresholds for large vs. small projects. If there is no impact, then a reconnaissance letter is sufficient to document the conditions on the site, and that the proposed development will have no impacts. This could be an easy letter report form. The Mitigation reports are outlined by Ecology, and need to address all that are on the mitigation checklists. These checklists could be turned into forms, or form letters for easier projects.

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**From:** Cliff Strong  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:59 AM  
**To:** Audrey Borders; David Haggith; Kate Blystone; Laura Sachs; Mark Personius; Roger Almskaar; Virginia Watson; Wendy Harris; Wes Kentch  
**Cc:** Analiese Burns; Dannon Traxler; David Onkels; George Boggs; Max & Carole Perry; Michele; Pam Borso; Perry Eskridge; Pete Sim; Vikki; Amy Dearborn; Andrew Wiser; Travis Bouma; Wayne Fitch; Bert Rubash; Dan McShane; Joel Ingram; Kara Kuhlman; Oliver Grah; Ryan Ericson; Susan Meyer; Wendy Steffensen  
**Subject:** Critical Areas CAC agenda for 1/21/15

Happy New Year, Critical Areas Citizens Advisory Committee. Attached, please find the agenda and supporting materials for next week's meeting.

Thanks,

Cliff Strong

Senior Planner  
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

[cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us)

360.676.6907

[www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds)

## Jessi Roberts

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**From:** Amy Dearborn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Roger Almskaar; Wayne Fitch; Cliff Strong  
**Cc:** Karen Heggem  
**Subject:** RE: well siting, CAO buffers

Roger,

I am not clear what your question is, or what you are expecting my comment to be. You have noted a difference in the wetland and habitat sections of the code.

I appreciate that this is important to you, for an active project. Please let me know what kind of help you need.

### Amy Dearborn

Critical Area Biologist  
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services  
Phone: (360) 676-6907  
Email: [adearbor@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:adearbor@whatcomcounty.us)  
Website: <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us>

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**From:** Roger Almskaar [<mailto:almskaarr@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 3:40 PM  
**To:** Amy Dearborn; Wayne Fitch  
**Cc:** Karen Heggem  
**Subject:** well siting, CAO buffers  
**Importance:** High

Hi Amy,

Do you remember the discussion we had at the CAO committee meeting a few weeks ago on allowing wells in buffers?

It's clear that present rules, WCC 16.16.620 G, do not allow a new well for a short plat in a wetland buffer.

However, in reviewing the comparable section for Habitat...Areas, WCC 16.16.720, A-Q, there appears to be no such prohibition for habitat/stream buffers.

This is an important matter for a short plat app in process. Please comment on my conclusion asap, thanks,

Roger Almskaar, 671 1324