

May 22, 2012

Randel Perry, Project Manager
USACE, Seattle District
1440 10th Street, Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028

RECEIVED

MAY 24 2012

Whatcom County P&DS

Tyler Schroeder, Planning Supervisor
Whatcom County, Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

Alice Kelly, Planner
Washington Department of Ecology, NWRO
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Re: Request for Gateway Pacific Terminal Scoping Hearings in San Juan County

Dear Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Perry, and Ms. Kelly:

I am appalled at plans to transform Cherry Point in north of Bellingham into one of the largest coal export facilities in North America. With increased shipping traffic from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal project, potential extreme impacts to the San Juan Islands include, but are not limited to, the increased risk of oil spills and spills of other environmentally harmful materials, the potential for vessel collisions, introduction of invasive species and the increased impacts on the foraging behaviors of species listed under the Endangered Species Act. To fully relay these concerns, I am requesting formal Environmental Impact scoping meetings on each of the three larger San Juan Islands: San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez.

The San Juan Islands are geographically, ecologically, economically, historically and geologically unique and deserve special attention within the scoping process to ensure that potential, even probable, effects to our islands are included in the EA/EIS process.

San Juan County is a Marine Biological Preserve (RCW 28B.20.320), and all of the shorelines within the County are designated as Shorelines of Statewide Significance and critical habitat for federally listed threatened Chinook salmon and endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. In addition, the islands draw multitudes of tourists, researchers, educators, and retirees from around the world. The islands' economy and quality of life are founded on the health of the marine ecosystem and the efficient transportation of people and materials to and from the islands. The waters of the entire Salish Sea pass in and out

around us, as do the major food fish and marine mammals already endangered by the acts of man.

The unique characteristics and economy of the San Juan Islands make it essential that federal, state, and local officials conduct a detailed review of impacts on tourism, revenues, the economy, transportation, the marine and land environments, culture, health effects and safety associated with the planned Gateway Pacific Terminal, the caused shipping traffic through our waters, and the resultant burning coal in China.

I respectfully request that the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement recognize the increased risk to the environment in San Juan County. I also ask that the Environmental Impact Statement fully and completely include the connected and cumulative actions, issues, and concerns of the citizens in this area.


Because of the geographic distance and transportation challenges of ferry schedules and costs, the citizens of San Juan County will not be served by holding a scoping hearing in Bellingham or Seattle. As part of this EIS process, I respectfully ask for representation for the majority of citizens of San Juan County by holding scoping meetings on each of the three larger islands serviced by the Washington State Ferry.

Thank you for consideration of this formal request.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Keller



Michael V. Colyar

130 Aleck Bay Rd. Lopez Island, WA 98261