

Received

JUN 02 2017

Whatcom County PDS

SR

Diana and Bill Parker
4130 Matia Dr.
Ferndale, WA. 98248

May 30, 2017

Subject: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging
File Numbers SHR2017-00007, SHC2017-00003, SEP2017-00051

Dear Whatcom County Planning Dept.

As homeowners at Sandy Point, we are writing in support of the Sandy Point Dredge. The dredge is long overdue and will benefit the Sandy Point community, as well as, the Northwest community in general.

Some key point's regarding the need to dredge Sandy Point are:

- a) Provides access for the public, county, state and federal agencies
- b) Serves the community, local industry, commercial and recreational activities and Lummi tribal members
- c) Serves as a haven for international boating
- d) Poses navigational safety and liability issues
- e) Provides a waste pump out station for local boaters
- f) Promotes the Clean Water Act by providing potential access to the Washington State Parks Dept. in using the pump out facility as a depository for waste disposal in the Northern San Juan islands
- g) Accommodates oil spill response vessels moorage at the marina
- h) Provides access to fuel

Please support the dredge.

Sincerely,



Diana and Bill Parker

May 30, 2017

Andrew Hicks
Shoreline Administrator
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

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Dear Andrew,

As residents of the Sandy Point community, we would like to share our support for the proposed Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging.

In its current condition, the harbor entrance has become unsafe for boaters of all sizes. While enjoying the sites from paddle boards this weekend, we witnessed boaters struggling to safely enter and exit the harbor.

Recreational boaters aside, the harbor supports many critical services:

- It is the only safe harbor between Bellingham and Birch Bay.
- It houses Oil Spill Response.
- It supports both tribal and non-tribal commercial fisheries.
- It offers the only sewage pumpout facility in the area.

In addition to critical services, it provides recreational opportunities for boaters, kayakers and canoers from all over the region who use the boat launch facility.

Property values will also be adversely affected as the harbor entrance narrows – and eventually, if not addressed, becomes completely unusable.

With both critical services and recreational enjoyment in mind, we hope that you will approve the dredging of the Sandy Point Harbor entrance, making it safe and accessible for years to come.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Doug and Kassi Clark
4083 Sucia Drive, Sandy Point

LARRY AND MICHELE HENRY

4162 SALTSRING DR. FERNDALE, WA 98248

808-987-1755 LHENRY28@MSN.COM

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Whatcom County P&DS

May 30, 2017

Mr. Andrew Hicks
Whatcom County
Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

Dear Mr. Hicks,

This letter is in response to your request for comments on the proposed Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging Project. We live in Sandy Point and lease a slip at the Sandy Point Marina. My wife and I are both USCG Licensed Captains and operated commercial vessels in Alaska for over twenty years. I would like to make a few points in favor of this project.

- 1) The Sandy point harbor entrance is the most dangerous calm water harbor entrance we have ever had to deal with. It has become nearly impossible to get in or out at tide levels below +3 feet.
- 2) The shallow area, located just inside the entrance, increases in size every year.
- 3) The rocky headland comprising the southern entrance could easily puncture a hull. A large vessel could suffer loss of steerage because of rudder damage while exiting the harbor. The strong tidal current could then easily push the vessel into the rocks. Imagine a sunken vessel and diesel spill at the harbor entrance. This would be a serious environmental event and could damage Tribal and non-tribal fisheries. Considering the present condition of the harbor entrance it is fortunate an event like this has not already occurred.
- 4) The Sandy Point Harbor is a Public Harbor providing fueling service, boat launching and moorage for the Sandy Point Residents, the Lummi Tribe and the General Public.
- 5) The nearby refinery bases an oil spill response team in the Sandy Point Harbor. What if an oil spill occurs at the refinery dock during a minus tide? The spill response vessel would be stuck in the harbor.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Larry W. Henry

