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Whatcom County PDS

Patrick & Mary Ross
Ponderosa Group LLC
3216 116th Ave NE
Bellevue WA 98004

Mr. Andrew Hicks C/O
Whatcom County Planning and Development
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham WA 98226-9097

Re: Sandy Point Dredging File Numbers:SHR2017-00007, SHR2017-00003, SHR2017-00051

Dear Mr. Hicks,

My wife and I own a Home in the Sandy Point Community at: 4213 Sucia Drive. We have been residents in this glorious community for over 15 years.

Some of the most compelling reasons that brought us to settle in this beach and boating community were centered around our desire to spend time boating and exploring the North Sound and the San Juan Islands via access from the Sandy Point canals and cove. We strongly believe that this unique community is a treasure that should not be lost from Whatcom County.

When we first arrived in July of 2002 the entrance was fairly easy and safe to navigate. As long as the tides were observed and respected, a day on the boat was simple and enjoyable.

Times have changed. Gaining access to and from the Canals can be quite difficult and unsafe due to the building flow and sediments of material being pushed into the entrance from tidal motions.

We strongly urge you to help press forward with an approval and a permit that would allow the residents of Sandy Point to fund and complete an entrance dredge.

Without a permit and approval, this community, and the unique treasure to Whatcom County may very well be lost. Property values would disappear and homes would not have the pride of ownership that we all now enjoy.

Currently the Sandy Point Improvement company has an active marina, complete with Fuel, Moorage, and a Sewage Pump out facility. The next closest is Bellingham. Our Marina also provides a safe harbor for recreational boaters, and the Oil Spill response boats for the industries to the north.

This Canal system and Harbor is also used by our neighboring tribal fishermen.