

Erika Shook

From: Sarah Severn <sarah@sarahsevern.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 5:11 PM
To: DL - Council; Lynda Guernsey
Subject: Comments for Friday 8/17 Hearing
Attachments: Submission to Aug 17th public hearing.docx

Attached please find my comments for the August 17th hearing with the Council and Planning Commission regarding compliance with the SMP.

Apologies that I cannot make this hearing in person as I will be off island.

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"When all your desires are distilled; You will cast just two votes: To love more, and be happy. " Hafiz

To: San Juan County Council and Planning Commission

From: Sarah Severn

Date: August 15, 2018

Re: August 17, 2018 San Juan County Council Special Meeting and Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission to Hear Testimony on Proposed Amendments to San Juan County Code Chapter 18.50 Shoreline Regulations

I respectfully submit the following comments on San Juan County's response to the Western Washington Region Growth Management Hearings Boards' Final Decision and Order Case No. 17-2-0009 (GMHB FDO) regarding compliance of San Juan County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update.

- The SRKWs are in dire straits, their population is down to 75, there have been no live births in 3 years and most recently we have witnessed Tahlequah (J35) exhibiting behavior that scientists acknowledge was a demonstration of profound maternal grief and loss. This drew worldwide attention, and the spotlight is on us in a way it never has been before.
- The solutions for the SRKWs start with providing an adequate and resilient source of Chinook salmon.
- Chinook salmon are part of a complex ecosystem that is being systematically destroyed by humans. While the list of the ways that we have waged war on this species is extensive, (dams, compromised stream and river habitat, over fishing, etc., **the one thing we know that we CAN do, here in San Juan County, is to protect the miles of shoreline spawning habitat for the forage fish on which the Chinook Salmon depend.**

The SJI county council needs to ensure that the SMP fully protects **every single mile** of shoreline that is **historically, currently or has the future potential** to be critical spawning habitat for forage fish and Chinook salmon health. Specifically:

- **Require mitigations** to occur **within the same watershed as the impact** on all County islands where development could occur.
- Thoroughly comply with the required changes to the criteria for new or expanded soft shoreline armoring and the definition of soft shoreline armoring.
- **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.

It's time that the survival of the SRKWs take precedence over individual property rights and unsustainable growth in the islands. They are a fundamental part of our identity. They are family. Without them the essence of this place, our lives, and our economy will be forever diminished.