

## Linda Ann Kuller

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**From:** paulh@portoflopez.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 1, 2018 9:48 PM  
**To:** Jamie Stephens; Rick Hughes; Bill Watson; Linda Ann Kuller; Adam Zack  
**Cc:** helenc@portoflopez.com; 'LCLT - Sandy Bishop'  
**Subject:** Lopez Village Sub Area Draft Plan Input

To: San Juan County Council  
San Juan County Planning

Dear Commissioners and Planners,

I would like to correct some misinformation and provide some further input.

To quote 2 statements made in email correspondence with the Council and Planning Department written by Robert Porter on September 17<sup>th</sup> "...and finally a rejection by the US Coast Guard for the use of either site due to navigational safety hazard..." and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018: "...on or about August 15, 2018, this year the U.S. Coast Guard called Port of Lopez Commissioner Paul Henricksen[sic] and informed him that any proposal for a dock in the channel or the entrance to Fisherman Bay would be denied."

On August 15, 2018 I began calling the U.S. Coast Guard sector Puget Sound wanting to speak with a local officer about navigation near the entrance to Fisherman Bay. By August 21<sup>st</sup> I was given the name of Chief Warrant Officer Zappen in Waterways Management Division, Aids to Navigation. After trading messages for almost a week I was able to speak with Officer Zappen on August 29<sup>th</sup>. He was very familiar with the Fisherman Bay area and we traded a few informational emails including maps and a copy of the 1972 letter from the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Weeks Pt. Road site. Officer Zappen informed me that he could not make a determination as to the suitability of the Weeks Point Road site, instead, he said that the Army Corp of Engineers has that authority after consulting with the USCG and DNR. He also said that the USCG may not give a yes or no but would either support the application or recommend against it. He acknowledged that it could be a lot of effort and time for us to get some kind of input and that an answer was not guaranteed from the Corp even after a potentially lengthy application process. While he had "gut" concerns about a dock at the Weeks Pt. Road site at no time did Officer Zappen discourage me from pursuing the Old Post Road site. In fact he expressed that it was the better of the two proposed sites. On Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> I wrote to Colin Huntmer of SJC Public Works recommending that we abandon the idea of a dock at the Weeks Point Road site and instead pursue the Old Post Road site. After hearing back from Colin I then called Robert Porter on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> to inform him of the decision to not pursue a dock on the County property next to his house on Weeks Pt. Road. Sorry about the lengthy explanation but I felt that I needed to correct the mischaracterization of my communication with the USCG.

I can understand why some may feel that the Weeks Pt. Road site could be potentially hazardous, but the Old Post Road site could be a benefit to boaters by keeping them in deeper water as they approach the entrance to Fisherman Bay. I'm concerned that if both sites are rejected then we are moving towards the lowest common denominator. There will always be challenging waterways,

weather and incompetent mariners. People can drown in a bath tub but we don't discourage bathing.

I do agree with Mr. Porter and others that rocks should be removed from the beach of the Weeks Point Road site to facilitate launching and landing of small craft.

From public input at a well-attended Port of Lopez Public Hearing facilitated by the S.J, Co. Economic Development Council a few years ago, 70% or more of those attending wanted to see better and more marine access for Lopez Island. I urge you to keep dock access to the village in the Lopez Village Subarea Plan. I look forward to hearing and addressing any valid concerns about the Old Post Road site.

Sincerely,

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