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March 9, 2012

Mr. Colin Maycock
PO Box 947
San Juan County Community Planning and Development
Friday Harbor, Washington 98250

[S.J.C. COMMUNITY

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DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

Re: The Shoreline Management Plan, the Shoreline Management Act and the Growth Management Act

Dear Mr. Maycock:

I am a homeowner in the Neck Point Cove Community of Shaw Island. Our home is located at 490 Sylvan Circle and has a spectacular view of the water. My parents owned our home prior to us, and it has been in the family about forty years.

Currently, our home is a conforming use. However, if, as is proposed, the buffer zone were extended out from the waters adjacent to our home to one-hundred and fifty feet most of, if not all, of our home would be within the buffer and as such would then be a nonconforming use. As a nonconforming use, our use and enjoyment would be limited. It is the intent of the state of Washington and by extension San Juan County, to eventually eliminate nonconforming uses. The lot our home sits on is intended to maximize the sea view. It is wide but not deep. What this means is that over time, the value of our property would become negligible.

I am hard pressed to understand how extending the buffer zone to one-hundred and fifty feet would in any way benefit critical areas. We have always maintained native vegetation between our home and the shore. We even removed a deck several years ago that extended out over the bank in front of our home and was anchored in the beach. We did so in order to allow shoreline vegetation to grow. None of the vegetation on our shoreline provides shade for the waters off our home. This is due to the nature of our beach which is relatively wide. There are no wetlands on our property or streams.

According to the May 2011 to the "Best Available Science Synthesis Report of the Adamus Resources Assessment Inc. et al, dated May 24, 2011 and adopted by San Juan County, the threat that human disturbances of the shore line possesses to marine stewardship is low and of the sixteen potential threats it is one of the lowest. If human disturbances means our home, and if our home is a best, or at worst, a low risk to the marine environment, then I am hard pressed to see how extending the buffer zone to one-hundred and fifty feet in any way will alleviate what is at most a low risk to the marine environment.

The Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report, dated January of 2012, pages 178 to 186, does not identify the waters off our home as "high priority spawning habitat" for any fish. It states that the waters off of Shaw Island "probably" contain patchy spots of eel grass which basically means the waters in front of our home may or may not have eel grass. Since the waters

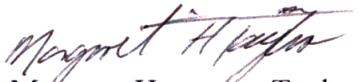
of the Salish Sea are very cold even in the summer, I have never personally checked. But I can state that extending the buffer zone to one-hundred and fifty feet will not benefit any eel grass beds, if a bed is currently there, in the waters adjacent to our home.

The waters of the Salish Sea are most definitely habitat for fish, marine mammals, birds and crustaceans. The waters off our home are most definitely habitat for these creatures. Washington law defined "critical areas" to include: (a) Wetlands; (b) Areas with critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; (c) Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; (d) Frequently flooded areas; and (e) Hazardous areas. None of these provisions apply to our home.

The Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report identifies Blind Bay on Shaw Island as a "priority" spawning habitat area. I assume that "priority" is synonymous with "critical" and that Blind Bay is a critical area. Blind Bay is at the opposite end of Shaw Island from our home. Our home does not impact Blind Bay. I further assume that by only mentioning Blind Bay, the report infers that the waters off our home are not "critical areas" within meaning given by Washington law. Unless of course, one were to take the position that since our marine life uses all the waters of the Salish Sea, these waters are all "critical" and thus these waters off our home are "critical areas". However, this would be a finding not supported by either best science or law.

Finally, and once again, let me reiterate that the extension of a one-hundred and fifty foot buffer to our property with substantially impact our use and enjoyment of our home. Moreover, this extension of this buffer zone to one-hundred and fifty feet would not benefit the marine environment and those creatures with whom we share our islands and the waters of our islands. I ask that you maintain the current buffer zone as it applies to our home.

Very Truly,


Margaret Herrmann Taylor