

#	Date Rec'd	Subject	Citizen/ Group	<p align="center">Citizen Comments on New Whatcom Waterfront Planning – December 2008</p>
<i>Last Update 11/30/08</i>				<i>Citizen comments received from citizens submitting comment to the Port and City and through the New Whatcom website through November 2008. Prior month comments can be viewed on the website in separate monthly documents</i>
407	12/12/08	Downtown Bellingham	Gary Holloway & Cindy Meche (Physical Letter)	<p>Dear Mayor Pike, Executive Director Darling, City Council, and Port Commission,</p> <p>The Downtown Renaissance Network represents downtown business owners, property owners and residents, all who share a profound interest in reclaiming the waterfront for the betterment of downtown and the entire community. We also function as the only official neighborhood association representing the waterfront at this time. You are well aware planning for the waterfront is an historic opportunity. Very few communities ever get the chance to integrate over 200 acres into an existing urban downtown environment.</p> <p>It is also a tremendous responsibility: we must clean up and redevelop this property while downtown continues to prosper as its waterfront district is incorporated.</p> <p>Downtown has a lot to lose if things go wrong and a lot to gain if the redevelopment is done right. Downtown Bellingham has been waiting decades to regain access to the central waterfront. All sides have agreed on this point. There may be disagreements but we all agree that bringing the central waterfront back to life is an opportunity that cannot be missed.</p> <p>The Downtown Renaissance Network has formed a Waterfront Committee whose task is to monitor the process and progress of the planning process from here forward. This committee will report to the DRN Board and our 160 downtown members. The Waterfront Committee is ready to assist in the planning process as the City and Port reconvene to move ahead.</p>

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406	12/11/08	Interlocal agreement between the City of Bellingham and Port of Bellingham	Frances Badgett frances@mac.com	<p>Hello All,</p> <p>Herewith are some documents regarding the cleanup and redevelopment of the waterfront. I am concerned about the City's refusal to renegotiate the Interlocal when given the opportunity by the Port to do so. The Interlocal puts the City in lockstep with the Port's cleanup plan, which is inadequate where the Whatcom Waterway is concerned and downright dangerous in the upland. 12,000 ppm of mercury in the Caustic Groundwater Plume. 8,000 ppm of mercury in the Chem-Fix, not to mention whatever is in the former Lake Aho (an open-air mercury holding pond). To place residences on that soil without removing the mercury first—in short, to marry the Port's plan to cap those areas, bring them up to an industrial level, and have individual developers *potentially* clean them up appropriately at some later date and time— is not acceptable.</p> <p>The Port of Bellingham's insistence that the City reaffirm the Interlocal so that the two entities may work closely together is, at its base, a falsehood. The Interlocal as currently written, including the five supplemental agreements, forces the City to capitulate on the most serious challenges in redeveloping this property: The City gives up all control of the consultants; the City gives up any right to insist on a higher cleanup level; the City gives up all impact fees; the City unequivocal support for a Marina (without any suggestion of public process), etc. etc. As for the marina, it is not a good economic generator. It is merely a passive revenue stream for the Port. It creates 59 part-time seasonal jobs. It is expensive, wasteful and pointless, particularly at this time when healthcare, basic services, and education need funding.</p> <p>I urge you to read through the attached documents and think this through. To sign the Interlocal in the first place was a mistake. You have an opportunity to renegotiate it, and I believe you should take this opportunity to do so.</p>

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405	12/10/08	Waterfront Negotiations	Edwina Norton <edwinanorton@earthlink.net>	<p>Dear Mayor Pike,</p> <p>Thank you, again, for fighting for the city and community in the waterfront planning, and I encourage you to continue to "defend" us! John D'Onofrio's letter in this week's Cascadia Weekly expresses my sentiments far better than I can: in this venture, we must seek excellence, not the short-term, limited objectives the Port seems to be seeking.</p> <p>Your understanding of the Port's perspective--their concern with development of just the port property and not the impact that development will have on the city and community at large--may be the way through this conflict. Please continue to persuade the Port officials that there is much more at stake here than their success.</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work and leadership!</p>
404	12/2/08	Waterfront Redevelopment	Erin Moore Physical Letter	<p>Dear Mayor Pike:</p> <p>I am writing you today about the waterfront redevelopment. With the carefully done deconstruction of many old GP buildings, from my place of work, we can now look at our beautiful bay daily and I think about the possibilities for a revitalized waterfront a lot. Being now able to now see the bay waters makes one both appreciative about what we have in Bellingham and optimistic about what we can create for the future.</p> <p>Like many other people in town, I was very vocal when the design concepts for the waterfront properties that were first up for public comment several years ago. I attended meetings where hundreds of people were thrilled, inspired, and quote vocal looking ahead to big, functioning open and green spaces and an environment that encouraged, even required, walking and non-motorized locomotion. Then, also like many, my attention went to other needs to work and life. I thought I was letting the Port and City "run" with what we, the people, and some rather far-thinking and creative architects and landscape designers retained by the City and the Bellingham Bay Foundation had made so abundantly clear and possible.</p> <p>All the while it turns out that the Port has been busy pushing a big, new marina for the waterfront that most people had earlier said no to. My concern is that a new</p>

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403	12/2/08	Bellingham Waterfront Development	Terry LeDesky, AIA tjlaia@whidbey.net	<p>Dear Mayor Pike, Executive Director Jim Darling, City Council, and Port Commission:</p> <p>The American Institute of Architects Northwest Washington Chapter represents over 80 licensed architects and their staff in Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties, all of whom are deeply interested in a successful waterfront development for the betterment of downtown Bellingham and the entire “Fourth Corner” of Washington State.</p> <p>As we are sure you are well aware, planning for the waterfront is an historic opportunity. Very few communities ever get the chance to integrate over 200 acres into an existing urban downtown environment. The AIA Northwest Washington Chapter is very proud of our initial involvement in this process, the Design Assistance Team that created some of the earliest visions for the Bellingham Waterfront in 2003.</p> <p>Downtown Bellingham has been waiting decades to regain access to the central waterfront. All sides have agreed on this, and while there may be disagreement on the details of the development, this is no reason to delay getting to work on bringing the central waterfront back to life. We urge the City and the Port of Bellingham to set aside their differences and work together to implement a single plan to fulfill this vision.</p> <p>As we did in 2003, we stand ready to assist in this pivotal moment in Bellingham’s history.</p>