

March 14, 2003

RE: Waterfront Futures Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Decker and Members of the Waterfront Futures Group,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project. I look forward to contributing in more detail as the project develops and submit the following as a list of issues I feel are important at this time.

Environment – The health of the bay should be the highest priority.

Neighborhoods – As a homeowner in the lettered streets neighborhood I am excited about the possibilities this process affords my neighborhood. The street I live on, G Street, ends at the waterfront. I think there is little doubt that this issue involved the Lettered Street Neighborhood. I hope the committee will seek out the input of our association as it moves forward. It is likely that other neighborhoods will feel similarly.

Eco-Tourism – Bellingham has the opportunity to market itself as an eco-tourism hub. Our amazing transportation center in Fairhaven could be the launching point for backpacking trips into the Chuckanuts, kayaking trips to the islands (DNR campground on Lummi Island), and mountain biking rides down the inter-urban,. Sport fishing, whale watching, and birding also offer opportunities.

Birding – Habitat for winter birds and waterfowl should be a prime focus. While this can and should be turned into a business opportunity, possibly by building some sort of bird info/ed center or a natural history museum, we should keep the birds needs on an equal footing.

Mercury and Pollutants – While the future of our waterfront is bright and offers much opportunity, we should keep the long term vision and make sure that all toxics are removed from the bay by those responsible for putting them there. Building permits should not be issued to anyone who has not adequately cleaned up there mess. The profit made from redevelopment should be seen as an opportunity to compensate the community and clean up the waterfront.

Jobs – While a working waterfront is an important piece of the waterfront, no industrial activities should be considered that will negatively impact the health of the bay. We have the opportunity to creating a sustainable waterfront. It should not be passed up. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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