

From: David Roberts, Assistant Region Manager, Department of Natural Resources 9-10-04  
Subject: Comments from the Department of Natural Resources regarding the Action and Framework Plans. The plan seems to be coming together great! Thanks for all your hard work.

### Action Plan

Page 1 – Appoint Waterfront Futures Advisors:

Question - Department of Natural Resources represents the state as a major landowner and manager in Bellingham harbor. Should DNR be considered for a position on this advisory group?

Page 3 – The City Center Renewal Plan will include:

Add a bullet – "A habitat and water quality improvement plan that complements and integrates with future redevelopment of the waterfront."

Page 5 – Restore the Health of Land and Water

Add a new bold line – "Based on environmental resource inventory and redevelopment plans, integrate habitat and water quality improvement projects wherever possible" (Note: We feel that simply creating an inventory is not enough.)

### Framework Plan

Page 7

Bullet calling for restoration on the west side of the I & J Waterway. As a waterway, restoration is not generally allowed. There are opportunities for improving moorage in the future by converting the area to harbor area or to first class tidelands. In addition, it is not clear what the Coast Guard plans to do in the future. I suggest the focus of restoration in this area be outside the Squalicum Marina for now. Since this is already shown on the map, there should be a notation to that effect in the text. "If sub-tidal test sites prove viable, enhance habitat in a similar manner across the south side of the Squalicum Marina."

Page 19 – Map

This map shows mixed use with a new waterfront park on the Cornwall landfill site. Pg 23 shows a cross-section of the same location showing mostly park with a parking garage on the east side. The drawing and the map should be consistent. This high value site should have mostly mixed use activity with a public access corridor along the waterfront.

On the same map, beach enhancement is shown along the water edge of the landfill area. Enhancements of this sort are limited in this part of the bay with the exception of the south end of Cornwall where there is an existing beach. The limiting factor for most of this waterfront area is the high wave energy and the need to adequately stabilize and contain the landfill for remedial purposes. Sub-tidal enhancements will be possible if they do not conflict with the design requirements for containing the landfill.

Lastly, this map could also show transient moorage on the north side of the Whatcom Waterway. This area may be re-classified to Harbor Area or first class tidelands which would allow additional moorage to be created. As a waterway, the Whatcom Waterway should only be for load/unload activities, in spite of the way it is currently being used.

Page 24 – Future Development (Bullet 4)

What is meant by "the north end of the site"?

Page 25 – Water Connections

Same comment as Page 19. The North side of Whatcom Waterway could also have transient moorage.