

Dear Ms. Decker,

September 28, 2004

After a quick perusal of the electronic version of the Waterfront Futures Action Plan, I do not see any acknowledgement of existing heavy industrial uses of the waterfront. The vision is imaginative, but it does not seem to be connected to current reality.

The Waterfront Futures committee should be aware, if it is not already, that a rock and gravel transshipment facility is in operation on the C Street or Whatcom Waterway. This operation involves the landing of a barge cross-wise in the waterway, unloading by track-mounted excavator or front end loader, dumping into a waiting fleet of 10 yard dump trucks, a road haul along and across C Street, and dumping the material in a stockpile. The operation takes place sometimes in the middle of the night and continues for many hours. The attendant noise consists of unmuffled heavy equipment, industrial strength backup alarms, and up to 2-ton rocks being dropped into steel truck bins. The operation takes place periodically, dependent on tide stage and the operator's convenience.

- The Waterfront Futures Report does not appear to acknowledge existing industrial uses of the waterfront or anticipate their continuation.
- Existing industrial uses of the waterway do not adequately protect neighboring residential areas from industrial traffic and noise. Protection is better, in fact, in Whatcom County than it is in the City of Bellingham.
- The City needs to acknowledge this activity and develop appropriate controls to protect the fragile peace and quiet of existing residential neighborhoods. It would be a pointless exercise for the Waterfront Futures effort to propose new neighborhoods and residential areas if we are unable to protect the long-established ones we already have. Limits on hours of operation should be adopted unless the industrial disturbance can be eliminated. Alternatives to audible backup alarms are available, and legally sufficient under applicable regulations.
- The Waterfront Futures Group needs to sponsor some kind of a public process to review the proper uses of the Whatcom Waterway, and controls on those uses.

Thank you.

Peter Willing  
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Bellingham