

August 5, 1012

Commissioner Jim McEntire
Clallam County Commissioners
223 East 4th St., Suite 4
Port Angeles WA 98362



1623A...

Dear Mr. McEntire:

Clallam County is currently revising its Shoreline Master Plan (SMP), as you are undoubtedly aware. We have very serious concerns about some aspects of this major revision and appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you about them.

We live along the Dungeness Bay shoreline on West Anderson Road, an area that has been tentatively designated in the SMP draft as "priority feeder bluff". This designation puts us in the same category as high, steep, rapidly eroding bluffs elsewhere. Our shoreline is not high, steep or rapidly eroding; it is instead sheltered and not subject to severe wave and current action. The shoreline enclosed by the Dungeness Spit, Cline Spit and Graveyard Spit should properly be designated as "bay" or some other lesser category in the SMP.

In his report recently submitted to the SMP Advisory Committee, Steve Luxton, a geotechnical engineer for NTI Engineering and Land Surveying, confirms that our shoreline is very different from bluffs that are high and steep and erode significantly. He discusses the sheltering of this area and its lack of severe wave and longshore drift currents. In other words, the engineering report supports our point that the Dungeness Bay shoreline is not a characteristic "priority feeder bluff" as designated in the draft SMP and should instead be assigned a lesser designation such as "bay".

A proposed setback of 150 feet from the top of the bank is associated with the "priority feeder bluff" designation. This is an arbitrary requirement for which no scientific justification has been presented. Houses that do not meet this proposed setback requirement would be considered "nonconforming". This significantly impinges upon the right of current property owners to enlarge or rebuild their houses and may reduce the future value of the property. Any further additions or rebuilding would necessitate an application for a variance and require an extensive and expensive engineering study.

We ask that you, as County Commissioners, work with us to properly categorize our Dungeness Bay shoreline as "bay" in the SMP and also reduce the proposed setback requirement to a more rational 50 feet. Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth S. Weller

