

From: Robert Kaplan
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 8:02 PM
To: SMP@co.clallam.wa.us.
Subject: <no subject>

Please accept my gratitude to the Planning Commission, the county staff, and the County Commissioners for their hard work in developing a Shoreline Master Program that is based on science and meets the requirements established by the 2003 Ecology guidelines.

I have a longstanding interest in shorelines, having spent years living as close to the shoreline as circumstances have permitted, not only in Clallam County, but in Southern California, in American Samoa, in various areas in Southeast Asia, as well as in New York State, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Over the years I have pursued the collection of conchological specimens around the world, always being careful to observe appropriate restrictions based on science and local requirements.

I am most grateful to the designers of the Shoreline Master Program for disallowing the replacement of soil with anything containing sewage sludge. I trust that the Shoreline Master Program will safeguard critical areas including fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and critical saltwater habitats, will retain existing natural vegetation and promote the planting of native plants, will commit to vigorously recovering public access to the shorelines, providing abundant and appropriate public access to the shoreline in a way that does not harm the ecosystem, and address new development to protect property, ecological function, public access, and safety as well as adopt a protective setback, at present set at 200 ft. from the mean high water mark, recognizing that it will change over time.

I further trust that the Clallam County and Planning Commission will give preference to protecting and restoring the ecological functions of the shorelines and limit the erection or expansion of hard structure barriers, since such artificial structures are likely to set up changes in natural beach architecture, increase wave energy, and effect further erosion beyond the structures.

Global climate change is upon us; the early impacts are being felt around the world as well as here in Clallam County – temperatures are rising, the snowpack is receding, glaciers are melting, flooding has increased and the regional sea level is rising. All of these will have a significant impact on the shorelines, infrastructure, water supplies, and human health. Clallam County should prepare for climate change with regard to its Shoreline Master Program; therefore, I strongly urge the Planning Commission to reschedule its recommendations to the County Commissioners so that it can incorporate the findings of the *Planning for Climate Change on the North Olympic Peninsula* – an ongoing effort funded through the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council, due in draft form 6/30/15 and in final form 8/31/15. I recommend delaying final recommendations until the results of this study are available, because those results are essential to avoiding future damages and remedies that are likely to prove far more costly than the current cost of planning for the future. Throughout Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, the phrase “*potential adverse impacts related to climate change*” should be added to the list of hazards property owners “SHALL” be made aware of. Standards addressing climate change should be added where appropriate.

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Kaplan