

From: Bob Lynette
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2015 2:17 PM
To: zSMP
Subject: Comments on SMP

Please include the attached document comments for the Planning Commission's review of Clallam County's Shoreline Master Program draft.

Please confirm that you received this email.

Thank you,

Bob Lynette
220 Strawberry Field Drive
Sequim, WA 98382

February 27, 2015

Clallam County Department of Community Development
& Clallam County Planning Commission
223 E. 4th St., Suite 5
Port Angeles, WA 98362
February 25, 2015

RE: Climate-related comments on draft Clallam County Shoreline Master Program

Please include the following comments for consideration by the Planning Commission.

1. **Overall concern for long-term health of shorelines and wetlands exposed to sea level rise.** - The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Guidelines require local jurisdictions to take into account scientific and technical information pertinent to shoreline management issues. It requires local governments use “the most current, accurate and complete scientific and technical information available” (WAC 173-26-201(2)(a)). Although the basis of the sea level rise rate used in the draft SMP to estimate required buffers and other building criteria is not clearly stated, it appears to be using 2008 data, which almost certainly underestimates sea level rise for Clallam County shorelines.¹

The entire area from 3-Crabs to the east end of Graysmarsh Farm is only a few feet above mean high tide. Much of this area contains wetlands going south for half a mile. Some of the residents have already had to use engineered means for protecting their homes. Imagine a sea level rise of 1-3 feet, which is likely within this century – especially coupled with more frequent and more intense storm

¹ (Mote, P., A. Petersen, S. Reeder, H. Shipman, and L. Whitely Binder, **2008**, *Sea Level Rise in the Coastal Waters of Washington State*, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group and the Washington Department of Ecology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA)

surges. The County needs to think long range and provide for this scenario, which is very likely. I urge the Planning Commission to keep this picture in mind when reviewing the SMP relative to new developments, allowed buffers and protective measures such as bulkheads. Merely stating that climate change should be considered is doing a disservice to property owners, potential purchasers of shoreline properties, and the long range ecological health of our community. It will also expose the County and taxpayers to expensive litigation. (It is doubtful that any disclaimers in the SMP will adequately protect the County from costly lawsuits.)

2. **Incorporate adaptive management as an essential element of the SMP, especially in view of our rapidly changing climate.** Monitoring of critical elements associated with climate change should be provided for in the SMP. The SMP should include the provision for monitoring of local sea level rise and changes in storm patterns. It should include the flexibility to modify setbacks and buffers based on the most recent data.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lynette

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