

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Tim & Amy Linderman  
6585 Aldrich Rd  
Bellingham, WA 98226

May 31, 2017

Whatcom County Planning & Development Services  
Andrew Hicks – Shoreline Administrator  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097

Dear Whatcom County Planning & Development Services:

I am a long-time resident Whatcom County, including owning property on the Sandy Point canal. I am writing to express my full support for the decision to dredge the Sandy Point canal.

I understand that some in our community have voiced concern over the possibility of dredging the canal, However, I am one of hundreds of individuals that use the canal on a weekly basis, and do not want to see my property value decrease due to the difficulty of navigating in/out of the harbor safely.

The canal is used by many more than just the Sandy Point property owners. For example, recreational boaters, canoers, kayakers, tribal & non-tribal commercial fisheries. These boaters like me would benefit greatly with the dredging of the canal, returning the canal to a "safe harbor" condition that can be used at any time, rather than when the tides allow. Current situation and the condition of the canal entrance is an "unsafe harbor" leaving many boaters finding the next "safe harbor" either in Bellingham or Blaine.

Returning the canal to a "safe harbor" would also benefit our local refineries who use the Sandy Point Marina and canal for their oil spill response. The marina also provides the only sewage pump out facility from Bellingham to Blaine depending on the tide situation on whether or not a boat could get into the harbor safely. Not dredging the canal would leave the waters and marine wildlife in a vulnerability position if a disaster ever occurred.

I am looking forward to seeing the Sandy Point Canal dredged, making it safe for all who use it.

Sincerely,



Tim & Amy Linderman

May 30, 2017

Whatcom County  
Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Subject: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

Dear Planning and Development Manager(s);

As a frequent user of this harbor for the last 9 years I am in full support of the current Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging project. The entrance has become dangerous to navigate in all tidal conditions. In fact, as a recent example, on May 6 I was entering the harbor with my 2 children on board and encountered another vessel that was travelling outbound. There is limited line of site due to the narrow entrance and certainly no room to pass, so I was forced to full reverse out and only narrowly missed being pushed into the rocks. That is just one example of an unnecessarily dangerous event for both life and property that can be greatly improved by this project.

Sandy Point is an important harbor for the region for many reasons. This is the only "safe harbor" between Birch Bay and Bellingham, used by both tribal and non-tribal recreational and commercial fisheries. In addition to the fisheries, the harbor provides recreational opportunities for boaters, kyakers, sailors, and canoeists from all over the region accessing the northern San Juan Islands.

Also, as you likely know there are significant commercial operations just to the north of the Sandy Point Harbor. There are important oil spill response resources located inside the Harbor that current entrance conditions severely degrade the effectiveness of. Also, the Sandy Point Harbor provides the only sewage pump-out facility in the area. Improving access is important to protect the environment.

Lastly, as a property owner in the Sandy Point Marina I am seeing the property values decrease as the entrance becomes more and more dangerous and difficult to navigate.

Safety, Environment, Community relations, Outdoor Recreation, and Real Property are all in need of improvement as a result of the harbor entrance. It is not going to get bad, it is bad. These are all valid topics that support the dredging project.

Please accept my support for approval.

Sincerely,



Cory M. Shaw  
6152 Garrett Ln, Ferndale, WA 98248  
360-319-1576

Whatcom County Planning and Development

5280 NW Drive

Bellingham WA 98226

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

I am a property owner and moor my boat at Sandy Point and I am very supportive of having the entrance channel dredged as soon as possible. I am very concerned that if the channel closes my property will lose its value and the bay will become a stinky swamp full of slime and algae. This would be an ecological tragedy. I also would like to be able to come and go from Sandy Point at any time, not just during a high tide condition.

I have contributed and will contribute additional moneys to help pay for the dredging as I feel it is essential that the dredging be done for a variety of concerns:

Boats can only enter or depart on a high tide. This is a hazard to navigation and it prevents Sandy Point from being a safe harbor.

The harbor is used daily by Conoco, commercial fishermen and recreational boaters

The oil spill response for the area is based at Sandy Point

If the harbor becomes any more difficult to access it will greatly affect property values at Sandy Point and the surrounding neighborhoods. This will also affect the amount of property taxes paid to Whatcom County

Many boaters use the boat launch to go crabbing, fishing and boating in the nearby area and the San Juans

The Marina provides boaters the only black water pump-out in the area. It is free and we all use it

The fish and wildlife in the bay are extremely varied. We have eagles, osprey, seals, otters, owls, gulls, loons, grebes, turnstones and millions of fish fingerlings that are all dependent upon a healthy Sandy Point tidal exchange.

Please be assured that we fully support the dredging project and hope that it can be accomplish in the near future.

Yours Truly,

Julia Rae Johnson  
  
4145 S W Orchard Street

Seattle, WA 98136

Whatcom County Planning and Development

5280 NW Drive

Bellingham WA 98226

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&D

I am a permanent resident at Sandy Point and I am very supportive of having the entrance channel dredged as soon as possible. I am very concerned that if the channel closes my property will lose its value and the bay will become a stinky swamp full of slime and algae. This would be an ecological tragedy.

I have contributed and will contribute additional moneys to help pay for the dredging as I feel it is essential that the dredging be done for a variety of concerns:

Boats can only enter or depart on a high tide. This is a hazard to navigation and it prevents Sandy Point from being a safe harbor.

The harbor is used daily by Conoco, commercial fishermen and recreational boaters

The oil spill response for the area is based at Sandy Point

If the harbor becomes any more difficult to access it will greatly affect property values at Sandy Point and the surrounding neighborhoods. This will also affect the amount of property taxes paid to Whatcom County


Many boaters use the boat launch to go crabbing, fishing and boating in the nearby area and the San Juans

The Marina provides boaters the only black water pump-out in the area. It is free and we all use it

The fish and wildlife in the bay are extremely varied. We have eagles, osprey, seals, otters, owls, gulls, loons, grebes, turnstones and millions of fish fingerlings that are all dependent upon a healthy Sandy Point tidal exchange.

Please be assured that we fully support the dredging project and hope that it can be accomplish in the near future.

Yours Truly,

  
William Bradley Johnson

4177 Sucia Drive

Ferndale, WA 98248

Whatcom County Planning

6/1/17

5280 NW Drive

Bellingham WA 98226

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

I have been a property owner at Sandy Point since 1969. We are very concerned how the entrance channel has filled into the point that it is almost un-navigable. The dredging of this entrance should have been addressed years ago. Needless to say, it is very important that Sandy Point access be greatly improved and maintained for the following considerations:

Boats can only enter or depart on a high tide. This is a hazard to navigation and it prevents Sandy Point from being a safe harbor.

The harbor is used daily by Conoco, commercial fishermen and recreational boaters

The oil spill response for the area is based at Sandy Point

If the harbor becomes any more difficult to access it will greatly affect property values at Sandy Point and the surrounding neighborhoods. This will also affect the amount of property taxes paid to Whatcom County

Many boaters use the boat launch to go crabbing, fishing and boating in the nearby area and the San Juans

The Marina provides boaters the only black water pump-out in the area. It is free and we all use it

The fish and wildlife in the bay are extremely varied. We have eagles, osprey, seals, otters, owls, gulls, loons, grebes, turnstones and millions of fish fingerlings that are all dependent upon a healthy Sandy Point tidal exchange.

Please be assured that we fully support the dredging project and hope that it can be accomplish in the near future.

Sincerely,



Georgia B. W. Johnson

7124 47<sup>th</sup> Ave SW appt B299

Seattle WA 98136

Whatcom County Planning and Development

5280 NW Drive

Bellingham WA 98226

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

I am a property owner and moor my boat at Sandy Point and I am very supportive of having the entrance channel dredged as soon as possible. I am very concerned that if the channel closes my property will lose its value and the bay will become a stinky swamp full of slime and algae. This would be an ecological tragedy. I also would like to be able to come and go from Sandy Point at any time, not just during a high tide condition.

I have contributed and will contribute additional moneys to help pay for the dredging as I feel it is essential that the dredging be done for a variety of concerns:

Boats can only enter or depart on a high tide. This is a hazard to navigation and it prevents Sandy Point from being a safe harbor.

The harbor is used daily by Conoco, commercial fishermen and recreational boaters

The oil spill response for the area is based at Sandy Point

If the harbor becomes any more difficult to access it will greatly affect property values at Sandy Point and the surrounding neighborhoods. This will also affect the amount of property taxes paid to Whatcom County

Many boaters use the boat launch to go crabbing, fishing and boating in the nearby area and the San Juans

The Marina provides boaters the only black water pump-out in the area. It is free and we all use it

The fish and wildlife in the bay are extremely varied. We have eagles, osprey, seals, otters, owls, gulls, loons, grebes, turnstones and millions of fish fingerlings that are all dependent upon a healthy Sandy Point tidal exchange.

Please be assured that we fully support the dredging project and hope that it can be accomplish in the near future.

Yours Truly,

Lea Johnson

5101 SW Bruce Street

Seattle WA 98136

# Notice of Application

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>File Number(s):</b>              | SHR2017-00007, SHC2017-00003, SEP2017-00051 |
| <b>Parcel Number:</b>               | 380117535540                                |
| <b>Project Name:</b>                | Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging        |
| <b>Applicant:</b>                   | Ocean Properties, LLC. - Vic Unick          |
| <b>Date Submitted:</b>              | April 10, 2017                              |
| <b>Notice of Completeness Date:</b> | April 24, 2017                              |
| <b>Notice of Application Date:</b>  | May 12, 2017                                |
| <b>Comments Due By:</b>             | June 12, 2017                               |
| <b>Project Description:</b>         | Dredge the entrance to Sandy Point canal    |
| <b>Site Address:</b>                | Lot 1, Sandy Point Marina Condominium       |

The application will be reviewed under the Official Whatcom County Shoreline Program, Zoning and Critical Areas Ordinances, and mitigation may be required pursuant to these ordinances. The project will also be reviewed by Whatcom County Planning and Development Services, Engineering, Fire and the Health Department.

The final decision on this proposal may be appealed according to the County appeal provisions specified in Title 23. For more information contact the Shoreline Administrator, Andrew Hicks, at (360) 778-5908 or e-mail ahicks@co.whatcom.wa.us.

### Comment Form

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Project Name:</b> Sandy Point Dredging  | <b>File Number(s):</b> SHR2017-00007, SHC2017-00003, SEP2017-00051 |
| <b>Name and Address:</b> Renee and Dennis Meehan<br>4098 Sucia Drive<br>Ferndale WA 98248  |  |
| <b>Comments (attach additional sheets as necessary):</b><br>It is vital to our community to take dredging action at the entrance of the Sandy Point Marina area. It is an extreme hazard due to narrow entrance only allowing 1 boat at a time in or out at a plus 3 tide or more for most boats. Judgement by incoming boats is not always the best when not knowing the rocky interior conditions. The entrance is a very important for not only pleasure boaters but a strategic location for any emergency Cherry Point needs. Our sewage pump station can be used by northend boater needing to pump out and properly dispose of waste. Sucia Island to Sandy Point is an easy run for the hundreds of over-night boaters who use the State Park mooring areas weekly and daily. We need the dredge to happen to keep our waterways safe and clean for our generations to come both recreational and commercial from Birch Bay to Bellingham.<br>Thanks,<br>Dennis and Renee Meehan. 425-375-3982 |  |

Andrew Hicks  
Shoreline Program Administrator  
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA. 98226-9097

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

5/30/2017

Mr. Hicks,

Sandy Point used to be considered a "Safe Harbor", however, it was removed from that classification a few years ago due to the inaccessibility of the inner harbor under most tidal conditions (It would be labeled as an "Unsafe Harbor" if such a classification existed). The short window of accessibility extends beyond the simple question of "when can I get in and out". That may be the only question on a flat calm summer day, however any winds or seasonal storms create wave action that make the entrance unapproachable at even at high tide. What that really means is that, instead of being able to "run in to safety", out of any waves and wind, an approaching boat may have to "stand off" in heavy waves, until there is a change in the weather, rather than try to surf in through the now winding shoal channel. This becomes a "safety of life at sea" issue.

As a long time Whatcom County resident, I have moved to the Sandy Point area in order to have better access to the salt water and San Juan Islands. The choices are few - - either Bellingham, Sandy Point, or Blaine. Bellingham and Blaine add hours of time and significantly increases fuel consumption to all boaters leaving from those locations. Sandy Point would appear to be the ideas mid-point, however the Harbor Entrance is totally inaccessible to many boats during much of any 24 hour day. During periods of accessibility, a partial list of users include:

Fish and Game

Coast Guard

Cherry Point resupply (oil spill response and others)

Fishermen – Tribal and non-tribal, both recreational and commercial

Recreational vessels, both power and sail.

All of the above vessels use the sewage pump-out station (the only one between Bellingham and Blaine).

At its current rate of sedimentation, the harbor entrance will close (by itself) within a very few years (significant silting has occurred even between summer 2016 and May 2017). If closure occurs, the inner channels and marina will become a stagnant lake, and we will lose a primary salt water access point for both moored boats and a very large number of trailer-able boats that drive from all over the county to launch at the marina.

As a Realtor, I have very accurate data at hand to define what will happen to the property values if the harbor entrance is allowed to close. Aside from the physical effects on the community, the tax base will be redefined over time, as a primary reason for living in the area will have disappeared.

To assist those who may read this letter, but not be familiar with the area, on the next page I've included photos that will help to define the issue.

Larry Humes  
4830 Beach Way  
Ferndale, WA. 98248  
[Larry@LarryHumes.com](mailto:Larry@LarryHumes.com)  
360.319.1048



**Sandy Point Harbor Entrance: showing sand/gravel bars.**

**Larry Humes 360.319.1048**



**At this stage of the tide, canoes, kayaks, and rowboats are the only water craft that can get in and out of the harbor. If the weather, outside the entrance, changes from flat calm, to stormy, nothing can get safely in or out.**



May 30, 2017

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&D

Whatcom County Planning and Development

5280 Northwest Dr.

Bellingham, WA 989226

Dear Whatcom County Officials,

I am writing to you about the proposed Sandy Point Harbor entrance dredging. I believe the dredging is essential for the following reasons:

1. It is the only mainland safe harbor between Bellingham and Birch Bay.
2. The entrance barely usable in its current condition.
3. The harbor serves boaters, kayakers and canoers from all over the region.
4. Property values in the area will drop as the harbor entrance silts in.
5. The harbor provides crucial access for emergency and oil spill response.

I support the approval of the proposed dredging.

Best regards,

Fred Gockel

4495 Sucia Drive

Ferndale WA 98248

425-877-0235

Whatcom County Planning  
5280 NW Drive  
Bellingham WA 98226

July 1 2017

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

We moor our boat at Sandy Point. We are very supportive of having the entrance channel dredged as soon as possible. The entrance is filling in very quickly and that presents many problems:

Boats can only enter or depart on a high tide. This is a hazard to navigation and it prevents Sandy Point from being a safe harbor. There are no other safe harbors nearby and with our often harsh weather and high winds this is very serious.

The harbor is used daily by Conoco, commercial fishermen and recreational boaters

The oil spill response for the area is based at Sandy Point

If the harbor becomes any more difficult to access it will greatly affect property values at Sandy Point and the surrounding neighborhoods. This will also affect the amount of property taxes paid to Whatcom County

Many boaters use the boat launch to go crabbing, fishing and boating in the nearby area and the San Juans

The Marina provides boaters the only black water pump out in the area. It is free and we all use it

The fish and wildlife in the bay are extremely varied. We have eagles, osprey, seals, otters, owls, gulls, loons, grebes, turnstones and millions of fish fingerlings that are all dependent upon a healthy Sandy Point tidal exchange.

Please be assured that we fully support the dredging project and hope that it can be accomplish in the near future.

Sincerely,  
  
Gerald f. Olson

5101 SW Bruce Street  
Seattle WA 98136

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Whatcom County Planning and Development

5280 NW Drive

Bellingham WA 98226

Re: Sandy Point Harbor Entrance Dredging

I am a 1/3 property owner at Sandy Point. We moor 3 boats at Sandy Point. I am corresponding to you in the interest of me and my two partners, Dale Greenfield and Pat Malera. We are all very supportive of having the entrance channel dredged as soon as possible. We are very concerned that if the channel closes our property will lose its value and the bay will become a stinky swamp full of slime and algae. This would be an ecological tragedy. We would also like to be able to come and go from Sandy Point at any time, not just during a high tide condition.

We have contributed and will contribute additional moneys to help pay for the dredging as we feel it is essential that the dredging be done for a variety of concerns:

Boats can only enter or depart on a high tide. This is a hazard to navigation and it prevents Sandy Point from being a safe harbor.

The harbor is used daily by Conoco, commercial fishermen and recreational boaters

The oil spill response for the area is based at Sandy Point

If the harbor becomes any more difficult to access it will greatly affect property values at Sandy Point and the surrounding neighborhoods. This will also affect the amount of property taxes paid to Whatcom County

Many boaters use the boat launch to go crabbing, fishing and boating in the nearby area and the San Juans

The Marina provides boaters the only black water pump-out in the area. It is free and we all use it

The fish and wildlife in the bay are extremely varied. We have eagles, osprey, seals, otters, owls, gulls, loons, grebes, turnstones and millions of fish fingerlings that are all dependent upon a healthy Sandy Point tidal exchange.

Please be assured that we fully support the dredging project and hope that it can be accomplish in the near future.

Yours Truly,

Kevin Perkins

2905 220<sup>th</sup> Place S E

Black Diamond, WA

98010

K. Jeff and Merle McKay  
4693 Sucia Dr.  
Ferndale, WA 98248

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Whatcom County  
Planning and Development Services  
5280 Northwest Dr.  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
Attn: Shoreline Manager

May 30, 2017

Re: Sandy Point Dredging

We are writing to support the proposed project to dredge the entrance to Sandy Point Harbor and hope that the permits can be issued as soon as possible.

Having used the harbor for over 40 years we have watched the gradual deterioration of the entrance to its present condition that makes navigation, during most times, hazardous.

The Sandy Point harbor is a vital resource for thousands of people who use it for recreational boating, canoeing and kayaking. Additionally, tribal and non-tribal fishers use it as a base of operation. The marina boat launch is open to use by anyone who wishes to use it for a small fee, providing valuable public access to water-based recreation.

The harbor provides many environmental benefits. We see a tremendous number of herring in the harbor in May. In September, numerous silver salmon are present. The harbor is used for oil spill response and the marina pump-out facility allows boaters to empty their holding tanks properly rather than pumping them overboard.

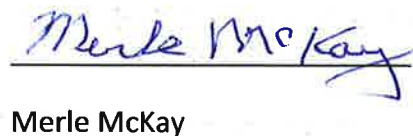
This is not a project to expand or change the harbor. It is simply an attempt to restore an existing facility to make it safer and easier to access. This need is recognized by the Army Corps of Engineers in its 1984 harbor entrance project proposal.

We urge the rapid approval of this project so work can begin as soon as possible.

Respectfully,



K. Jeff McKay



Merle McKay

**Thomas and Phyllis Hiatt**  
3989 Saltspring Drive  
Ferndale, WA 98248

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

**WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
5280 NORTHWEST DR  
BELLINGHAM WA 98226

MAY 31 2017

**SUBJECT: SANDY POINT HARBOR ENTRANCE DREDGING**

The harbor entrance in its present condition is unsafe and puts limits on the time in which it can be used. This is dangerous for response teams and for providing the only safe harbor between Birch Bay and Bellingham. It's present condition is troubling for commercial and recreational boaters who may need the harbor in an emergency that can happen regardless of the tide and time of day or night.

The harbor is used by tribal and non-tribal fishers for recreational and commercial fishing and limits the effectiveness of these activities.

Oil spill response is based along with law enforcement and homeland security in the harbor. The ability to launch and respond to situations that might save lives or keep us safe from terrorist activities is vital for those that reside here or are visitors to our Sandy Point area.

Property values and safety of residents will be adversely affected as the harbor entrance becomes increasingly difficult to navigate.

Please allow this dredging process to proceed for the good of all who call this area home.

Thank you,

Tom and Phyllis Hiatt

Whatcom County Planning + Development Services

May 31 2017

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

Subject: S. P. Harbor Entrance Dredging

As residents of Sandy Point for over 30 years we have seen boats high and dry during Low Tides. This is used not only by pleasure boat owners but also native and non native fishermen also in the case of an oil spill the response team is located at the Marina they could not get through the entrance at low tide.

We urge you to take this matter very seriously. Please consider and ~~allow~~ allow the dredge permit application.

Thank You

Don + Mildred Bensen  
4225 Sucia Drive  
Ferndale WA 98248

WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
5280 NORTHWEST DR  
BELLINGHAM WA 98226

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS

MAY 30 2017

SUBJECT: SANDY POINT HARBOR ENTRANCE DREDGING

The harbor entrance in its present condition is unsafe for navigation.

The importance of maintaining access to the only safe harbor between Birch Bay and Bellingham.

The harbor is used by tribal and non-tribal fishers for recreational and commercial fisheries.

Oil spill response is based in the harbor.

Property values will be adversely affected as the harbor entrance becomes increasingly difficult to navigate.

The harbor provides recreational opportunities for boaters, kayakers and canoers from all over the region who use the boat launch facility.

The marina provides the only sewage pump-out facility in the area.

Please consider and allow the dredge permit application.

Thank you,  
Carol W Coffman  
4818 Olympic DR  
Ferndale WA 98248

*Carol W Coffman  
4818 Olympic DR  
Ferndale WA 98248*



Ron Higgins  
4355 Sucia Drive  
Ferndale WA 98248

May 30, 2017

Dear Whatcom County Planning & Development Services,

My wife and I have lived at Sandy Point for 40 years and have enjoyed the boating opportunities the marina and canal access to the San Juan Islands has offered. However, we have watched as the canal has slowly filled in making it difficult to access the harbor especially during any low tides. This has created an unsafe situation for boaters and their occupants. If a boat runs aground in the canal it could become a tragic situation not only for the craft but for it's occupants.

Commercial fishermen, both tribal and non-tribal, use the harbor for their boats. If they can't get through the canal they would be denied access to their livelihood.

Our harbor is the only safe harbor between Bellingham and Blaine so is important for boaters. It is also used by the oil spill emergency boats which could be very important during an oil spill crisis.

The Sandy Point Community would certainly be negatively affected if the canal is allowed to close. The community has developed because of the presence of the canal, harbor and marina. The marina launch and canal access is also used by the surrounding community including people from Bellingham. The marina has a pump-out facility that is available to all boaters so helps to maintain the environment.

For all the reasons listed above I would encourage the County to approve the dredge permit.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2017  
Whatcom County P&DS