

Ron Buckholt

From: Michael Mason <mmason5479@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 12:16 PM
To: County_Commissioners
Cc: Ron Buckholt; reusters@comcast.net; Jcblaser@comcast.net; tgjohnston80@gmail.com; smitty9729@gmail.com; jimbrasil@me.com
Subject: SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT #2022103702 JOHNSON POINT
Attachments: Scan_2022_11_30_10_31_51_566.pdf

Dear Thurston County Commissioners,

I'm writing in regard to the Taylor Shellfish Geoduck application on Johnson Point as a resident of 9043 Otis Beach St NE (Tax Parcel 11905410900) and as a concerned citizen of Thurston County and the Puget Sound.

The decision concerning this permit will no doubt set the precedent for Geoduck farming on Henderson Inlet and other areas of the Sound. I urge you to research the process of Geoduck farming and the limited environmental data surrounding the practice. Do we really want to look at White PVC pipes at low tide throughout the county? One of the joys of being a Puget Sound resident is looking out over the sound and seeing the view of the water, Olympic Mountains, and Mt Rainer. This view is enjoyed daily not just by those that live on the water but all residents as they commute throughout the county and walk on our public beaches. I cannot imagine a ferry ride or family boat outing on the Sound in 10 years if this process is allowed to take a foothold. Have you gone for a walk at low tide and seen one of these establishments? If not please do before ruling on this permit.

As we have developed our property over the last 16 years we have had to work within the confines of shoreline development with the county. Many of these shoreline requirement's have increased our costs and not allowed us to proceed with the real house plans we wanted and restricted our beachhead development. The basis of these restriction's have been for the protection of Puget Sound and habitat which we all support.

The point I want to highlight is that restrictions exist and everyone on the inlet has worked and lived within those restrictions. I'm aware that one of my neighbors applied to put a pier and dock on their beach on Otis Beach Street. This permit was denied by the county because there were no other piers on Henderson Inlet. I believe the same restriction should be applied to this project. Another example is the State of Washington has restricted Farming Atlantic Salmon in the Sound. Now is the time to restrict Geoduck farms until DNR has real environmental data.

I would also like to highlight the complete amazement to myself as well as my neighbors that a private tax parcel even existed to our west. I have attached a copy I had on file from the Thurston County GeoMap dated 2010 that doesn't show this parcel. I'm certain that I wouldn't have purchased my property if I was aware I didn't own my tidelands. It seems the County has some culpability in not providing this tax parcel to the general public.

While on paper this looks like a small issue revolving around a few tax parcels this is a macro level permit that will impact the County and Puget Sound for decades. I respectfully request all commissioners involvement in reviewing this permit. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Mike Mason
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