

**From:** [Roz Lassoff](#) on behalf of [Council](#)  
**To:** [Kathy Cook](#); [Ryan Ericson](#); [Theresa Rice](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SMP update  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2013 11:14:23 AM

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*Roz Lassoff*

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**From:** Craig Hanson [mailto:[craig.hanson99@gmail.com](mailto:craig.hanson99@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2013 3:15 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** SMP update

Dear City of Bainbridge Island Council Members,

My family and I have lived on Bainbridge Island for 30 years, split between living on 5 acres in the woods and living on the water. As such, I have witnessed considerable change on this beautiful island and I have a perspective that encompasses both upland and waterfront property ownership.

I know that by now some of you are probably feeling exasperated by the recent backlash from shoreline property owners regarding the proposed SMP update . You are also likely thinking that this process has been going on for a long time, so why the last minute uproar (yes, I participated in the "March to City Hall" last week)?

Well, in short, we strongly believe that despite every effort we have not been fairly represented nor heard. Instead, we are frustratingly patronized and lectured to by some Council members as if we were a bunch of blind idiots led by a few "extremist" property rights activists. In fact, this couldn't be farther from the truth and is frankly insulting. In truth, as a significant constituency who pay a large percentage of property taxes, we are generally highly educated, successful and well informed citizens, who are as much interested in doing whatever we can to preserve and improve the Puget Sound environment as any one else on this island. As an example, my wife and I have personally never used pesticides or herbicides on our waterfront property. Furthermore, what I have found interesting during this debate is that it has united people across the entire spectrum of personal politics.

As someone who has an advanced degree in science, what concerns me the most about the proposed SMP update is that it is based little in the way on peer-reviewed science. In fact, scientific evidence indicates that the overwhelming majority of pollution affecting Puget Sound, and its affect on salmon and other aquatic life, is due to runoff from our roadways. We live at the bottom of a hill and every time it rains I see first hand the water coming off of the upland roadway ditch as it comes pouring into a cul-de-sac along my property line, like a torrential rivulet, directly into the Sound. Further, the adverse affect on Puget Sound salmon has been exacerbated by other factors, not the least of which is over-fishing. In other words,

what the proposed SMP update does not do is address the most significant root cause of the decline of Puget Sound. Instead, it imposes ever more restrictive residential use of shoreline property, considered one of the preferred uses under WA State's SMA.

I will summarize by saying that I believe that the goal of WA State's SMA was to strike a reasonable balance between preferred uses of shoreline areas and environmental protection. As I'm sure you have been reminded by many others, the SMA states, "*To the maximum extent possible*, the shorelines should be reserved for 'water-oriented' uses, including 'water-dependent', 'water-related' and 'water-enjoyment' uses." Unfortunately, I do not believe the COBI's proposed SMP update achieves this balance. As Councilwoman Blair said at the COBI Council Meeting last week, "I'm tipping my hat towards the environment".

I implore Council to not accept the SMP update as currently written.

Sincerely,

Craig Hanson

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