

**From:** [Roz Lassoff](#) on behalf of [Council](#)  
**To:** [Kathy Cook](#); [Ryan Ericson](#); [Theresa Rice](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SMP Vegetative Buffers and Marine Protection  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 08, 2013 4:54:02 PM

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*Roz Lassoff*

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**From:** Elise Wright [mailto:[emtw46@gmail.com](mailto:emtw46@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 08, 2013 4:49 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** SMP Vegetative Buffers and Marine Protection

Dear Councilmembers,

As a member of the SMP Citizens Workgroup on *Vegetation Management and Buffers*, I witnessed firsthand the compromises that were made to meet the concerns of representatives of Bainbridge Shoreline Homeowners and Gary Tripp's cohort.

It appears now that all of those compromises, made in the spirit of encouraging flexibility and compromise, were in vain. Therefore, I urge you to maintain the buffer requirements that we have in place, and to strengthen language where possible.

Specifically, please **affirm the protections of the Shoreline Residential Conservancy designation**. It is important that the dimensions, characteristics and regulations of this designation be retained in order to achieve No Net Loss. Far from being unduly restrictive, these requirements are considerably less stringent than those imposed on upland owners whose property is graced by streams or wetlands. Their buffers are significantly larger than the average in the SRC.

Please **increase the minimum vegetation buffer (Riparian Vegetation Protection Zone 1) from 30' to the current 50'**. Since owners of formerly nonconforming properties are able to repair, remodel, and rebuild their primary residences and water-dependent accessory buildings in Zone 1 under the compromises put in place, there is no reason that this minimal, most sensitive buffer should be narrower than that of our existing SMP.

Please **restore the word "Native" to all the Riparian Vegetation Protection Zones**. Since it is the loss of multi-story native vegetation on the shoreline that has had such a significant impact on the health of Puget Sound fisheries, it makes no sense not to use the word "Native" in the title of the buffer immediately adjacent to the water.

Please **maintain the integrity of Riparian (Native) Vegetation Protection Zone 1. Remove the loophole that allows an owner to clear 20% of the native vegetation to create a marine view**. This is completely inconsistent with No Net

Loss, no matter what compensatory mitigation is proposed. The first step in the Mitigation Sequence is "Avoid."

Finally, please **maintain protection of the most critical of our marine estuaries** with both Aquatic Priority Zone designations, A & B.

**Restore the word "conservancy" to their titles.** Restrictions on activities in these sensitive marine zones are specified in the regulations. Just as in the *Shoreline Residential Conservancy* designation, no added restrictions come along with the name "conservancy". In the instance of Fletcher Bay, the outside of which has just been added to the state's "Threatened" list for shellfish production, the term will only help to remind those using the area of the need for care.

Thank you for your attention.

Elise Wright

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