

My name is Frank Stowell-I'm at 6223 Blakely Avenue, my wife and I have lived there for the past 30 years.

First, I really appreciate the Council's willingness to support this very open and transparent process in the review of the SMP, and especially for providing all of us in the community so many opportunities for public comment, particularly on this final night.

And I would like to emphasize my appreciation for this **as the final night**, because I think this process has gone on long enough and it is now time to move this forward to the Department of Ecology for their approval.

There has been intense criticism by some ~~shoreline homeowners~~ that the process has been flawed and unfair from the very beginning-all of which of course is patently untrue. I think we now realize that the only way this process would have been acceptable to them was if all of the citizens committee members and all of the planning commissioners had been shoreline property owner who were members of their own group, since many other shoreline homeowners don't agree with them. That's not representative democracy, not here on Bainbridge Island.

There have also been many proclamations of doom about the catastrophic impacts if there was an increase in non-conforming status on the shoreline, that it would trigger a devastating drop in property values, with loans impossible to secure, and with the real estate industry and our local economy devastated. Yet we now know that many shoreline properties have been non-conforming for different reasons for many years, and there has been no conclusive evidence that non-conforming has caused ~~these~~ negative impacts here in the past, nor is there any real evidence from experiences in other communities that it would do so in the future. (In fact, I'm surprised non-conforming wasn't cited as a cause of the 2008 recession)

We have also heard that this current SMP document is extreme and far beyond the mandate and parameters of the Department of Ecology. But we now know that the current City Attorney has determined that it is consistent with DOE guidelines, and we now know that the Bainbridge SMP as it is currently proposed is in fact a very middle of the road document, and relative to other communities not in the least extreme; it is, as you would expect, a document forged from compromises.

Like most Bainbridge Islanders, I understand the importance of preserving and protecting the environment here. My wife and I own an 18 acre parcel behind our house that is mostly a wooded wetland-it comes with ~~severe~~ building restrictions and setbacks, but we understand why, because it helps maintain not only our water supply but those of our neighbors as well. We are upland owners, and we

see it as a community responsibility, and expect shoreline owners to be treated the same way ~~and not unduly favored~~. The small stream that wanders through our woods and those of the other property owners who share its stewardship eventually drains into the bay at Lynwood Center, so I consider myself a shoreline owner by proxy, because what I do in my woods effects the shoreline homeowners down below.

We are in this together, and we have discussed this SMP at great length together, and it is now time to move this SMP forward without it being weakened further, so that we can begin to tackle the full range of daunting problems that remain, that we will need to solve together, for ourselves and for our future.