

## Theresa Rice

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**From:** Don Bennett [chron2@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 7:57 PM  
**To:** PCD; Council  
**Subject:** SMP Update

To: Bainbridge Island City Council

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e Island Planning Commission

Subject: Shoreline Master Program Update

We are shoreline property homeowners & are also strong conservationists very interested in seeing Puget Sound & all of nature's waters maintained as cleanly as possible. For example, we were actively involved with keeping Washington State Ferries' passenger-only fast boats from continuing to erode beaches & damage wildlife in Rich Passage. Unfortunately, those shoreline homeowner driven successful efforts came too late to save major long-lived kelp beds along both shores of Rich Passage. For decades, those kelp beds were favorite locales for various species of fish, crabs, wildlife predators & fishermen ... unfortunately no more. We also routinely "patrol" the beaches in our neighborhood to remove unnatural debris dumped into the Sound by others, almost none of whom we believe are shoreline property owners. Our observations are that many shoreline property owners have a greater concern for the welfare of Puget Sound than the average of those who live elsewhere.

It seems to us that individual residential use of a shoreline property is near the bottom of the list when ranking environmental damages of anthropocentric shoreline uses & related activities. None of the "science" that is being used in preparation for the COBI SMP update recommendations disagrees with that opinion. Controlling rapid runoff of rainwater into the Sound is a very valid objective with which most shoreline property owners agree. Almost all shoreline owners are actively involved with minimizing runoff from their properties, often at significant personal expense. That said, we do not understand the focus on "native vegetation" as one of the required remedies. Various kinds of plantings are used effectively, many of which are non-native & non-invasive as well. No one disagrees that onsite septic systems must perform at their highest level and not pollute the Sound.

In general, the science being used in COBI SMP update proposals is not definitive about cause and effect beyond conclusions that could be reached with common sense assumptions. There does not seem to be anything about the effectiveness of increasing shoreline buffers for residential use beyond the need to use plantings to reduce water runoff next to the shore. Without any government requirements to do so, almost all shoreline owners already use plantings for that purpose.

The staff/committee recommendations for COBI SMP update that you are considering include many aspects that go well beyond property restrictions in the current COBI SMP, as well as beyond the Washington Dept. of Ecology SMP Guidelines. Additional proposed restrictions on residential uses of shoreline properties would bring certain increased costs &/or loss of use/value to property owners.

**We recommend that you minimize any changes to the current COBI SMP & include nothing that goes beyond that required to satisfy the Department of Ecology SMP Guidelines.**

Sincerely,

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