

## Theresa Rice

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**From:** Eric Rehm [erehm@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 11:24 AM  
**To:** PCD  
**Subject:** Commens in support of Shoreline Residential Conservancy Designation

Puget Sound, including Bainbridge Island, is designated as a shoreline of statewide significance. (RCW 90.58.030)

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) recognizes that "the shorelines of the state among the most valuable and fragile of its natural resources. The legislature declares that the interest of all of the people shall be paramount in the management of shorelines of statewide significance." (WAC 173-26-251):

As a result, the SMA requires that the City's SMP **\*must\*** give preference to uses in this order (WAC 173-26-251):

- \* Protect statewide interest over local interest
- \* Preserve the natural character
- \* Result in long term over short term benefit
- \* Protect resources & ecology
- \* Increase access to public shorelines
- \* Increase public recreational opportunities

I am a physical and biological oceanographer with significant on-water hours on Puget Sound. I've developed models that combine our physical understanding of tidal and estuarine flow with biological models of phytoplankton (algae) production -- the bottom of the aquatic food chain. My models directly demonstrate that that different regions of shoreline described by features in the proposed Shoreline Residential Conservancy designation (e.g., steep slopes, flood-prone areas, wetlands, estuaries, etc.) create different biophysical environments from those of Residential designation, and that these features have a direct effect on the food chain, which starts with phytoplankton. The models also show that the direct effect of these unique biophysical environments on the ecology in adjacent areas, thus confirming the notion that biophysical environment of local shoreline shorelines are linked to other environments in Puget Sound.

Therefore, I support the unique characteristics of the Shoreline Residential Conservancy designation because they are based on valid science, which confirms the role they play. I ask the City Council and Planning Commission to, as they must, protect the vital role that all areas identified by this shoreline designation in order to "**protect statewide interests over local interests**" (WAC 173-26-251).

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