

May 10, 2010

Dear Madam Mayor, City Council Members and City Staff,

I moved to Burien in August 2008 after being a resident of West Seattle for the previous 11 years. What attracted me to Burien was the small town atmosphere and the possibility to live on Puget Sound. For years, I had ridden my bicycle through the Three Tree Point neighborhood and thought if I was ever in a position to purchase a home there, then I would make it happen. Since moving to Burien, I have been part of a community, both in my neighborhood and the town. My fiancé moved in this past summer, The restaurants and stores are where we shop. There is little need to head up to Seattle or even over to Southcenter.

But lately I've observed things around the town that concern me. I was one of those in the dark about the SMP, though I can claim some ignorance by not being here when the process started. Until January this year, I did not know that the city had a website and actually did not think it necessary to care. All that has since changed. Now from what I have heard, our home is considered a nonconforming structure. A home that has been there since the early 1900's and remodeled in the 80's. To us, this does not make sense. A concern is that we have a huge hill behind us and a street in front of us. In the event of a catastrophe, for example a fire or hillslide, we might not be able to rebuild without meeting the requirements set forth in the proposed document. Should there really be restrictions on rebuilding a home that has been in its remodeled state for over 25 years? Having setbacks to the degree in the documents makes no sense to me. Burien's SMP should be easy. There are no marina or business interests to consider, only residential and parks. No problems, right? Except the residents of the shoreline have a lot of concern about the direction the city seems to be taking in its program.

As I see it the city council has two options with the SMP. As the mayor stated last week, you are the decision makers. The first would be to get the SMP to the state on time and have it approved. I can only see this happening with the cooperation of the residents of the shoreline. Does the city really want to divide itself from its citizens? I know that I don't want to see that happen. The other option would be to wait and join up with other cities and see what the state really wants and will approve. It truly is your choice.

You have the opportunity to be the city that can be a model of how to work with its citizens on its Shoreline Master Program or can be one of what not to do. Please listen to your residents and allow our input. You have the template for a plan, let the residents of Lake Burien and the Burien Marine Homeowners Association assist in the final documents. We have spent a lot of time reviewing what is proposed and can make the final documents something of which the city of Burien can be proud.

On a final note, since moving to SW 172nd, I have listened to stories on how over the years both the county and the city have had ideas claiming the property on the street right of way. The final version of the SMP can be the time to set this issue to rest. Wording in the final document could ease the mind of all the residents of SW 172nd St once and for

CFR: 05/24/10

all. With no net loss as the main idea behind the revised SMP, there will likely never be a time when changing the roadway from its current dimensions, outside of occasional resurfacing, ever be an option. Please consider allowing our neighborhood to remain the unique community that it is.

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