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AUG 04 2010

Subject: Lake Burien, The Jewel of the City of Burien

To: The Burien City Council Mayor McGilton

CITY OF BURIEN

Reference: The Shoreline Management Plan

There has been considerable discussion about the possibility of opening up this pristine lake to allow public access. Bases on testimony from the residents whose property encircles the lake, the waters provide refuge for a large variety of water birds, both local and migratory.


Evidence has been provided during the hearings that opening a lake to public access could eventually degrade it to a point where the waters are so polluted that no one can even swim there. This could take some time, but obviously the environment for wildlife would be adversely impacted immediately.

Our culture paves land with concrete and asphalt and unfortunately just happens to destroy wildlife habitat. A recent example of this occurred when the Port of Seattle constructed the third runway at our airport.

Not only did the Port eliminate wetlands by moving sixty-eight (68) acres to Auburn, but look what happened to the few acres that they left! They claimed to have 'enhanced' 102 of those acres, but then they prohibited (or at least seriously discouraged) bird life by placing netting over much of it to keep the birds away!

This means that Lake Burien is now the only pristine fresh water for those birds in the entire area. It would not be a surprise if the State Department of Ecology were to declare Lake Burien to be a State Treasure and thereby create some sort of conservancy to forever prohibit public use. It can be the almost exact offset for those 68 acres that moved away to Auburn. **IT IS TRULY THE JEWEL OF BURIEN.**

cc: Robbie Howell


Eric Denton 8/4/10

Attachment: Recent report from the Port of Seattle that documents the wetlands situation.

CFTR-08/16/10


OVER

The Port of Seattle is wrapping up the last major section of environmental mitigation related to building the third runway and other major improvements at Sea-Tac Airport over the past decade.

The five-plus-acre site is the former Des Moines Creek Nursery location on the east side of Des Moines Memorial Drive, just north of State Route 518, in the City of SeaTac.

Included are wetland restoration; wetland and riparian enhancement and buffer restoration with more than 13,000 new native trees and shrubs; enhancement of Miller Creek including installation of habitat features such as large woody debris; plus conversion of a storm drain pipe to a shallow, sloped area called an open "swale," for better treatment of rainwater runoff.

This brings the total number of mitigated wetland acres near the airport to more than 102.

The Port also created or enhanced 66 acres along the Green River in Auburn.

In a separate but related effort, the Port is converting four construction storm water ponds for permanent use. These ponds were originally built to manage runoff from the third runway project. They are being lined with weed control fabric and covered with netting to discourage birds, which can be hazardous to aircraft. With the new conversions, the airport has a total of 12 storm water vaults and detention ponds.

Thousands of recently planted native trees and shrubs help mitigate major projects at Sea-Tac, including the third runway, which has been open for more than a year.