

Lisa Clausen

From: Public Council Inbox
To: Deniece Bleha
Subject: RE: Submission on behalf of Lake Burien Shore Club

Your message will be included in the Correspondence for the Record for the next City Council meeting.

L. Clausen
City Manager's Office

From: Deniece Bleha [mailto:bleha@ekwlaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Joan McGilton; Rose Clark; Brian Bennett; Jack Block Jr.; Kathy Keene; Lucy Krakowiak; Gordon Shaw; Public Council Inbox
Cc: Peter Eglick; Don Warren
Subject: Submission on behalf of Lake Burien Shore Club

Greetings:

Please include the attached letter in the public record AND the packet that is created today by city staff for council consideration over the days prior to and in the Monday 30 August council meeting.

Thank you.



Deniece Bleha
Legal Assistant
Eglick Kiker Whited
1000 Second Avenue, Suite 3130
Seattle, WA 98104
206.441.1069 ext. 5

This e-mail is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). It contains information that is confidential and/or legally privileged. If you believe that it has been sent to you in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete the message. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information by someone other than the intended recipient is prohibited.

CFTR: 8/30/10



August 25, 2010

Don Warren
Lake Burien Shore Club
15702 13th Avenue SW
Burien, WA

Subject: Toxic blue-green algae and public access

Dear Don:

2200 Sixth Avenue
Suite 1100
Seattle
Washington
98121

(206) 441-9080
FAX 441-9108

Olympia
Washington

(360) 754-1344

Sequim
Washington

(360) 683-9109

Missoula
Montana

(406) 721-4204

Portland
Oregon

(503) 228-4301

It was brought to my attention an algae scum sample was recently collected and analyzed by King County for the presence of potentially toxic species of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). Two known toxin producers (*Anabaena* and *Microcystis*) were observed in the sample among other cyanobacteria species that are not known to be toxin producers (including *Gloeotrichia* which was the dominant genera observed). Due to the presence of toxin producers, the scum sample was tested for the toxins microcystin and anatoxin *a*. The concentration of microcystin (5.7 µg/L) was slightly below the recently published state guideline of 6 µg/L, and a very low concentration of anatoxin *a* was observed near the detection limit. Additional sampling is planned to occur and King County would likely recommend to avoid contact with lake waters if the microcystin concentration in that sample exceeds the 6 µg/L guideline.

The presence of toxic blue-green algae in Lake Burien is expected based on my review of the historical water quality data and the mesotrophic (moderately enriched) status of the lake, as described in the limnology report we prepared in March 2010 for the Shore Club. The recent observation of toxic blue-green algae illustrates the sensitivity of the lake to increased perturbations by human activities. Introductions of invasive plant or animal species would likely disrupt ecological conditions in the lake. The rapid increase in biomass of an introduced plant species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, could potentially increase the abundance of toxic blue-green algae by affecting nutrient cycling in the lake. As noted in our report, public access to a lake increases the risk of invasive species introductions, and the resulting degradation of the lake's ecological condition and water quality.

Sincerely,

Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Rob Zisette
Aquatic Science Principal

www.herrerainc.com

