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CITY OF BURIEN

December 8, 2010

To the Burien City Council

For the last two meetings that have dealt with the Lake Burien Neighborhood's request to have the Land Use Map changed to show the neighborhood as low density residential, I have heard Jim Clingan, Greg Anderson and Gordon Shaw go on the public record and say that the new Burien Storm water Management Program (SWMP) will take care of concerns the other citizens have raised. Having read the SWMP, I can say that it will not. And it clear that the folks giving that testimony have not read the SWNP.

The SWMP does not address the real issues that are currently causing problems for Lake Burien and the SWMP has no plans to do those things in the near five to ten years at a minimum. The SWMP only plans to;

1. do field assessment on 3 water bodies-Lake Burien is not listed as one of them. Nor is a program being designed to train neighborhood residents to sample the 11 storm water points that enter the lake for water quality and pollutants.
2. Under the new development and redevelopment section, only land areas of one acre or greater in project size will monitored and controlled by the city. As most of the lots on Lake Burien would be subdivided at a lot size of 7,200' piecemeal, this would provide no protection to the lake under #4 of the SWMP.
3. While a program of inspecting and cleaning the permanent treatment and flow control facilities as well as the catch basins is required, it does not address the issue of those areas where the surface water is not being managed correctly right now. Nor does it set up a program to analyze areas of the system that need redesign to adequately serve or protect an area or neighborhood such as the Lake Burien Neighborhood between 160th, 158th , 156th and the direct run right down to the lake.
4. There seems to be no provision for the upgrade of inadequate parts of the current system like the places that are still missing oil separators, diverters, etc.
5. There is no component or plan for the using newer technologies or techniques to better filter or improve the quality of the water that will enter areas like Lake Burien.
6. Citizen involvement in things like helping to label the drains is greatly restricted. Volunteer groups like the Boy Scouts have been told that they can not help with these projects because a city staff member must always be on duty to protect or supervise them. Guess the Scout Leader can't be trusted nor can the other citizen volunteer groups.

In summary, the Lake Burien Neighborhood remains in danger as long as the properties as divided up into small piecemeal 7,200' lots that make it impossible to adequately assess and manage surface and storm water runoff and non point pollution. The EIS to the Burien Comp Plan warned that this small lot size should never be allowed around the lake because of these issues. So who allowed this to happen? Someone who obviously did not read Chapter 5 of the Burien Comp Plan and the EIS and who did not pay attention to the mitigation that would be required if the Preferred Model of the Comp Plan was tampered with-as happened in 1999. Lake Burien needs to be low density.

Sandy Gledhill-Young

CFTR: 12/13/10