

Good afternoon Hearings examiner,
My name is Brian Lagerberg. I live in Mason County, on the shores of Oakland bay.

I agree with the testimony you have heard about the lack of responsiveness of Taylor Shellfish to the Shoreline Master Plan objectives.

I would like to broaden the objection to cover its remarkable lack of community engagement. The SMP highlights the need to provide public benefit from Oakland Bay. As a property owner adjacent to the proposed development, my first formal notification of the proposal was sent by the county on July 5, 2023. And that notice informed me that the hearing was being rescheduled.

As you know, a hearing is not public engagement. As far as I can tell, there has been no public engagement. What do the people of Mason County feel about the taking of a valuable public asset? Does this development reflect their values? How could they imagine enhancing their access to Oakland Bay? How much access is the conversion of 2.2 million square feet of the bay to private benefit worth to the people of this community?

Mason County is an overburdened community. The term overburdened recognizes that society has decided, implicitly and explicitly, to value some communities and populations more than others. We live with the risks and consequences of decisions outside our control and experience far fewer benefits. It is no surprise that Taylor Shellfish has proposed a development in Oakland Bay.

The decision to take an immensely valuable resource and give it to a private concern, to deny the community any benefits from the taking—is a consistent pattern in Mason County. And it is wrong.

If the proposal moves forward, it should do so only after authentic public engagement has been conducted.

I recommend that you deny this proposal.

Thank you

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