

Feb. 18, 2010

To: The Whatcom County Council and Planning & Development Services

From: Kathy Berg, Birch Bay

**RE: Long Range Work Program**

In my personal opinion:

Under *Planning Projects (Previously Docketed)*,

1. I agree with the Planning Commission's recommendation to remove *Birch Bay Subarea Plan - Fire LOS (Docket 2007-0, 2008-1)* from consideration;
2. I fully agree to continuing and moving forward with both *Low Impact Development (2009-2010 Budget)*, and
3. *Birch Bay Watershed Characterization (EPA Grant)* as essential to finding the balance between the development that will inevitably occur and the protection of the environment that we all love and value.

Under *2010 Zoning Docket Requests*, I agree with *Repeal Provision(al) Ordinance - Birch Bay at Blaine & Alderson* and I believe that this is before you with a hearing on Feb. 23, 2010.

Under *Code Amendment Projects (Projects Identified by Staff)*, I believe *Birch Bay Design Guidelines* would be more appropriately addressed in the context of a city. I would prefer County expend its time, energy and resources to apply and enforce the Whatcom County Code as it already exists.

Under *2010 Suggested Zoning Amendments*, instead of *Rezone R10 to R5A - Birch Bay*, I would like to see a re-examination of the Birch Bay UGA boundaries as adopted Nov. 2009 with the idea in mind that the *Birch Bay Community Plan* as adopted in 2004 says that Birch Bay should become a city. Such a city will need logical boundaries and a diverse economy that will provide urban goods, services, affordable housing and a rational balance between sensible development and respect for the environment.

The *Birch Bay Community Plan* says on page 16-1:

'The Growth Management Act states that "it is appropriate that urban government services be provided by cities, and urban government services should not be provided in rural areas." Consistent with this goal, it is desirable that Birch Bay will become a city or annex to a city as soon as this is economically feasible, as cities are best suited to provide the services that are needed in an urban area.'

Your consideration of these matters will be greatly appreciated.

-kb