

Hello everyone. My name is Erin Dilworth. I am the Policy and Technical Program Manager at Citizens for a Healthy Bay, or CHB, and I am a resident of Pierce County's District 7. CHB was part of a larger coalition that recently asked the County to make smart, sustainable choices for our County's shorelines via the Shoreline Master Plan update.

I attended the SMP hearing 2 weeks ago and spoke about our dismay to see that the Department of Ecology removed the SMP regulation prohibiting the dumping of dredged materials directly into the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve. In your own inserted language into ^{Proposed Amendments To Exhibit} Amendment A, you say, "Pierce County is concerned about potential impacts to the environment from discharging dredged materials in Pierce County within the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve." That's great, we have something in common!

The added language then goes on to state, "The County encourages citizen participation and engagement in the oversight of dredged material disposal..." I'll reiterate – this is exactly what Shoreline Master Plans are for – to create a framework of oversight and regulation for actions that impact our shorelines.

A lot of resources go into being able to meaningfully participate in public processes like this. As of today, I am working on CHB's participation and engagement in the following actions: draft recommendations from the Orca Recovery Task Force; the draft action agenda from the Puget Sound Partnership; renewal of interim regulations in the Port of Tacoma; an open house for the Occidental Chemical superfund site; and the supplemental environmental impact statement for the proposed LNG facility. There's a lot going on. Tacking on additional work to an already overloaded plate only serves to weaken our collective ability to make meaningful progress in our community.

Clerk's Note: This document was presented at the 10-02-2018 Pierce County Council Meeting.
By: Erin Dilworth

Many of the recommendations made by Ecology are short-sighted and clearly favor certain commercial uses over all other ecosystem functioning. Recommendations that are short-sighted and biased to the extent that they could undermine all the other great work that's being done in our area to restore habitat, ecosystem functioning, and wild salmon and orca populations.

That's why I again ask County Council to allow for an amendment phase of this document in 2019, so we can fully consider the environmental impacts and make sure they are captured in the SMP.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns, and I am happy to discuss them with Council at any time.