

Aven, Heather M.

From: noreply@cob.org on behalf of City of Bellingham <noreply@cob.org>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:36 PM
To: G.Proj.Wood at Viewcrest
Subject: Public Comment -Paul Brock
Attachments: Public Comment - 740.pdf



City of Bellingham

Public Comment

Entry Details

NAME	Paul Brock
CHOOSE TOPIC	The Woods at Viewcrest
COMMENT OR TESTIMONY	<p>In the RFI dated August 14, 2024 in the Geology section there is an action item doesn't seem to match its finding. The finding seems to reference building envelopes encroaching into hazardous areas, but the action item refers to stromwater being sent to Sea Pines Road.</p> <p>The Geotechnical Investigation and Geohazard Report did not include sufficient information to determine if the proposed building envelopes, shown on Figure 3B of said investigation and report, are outside of recommended buffer widths from landslide hazard areas for specific lots.</p>

ACTION ITEM: Provide documentation that confirms the current stormwater design. Element's Memo #1 dated 6/19/2023 includes a reference to direct a portion of the site's stormwater to existing infrastructure in Sea Pines Road.

EMAIL

brock_paul@hotmail.com

DATE

8/19/2024

Aven, Heather M.

From: noreply@cob.org on behalf of City of Bellingham <noreply@cob.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 24, 2024 7:15 PM
To: G.Proj.Wood at Viewcrest
Subject: Public Comment -Anne Johnson
Attachments: Public Comment - 741.pdf



City of Bellingham

Public Comment

Entry Details

NAME	Anne Johnson
CHOOSE TOPIC	The Woods at Viewcrest
COMMENT OR TESTIMONY	I am strongly against any development involving Mud Bay. Our city has very little natural shoreline remaining. This project is short-sited and will harm the existing sea-life.
EMAIL	annelj0206@hotmail.com
DATE	8/24/2024

Aven, Heather M.

From: Hale Dwoskin <HaleD@sedona.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 11:48 AM
To: Bell, Kathy M.; Sundin, Steven C.; Lyon, Blake G.
Subject: Please Require an EIS for the Proposed Subdivision on Mud Bay Cliffs

Some people who received this message don't often get email from haled@sedona.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This message originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Ms. Bell, Mr. Sundin, and Mr. Lyon,

I ask you to prevent harms to Bellingham's publicly-owned spaces connected to Mud Bay Cliffs, and to safeguard our community against known and severe subdivision development risks, by requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for *The Woods at Viewcrest*, a proposed subdivision on the mature woodlands and wetlands of Mud Bay Cliffs.

The proposed subdivision (of 4 current lots into 38 proposed lots, with up to 152 housing units) would likely impose **significant adverse impacts to the environment**. In addition to these adverse impacts, the developer's application materials are flawed in substantive ways, which further exposes the public's interests, including public investments in neighboring fish and wildlife habitats, to considerable risk. The likely significant adverse impacts, coupled with the substantive application flaws, compel the city to issue a State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) Determination of Significance and require an EIS.

A. Unique and Special Site. The location of the proposed subdivision is unique both in its **specific characteristics** and its **physical setting**. These unique characteristics and physical setting are important factors that influence why the current subdivision proposal is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts. The site of this proposed subdivision is currently distinguished by these features:

Specific Characteristics

- **Important Habitat Hub.** The 2021 City of Bellingham *Wildlife Corridor Analysis* designates this property, which consists of rare mature shoreline woodlands and wetlands habitat, as an *Important Habitat Hub* – and one of the only *Important Habitat Hubs* in south Bellingham that remains unprotected.
- **Geohazards.** Significant landslide, erosion and seismic hazards exist throughout the site, and they are sensitive to development disturbances including hydrological changes.
- **Storm Microclimate.** This location is well-known locally for its microclimate of gales during storms – among the strongest gales in Bellingham. Gale intensity has been increasing over the past decade due to climate change. The existing mature woodland acts as a protective buffer for wildlife (both resident and sheltering), and for the community.

Physical Setting

- **Wildlife Network.** This *Important Habitat Hub* is the center part that links two other *Important Habitat Hubs* – Clark's Point and Chuckanut Village Marsh/ Chuckanut Bay Open Space – all of which are connected to a larger, protected *Wildlife Network*. The public has invested heavily to protect and maintain the Hubs and Corridors of this Wildlife Network.
- **Estuarine Wetlands.** Mud Bay Cliffs is a key watershed adjacent to Mud Bay's Category I Estuarine Wetlands.
- **Stormwater.** Most drainage from this site flows directly into the Mud Bay Estuarine Wetlands. Drainage discharges from existing city stormwater outlets have already begun to impair the health of this wetland habitat.
- **Great Blue Herons.** The Post Point Colony of Great Blue Herons relies on this site for shelter, and on the Mud Bay Estuarine Wetlands to feed their young. This Heron Colony fled its previous home near Chuckanut

Bay as a result of subdivision development activity. Significant public investment has been made to provide habitat protection for this Colony at its new Post Point nesting location.

- **Salmon.** Juvenile salmonids rely on clean water and safe passage through the Mud Bay Estuarine Wetlands, Chuckanut Village Marsh, and Chuckanut Creek. Significant public investment has been made to restore these habitats for salmon.
- **Traffic Safety and Level of Service.**
 - Traffic safety issues have been well documented on Edgemoor’s narrow, hilly roads with limited sightlines, including where Viewcrest Road intersects Chuckanut Drive (State Route 11). The traffic conditions where Fairhaven Middle School meets the 12th Street Bridge are particularly dangerous. These well-documented issues create precarious and unsafe conditions for walkers, runners, cyclists, and motorists. The city has been notified of these hazardous conditions but has yet to take any action to mitigate them.
 - Viewcrest Road and the roadways it intersects provide unique access to important public amenities. These amenities tend to have more visitors seasonally and on weekends. Viewcrest’s intersection with Chuckanut Drive is significant as an access point to public amenities including Clark’s Point, Hundred Acre Woods (trailhead at the intersection), and the Chuckanut Scenic Byway (which itself is the sole access to multiple public parklands, trail systems, and public natural amenities).

B. Severe Application Flaws. The proposed subdivision application is severely flawed. Objective and comprehensive assessments suitable to this unique site and setting must be completed to address these flaws before an informed consideration of any subdivision proposals can be made. For example:

- The Stormwater Management Plan is incomplete, lacking key required plan elements. As proposed, the subdivision would result in significant increases in runoff volumes, speeds, and sediment/pollution loads. Moreover, by discharging polluted stormwater into the Mud Bay Estuarine Wetlands, significant adverse environmental impacts are probable. The plan fails to address how the ecologically sensitive Mud Bay Estuarine Wetlands, and the Public Shoreline, will be impacted by this development.
- The Wildlife Habitat Assessment fails to: identify this site as an *Important Habitat Hub* connected to other nearby hubs by two Important Habitat Corridors; address the harmful wildlife *Habitat Network* fragmentation the proposed development would cause; address impacts to the Mud Bay Estuarine Wetlands and salmon habitat of Chuckanut Village Marsh and Chuckanut Creek; address impacts to the Post Point Heron Colony (feeding and sheltering); provide a sufficient wildlife inventory.
- The Geotechnical Investigation & Geohazard Report fails to assess the impact of development on groundwater flow and the likely increase in probability, frequency and magnitude of flooding, erosion, and landslide activity. It is documented that development activities would likely make the site hazardous for the subdivision residents, neighbors, and the community at large. These dangers would begin with development disturbances, and would persist for decades to come.
- There is no Hydrology assessment at all, which this unique site’s characteristics and setting necessitate. A Hydrology report is essential to evaluate potential environmental impacts, and ensure that any development at this site will not harm local ecosystems and water quality. Clearly, development of infrastructure such as roads, retention walls, driveways, structures and other hardscaping will alter the topography and the flow of water on this geologically complex site. With soils disturbances and proposed infrastructure cutting across the site, it is probable that saturation, drainage, and flooding would be greatly affected. Erosion, rockfall, landslide and flooding to the north would be likely, unless plans are developed using Hydrology information. These likely impacts could severely affect neighboring public and private lands, waters, and wildlife habitat.
- The applicant has failed to show how tree removal during both initial infrastructure development, and then later by lot owners, would impact the **mature woodland**. There is no assessment for how the gales from worsening storms, combined with extensive tree removal, would impact sheltering wildlife and public safety. There is no assessment of how the remaining trees in the proposed narrow 200-foot “buffer” along the shoreline would be affected by adjacent tree removal; it is probable that tree removal would degrade the health of nearby trees in the proposed “buffer” wildlife habitat connecting two Important Habitat Hubs.

- The Traffic Impact Analysis fails to address how Levels of Service to public parks, public natural amenities, and scenic byway would be impacted by traffic from this development. Further, it fails to address the known public safety issues which would be exacerbated by increased traffic from the 152 potential new housing units, since fourplexes would be allowed on all 38 lots under a new statewide law.

Because of this site's unique specific characteristics and unique physical setting, and because of the subdivision application's profound flaws, the city does not have the accurate, sufficient, and objective information it needs to identify and assess potential significant adverse impacts.

Moreover, the application materials themselves indicate that the proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment, the built environment, and public health and safety.

I ask the city to protect our public interest and prevent harms to the community:

Require an Environmental Impact Statement, so that any permit decisions are based on a full understanding of the risks to the environment, and to public safety.

Hale Dwoskin

President

Sedona Press &

Sedona Training Associates

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www.youtube.com/thesedonamethod

<https://www.sedona.com/podcast-letting-go>

Aven, Heather M.

From: noreply@cob.org on behalf of City of Bellingham <noreply@cob.org>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:48 AM
To: G.Proj.Wood at Viewcrest
Subject: Public Comment -Michael R Richards
Attachments: Public Comment - 753.pdf



City of Bellingham

Public Comment

Entry Details

NAME	Michael R Richards
CHOOSE TOPIC	The Woods at Viewcrest
COMMENT OR TESTIMONY	<p>"I urge the Council to support I-2066 to protect natural gas and energy choice for Washington State."</p> <p>"Please support I-2124 to allow workers to opt-out of WA Cares and choose a long-term care program that works for them."</p> <p>"I urge the Council to support I-2109 to repeal the capital gains income tax as it's being used as a back door income tax for all residents."</p>
EMAIL	mrichards54@comcast.net
DATE	10/14/2024