

Otter Place
6686 NE Bayview Blvd
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

March 15, 2020

To Whom This Concerns:

My name is David Lee and I live at 6686 NE Bayview Blvd, a waterfront property directly on Little Manzanita Bay, on Bainbridge Island. Describing my property as "waterfront" sounds more glorious than it is...our cozy home and lot is tight and we feel small and insignificant as we watch the daily comings and goings of each tide, twice a day, subside and flood. Wildlife abounds, my wife likens it to a National Geographic show right in our midst - Eagles, kingfishers and herons overhead, river otters, harbor seals, coyotes, raccoons in and along the shore and countless fish, crustaceans and other sea creatures swimming within the water, not to mention numerous waterfowl skirting across the water, diving for fish and appearing in other such places.

We've been so enamored with the natural environment on Little Manzanita Bay that we decided to purchase the empty lot adjacent to our property with the intention of leaving it natural as wildlife habitat.

Our neighbors across the Bay have submitted an application for a 240-foot dock to be built. I'm writing you today to urge you to deny the application and preserve the ecology and habitat of Little Manzanita Bay, not for my edification or for the preservation of my peaceful and pristine views but more importantly, out of respect for the many other non-human creatures that have lived on the Bay for millennia. One doesn't need to be a scientist or an environmental specialist to understand the impact that this extended dock will have on the natural environment and it's inhabitants:

Creature Impacts

- The construction phase will be very disruptive to wildlife, unsettling the seabed floor, noise pollution disrupting the ears of the many creatures, potentially displacing them,
- The dock, even though 240 feet long, will still not be able to make it all the way out to the permanent sea, so the large boats will be raised and lowered with the tides, settling upon the seabed, destroying sea-life as the heavy boats sink and sit atop of the seabed floor.
- The dock will be elevated by 4 feet and is in the direct flight path of a gaggle of Canadian Geese as they regularly fly from the shores of their haunt on Bergman Road to the beach in front of our house. We watch the geese fly this path many times a day....honking all the way.
- Waterfowl swim with the currents and wind, rounding up little fish for dinner, they use the whole Bay, swimming and "running on the water" in concert with each other, the proposed dock will cut them off from their regular pathways.
- More boats, more sounds, more engines, more people, more gasoline, more laughing, more shouting, more disruption to wildlife. Wildlife avoid us humans! Little Manzanita Bay has been a refuge for them. The construction of the new dock will significantly reduce and impact this refuge.

Human Impacts

- The 240 foot dock will cut through the large portion of the Bay. This will impact the many paddle boarders, kayakers, row boaters who currently intersect with and will cross the path of the dock, thus inhibiting them from their natural course (see geese above)
- Due to the extended length of the dock there will need to be lights attached on the dock for safety reasons - more light pollution, our Bay is delightfully dark at night.
- Swimming...it's a well known secret that Little Manzanita Bay is the best place to swim for children and their adults in all of Bainbridge Island and perhaps, the greater surrounding area! This is because the Bay is shallow, which, when the sun is shining will significantly warm the water turning it into a comfortable temperature for swimming. The dock will impact and intersect some of the areas that we swim in cutting through the shallow areas...
- The length of the dock will have a greater degree of impact compared to other bays on Bainbridge Island. Due to the small width of the Bay, the % of impact or penetration that the dock will have on the overall Bay is much greater compared to Big Manzanita Bay, which is much wider. This is the case in most of the existing bays on the Island with docks.
- Fairness - those of us who live on the waterfront are well aware of the stringent requirements, rules and regulations of the Shoreline Management Act. How is it that we need to get a permit to trim our plant growth in certain areas, and other simple, seemingly innocuous tasks and yet this invasive project could be potentially approved? This project is in direct opposition of the stated, overarching goal of the Shoreline Management Act:

"(To) protect and conserve shoreline natural resources, including protection of critical areas, while accommodating reasonable and appropriate uses which will assure, at a minimum, no net loss to shoreline ecological functions and processes".

Clearly a 240-foot dock will impact a "net loss to shoreline ecological functions and processes."

Thanks very much for considering my comments in response to my neighbors' application to extend their dock to 240 ft. I oppose their application.

Kind Regards,



David Lee