

16701 Agate Point Rd. NE  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
January 24, 2017

Ms. Olivia Sontag, Planner  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
280 Madison Avenue N.  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Re: Bloedel Reserve Parking SPR – PLN50734 SPR

Dear Ms. Sontag,

We are writing to you and the City of Bainbridge Island Department of Planning and Community Development to express our deep concern with the Bloedel Reserve's proposal for a revision to the entrance and exit of its facility. This important change to the operation of the Reserve and subsequent substantial development will have, we believe, very negative impacts on the surrounding private and protected community in the Agate Point area.

After attending an informational meeting sponsored by the Reserve, we remain very concerned about the following issues:

1. The Reserve will be increasing its attempts to attract even more vehicular traffic to its facility with more parking, more cars, more people, and more buses. The Bloedel Reserve Fall 2016 Year in Review states that revenue from admissions to the Reserve increased from \$262,680 in 2014 to \$352,161 in 2015, a 35% increase in one year. Stated another way, attendance has risen from approximately 78,000 visitors to 130,000, a 67% increase. The report, published in the fall of 2016, went on to emphasize: "While 2015 was a record year for attendance, this year we have already topped it." Clearly the significant issue here is that the Reserve is either unaware of the negative impact of vastly increasing attendance or chooses to ignore it. The three roads impacted most significantly by this mostly off-island traffic - Agatewood Road, Dolphin Drive and Agate Point Road - are all narrow, two-lane roads, not designed for heavy traffic, with no shoulders, and poor visibility - putting the many local residents, pedestrians, cyclists, children, pets, and drivers of the neighborhood at risk.
2. The proposal states that there will be a reduction in traffic congestion at the present entrance and an increase in safety, while ignoring that their proposed exit will force traffic across two lanes of on-coming traffic. They do not address: 1) the 90 degree corner turning from Dolphin Drive onto Agate Point Road that is across from their present entrance that has contributed to a number of accidents in the past (e.g., two months ago a motorist crashed into the Reserve property. 2) the Kitsap Transit bus stop that is 75 feet from their entrance and 3) the much used driveway into the West Sound Wildlife Center, a mere 100 feet from the Bloedel Reserve.

3. The Reserve's future plans call for major structural and environmental changes to their facility in the coming years which will additionally increase the number of vehicles and pedestrians in our rural zoned neighborhood.
4. When we last checked with the COBI, the Reserve had been engaged in retail sales on its property for several years without the proper licensing and intends to significantly increase this type of business in the future. We don't believe the home owners and taxpayers in the Agate Point neighborhood are in favor of retail businesses gaining a foothold where they live.
5. One of the most important issues affected by a significantly projected increase in traffic encouraged by the Bloedel Reserve is the issue of safety at the intersection of Agatewood Road and State Highway 305. The intersection poses a huge safety concern, not only for those vehicles attempting to leave the Agate Point area onto this major highway, but there is the additional problem of ingress and egress of emergency vehicles responding to accidents and illnesses involving residents. If traffic is allowed to increase significantly due to the Bloedel Reserve's plans, how will EMT's and fire trucks be able to expeditiously exit onto to Highway 305 with backed-up traffic on Agatewood Road? The City is undoubtedly aware that there have been two major collisions in the last few weeks within this area - one fatal - and, with major increases in traffic, these types of tragic situations will undoubtedly increase.

With the above points in mind, we respectfully ask the City of Bainbridge Island Department of Planning and Community Development to:

- Work with and direct the Bloedel Reserve to develop and implement alternative plans for vehicular traffic in and out of their facility and to substantially reduce the chances of accidents and injuries and to materially lessen the negative impacts on our community.
- Implement a traffic study utilizing City of Bainbridge Island and State of Washington traffic engineers to review the current and proposed state of affairs and arrive at a safe and sane solution to the increased traffic to and from the Bloedel Reserve which will preserve the quiet, residential nature of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration of these very important safety concerns and requests.

Sincerely,

Johnathan Carney

Mackie Cargill