



THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

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June 17, 2009

Bainbridge Island City Council
280 Madison Avenue
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Subject: Strawberry Plant Shoreline Restoration Project


Dear Council Members:

I wanted to take this opportunity to express the Suquamish Tribe's strong support for the construction of the Strawberry Plant Shoreline Restoration project, and appreciation for the Council's approval of the project design documents. The Suquamish Tribe places a high priority on the restoration of marine habitat and resources, and commends the City's decision of restoring habitat on City-owned property for the benefit of the resources and the public.

The protection of archaeological, cultural, and historic properties is also very important to the Suquamish Tribe. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) has been involved in the Section 106 consultation process for the Strawberry Shoreline Restoration project; coordinated with federal, state, and city staff; and reviewed reports, maps, photographs, and other documents associated with this project. Based on the THPO review of the project (please see attached letter), I am satisfied that the hunter-gatherer archaeological resource issues are being adequately addressed and that on-site monitoring will help protect these resources. The Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will make the final determination of National Register Historic Places eligibility of historic features within the area of potential effect based on NRHP criteria. The Tribe appreciates the pre- and post-contact history at the site and would support non-intrusive interpretive signage at the park.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Richard Brooks @ 360-394-8442 or Dennis Lewarch, THPO, 360-394-8529.

Sincerely,


Leonard Forsman
Tribal Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Peter Namtvedt Best, COBI
John Kern, NOAA



Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Fisheries Department

360/394-8529

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P.O. Box 498 Suquamish, Washington 98392

June 17, 2009

Mr. John Kern, Restoration Ecologist
NOAA Restoration Center NW
7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Building 1, DARC
Seattle, WA 98115

RE: Determination of No Historic Properties Affected
Section 106 Consultation Process, National Historic Preservation Act
Strawberry Plant Park Shoreline Restoration Project, City of Bainbridge Island
Suquamish Tribe Reference: 09-06-11-01

Dear John,

Thank you for continued consultation with the Suquamish Tribe regarding the Strawberry Plant Park Shoreline Restoration Project, on the north shoreline of Eagle Harbor, in the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington. The project area is within the Adjudicated Usual & Accustomed Fishing Area of the Suquamish Tribe and is in the heartland of Suquamish Ancestral Territory. The Suquamish Tribe is committed to protecting significant cultural resources, especially hunter-fisher-gatherer archaeological resources and traditional cultural areas of the Suquamish Ancestors. The Tribe also is a steward of natural resources, involved in protecting and improving shoreline habitat important to survival of fisheries resources used by all people living in the Puget Sound Region.

I reviewed a wide range of information relevant to the proposed shoreline restoration project, including: an updated cultural resources assessment prepared by Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc.; information in a National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the project vicinity prepared by Gerald Elfendahl; a report on the project area geomorphology prepared by Coastal Geological Services, Inc.; a report prepared by Maurice Major, archaeologist for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources; geotechnical studies; proposed project 30 % Design Plans; documents delineating the project Area of Potential Effects; aerial photographs; and, historic records. I also walked the project area multiple times.

I understand that NOAA, the Trustee Council, the City of Bainbridge Island, the Suquamish Tribe, and professional archaeologists will prepare a construction monitoring plan and a plan for inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources and human remains. Professional archaeologists will monitor construction excavation to minimize effects to undiscovered archaeological resources that may occur at the surface of native soil deposits below post-World War II fill. Contractors and site supervisors will follow other management recommendations made in the NWAA report.

Mr. John Kern
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I concur with the NOAA determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

Thank you again for consulting the Suquamish Tribe regarding cultural resources issues as the Strawberry Plant Park Shoreline Restoration Project moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis E. Lewarch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dennis E. Lewarch
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Leonard Forsman, Chairman, Suquamish Tribe
Dr. Robert G. Whitlam, State Archaeologist, DAHP
Michelle Hansen, Senior Tribal Attorney, Suquamish Tribe
Rich Brooks, Environmental Program Manager, Suquamish Tribe
Peter Namtvedt Best, Shoreline Stewardship Program Coordinator, City of Bainbridge
Island
