

DUNGENESS MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**461 Dungeness Meadows
Sequim WA 98382**

**Telephone: 360-683-9716
email: dmha@olympen.com**

To: Steve Gray
Deputy Director
Clallam County Public Works
223 East 4th Street, Suite 6
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3000

17 October 2023

From: Dungeness Meadows HOA Board of Trustees

Dungeness Meadows, located along the Dungeness River just north of the proposed off channel reservoir, is a community of 195 homes (more than 350 residents) that are consolidated into a Homeowners Association (HOA). As the citizens living closest to the planned reservoir, and the people who would be most impacted by any potential breach or failure of the reservoir, the association is requesting to be included in the planning process, specifically through regular communication of project updates and by being given a seat at "Working Group" sessions held by the County.

A member of the Washington Water Trust, a lead proponent who was the only Working Group member (other than the County) to participate in the 30% design, states the following in regards to its approach:

The most important factor in our work is ensuring that everyone who needs to be heard has a seat at the table, and that no group is favored over another. We work with agricultural producers, conservation districts, irrigation districts, land trusts, **landowners**, legal experts, state agencies, tribes, and others, because we know that when people participate in the process, they are much more likely to buy into the solution. And when everyone collaborates, ideas are more likely to turn into action. Our team works hard to understand and respect all cultures, values, and traditions. We draw out shared interests and build on them, creating solutions that are less costly, more equitable, and broadly supported.

We have known about the plans to build an "off channel" reservoir for almost a decade. At our invitation, several members of the original planning group briefed a meeting of Dungeness Meadows and adjoining neighborhood residents of the initial vision for the reservoir. Since then, the design remained nebulous, but many residents have had reservations as to the safety of having a 1600-acre body of water less than a half mile uphill from us. We have trusted that Clallam County will keep our homes, and our lives, safe.

Last summer the 30% engineering plans were released and we have become aware of design plans that are concerning. While there was, and continues to be, a widely held misperception that the reservoir would be similar to a ground level lake, we became aware that the planned

DUNGENESS MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

461 Dungeness Meadows
Sequim WA 98382

Telephone: 360-683-9716
email: dmha@olympen.com

embankment would be over 30 feet high on the lower gradient (north) end. In addition, more local emphasis has been put on the presence of 2 – 3 faults on the property. The US Geological Survey (USGS) was vague in their assessment of the situation. We are told that the engineering firm (QEA) hired by the county, may do trenching to find out more.

Many of our residents attended public forum on the planned reservoir on December 6th of last year. That meeting was over capacity, and many people who wanted to attend were turned away. Although some of our concerns were alleviated, others were left unsettled. While the county plans an upcoming meeting at our community, we believe that there is insufficient effort to engage with stakeholders.

The Dungeness Meadows HOA Board of Directors has concerns regarding the County's 2022 FEMA grant request for approximately \$30 million, titled "CLALLAM COUNTY Dungeness Reservoir Construction Building Climate Resilience". They include the absence of adequately addressing the identified earthquake faults and the misrepresentation regarding community involvement and outreach. Page 33 of the document states, in answer to this question: **2. Are there controversial issues associated with this project?** Yes No Unknown a. If yes, please explain:

In the past, the housing complex, Dungeness Meadows, that lives downgradient of the proposed Reservoir has expressed concern that if there were a Reservoir failure, then their housing development might be inundated by water. County staff has met with the Dungeness Meadows Homeowner's Association to discuss the Reservoir and updates them on a regular basis about the project. The residents are now aware of all the permits and agency reviews that are required to ensure the safety of the Reservoir. More outreach is planned for the next phases of the project to address any of the residents' lingering concerns. The majority of the residents are supportive of the project because it will benefit the local food supply and enhance stream and groundwater levels. Overall, the general public consensus is that the Dungeness Reservoir is an extremely worthwhile project and needs to be constructed sooner than later. Over the years there have been quarterly to biannual public meetings of the Dungeness Reservoir Work Group. Additionally, County staff and other Reservoir Partners have presented to various public groups and governmental entities on the project. The intent is to have more public outreach and to receive public comment and input during the final design and during the park outreach process. **THE**

ABOVE STATEMENTS FROM THE COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON WATER TRUST DO NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE AMOUNT OF STAKEHOLDER INPUT AND OUTREACH THAT IS IMPLIED. IN FACT, THEY GREATLY EXAGGERATE THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION THAT HAVE TRANSPIRED DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS.

While we appreciate the fact that the Working Group hosted a public meeting held last December, we realize that there have been decisions made that Dungeness Meadows and our surrounding neighbors should have been a part of. We ask that the Dungeness Meadows Board of Directors receive status updates from the county project leader when major design changes

DUNGENESS MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**461 Dungeness Meadows
Sequim WA 98382**

**Telephone: 360-683-9716
email: dmha@olympen.com**

or grant applications are made. ALSO, WE RESUBMIT OUR PREVIOUS REQUEST SENT TO COUNTY COMMISSIONER MARC OZIAS ON FEBRUARY 16, 2017 (ATTACHED) THAT THE DUNGENESS MEADOWS HOA BE GRANTED A SEAT AT THE TABLE OF THE WORKING GROUP.

Sincerely,

Jon Tyson
Chairman, Dungeness Meadows HOA
461 Dungeness Meadows
Sequim, WA 98382

* The full document titled "CLALLAM COUNTY Dungeness Reservoir Construction Building Climate Resilience" can be viewed at website: riverroadreservoir.com .

Attached: Dungeness Meadows Homeowners Association, Inc. (letter dated Feb 16, 2018)

DUNGENESS MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**461 Dungeness Meadows
Sequim WA 98382**

**Telephone: 360-683-9716
email: dmha@olympen.com**

Cc: Distribution

Rhiana Barkie

Marc Ozias (County Commissioner D1)

Mike French (County Commissioner D3)

Randy Johnson (County Commissioner D2)

Doug Heckenliable

Genie Mixson

Jane Martin

Beth Van Vleck

Cindy Allen

Peter MacRae

Joe DeFilippo

DUNGENESS MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

461 Dungeness Meadows
Sequim WA 98382

Telephone: 360-683-9716
email: dmha@olympen.com

Attachment 1 - Dungeness Meadows Homeowners Association, Inc.
(Letter dated Feb 16, 2017)

DUNGENESS MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

461 Dungeness Meadows
Sequim WA 98382

Telephone: 360-683-9716
email: dmha@olympen.com

February 16, 2017

Mr. Mark Ozias
Clallam County Commissioner
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Ms. Ann Soule
City of Sequim Resource Manager
PO Box 1087
Sequim, WA 98382

Dear Mr. Ozias and Ms. Soule;

We would like to thank you for taking the time to come to our community on February 9, 2017, to discuss the plans for the proposed 88-acre reservoir just south of Dungeness Meadows. We appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and to participate in the open dialogue with you last week.

Our residents have expressed concerns about the irrigation, reservoir design and potential flood liability. Additionally, residents raised questions about the park design and possible increase in traffic to the housing development and surrounding neighborhood as a result of the envisioned new county park. I believe that during our discussion on February 9th, Mr. Ozias indicated that it would be feasible for the Dungeness Meadows Home Owner's Association to involve a person from our community during the planning process to represent our interests.

The Board of Trustees is making a specific request for your group to provide the association with notification of future meetings and to consider inviting the association to appoint a local resident to participate on the planning team as you move forward with the reservoir and park.

Again, thank you for your efforts and attention to the county residents who reside in Dungeness Meadows.

Sincerely,



Neil Hathaway
Board of Trustees, Chairman