

From: Laura Patrick
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Diana Lynn Thompson
Cc: Jamie Harris; SSInfo
Subject: Re: Protect Baker Road Beach
Attachments: islands trust letter Oct 31.docx.rtf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for your email. I have copied our staff so that your email may be on the public record.

Laura Patrick
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 31, 2024, at 19:09, Diana Lynn Thompson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Salt Spring Island Local Trust
Committee
Salt Spring Island BC V8K

October 31, 2024

Dear Ms. Patrick and Mr. Jamie Harris,

I am writing to let you know that a large group of concerned citizens have asked for a **hold** to be put on crown land application file # 1415573 on Salt Spring Island. This is the application to put gravel and rocks on the shores below Baker Road to Quarry Drive. I am writing because I am hopeful that you may be able to intervene in this.

The application site accepts comments until November 13, 2024, the day before your next regular meeting. I expect to be at that meeting with Debbie Magnussen. But before this, I must bring your attention to a petition that is circulating on Salt Spring Island asking for a HOLD on this application. As of today, the Petition has been signed by over 800 people.

“ **Baker Road Beach** is a much-loved public beach that is facing the imminent threat of being transformed. An application proposed by four oceanfront property owners intends to fill the beach and waters with 85 truckloads of coarse gravel, plus numerous large rocks. The affected area would stretch for over ½ km from the Quarry Drive Beach access to beyond the Baker Road steps.

We the undersigned, petition the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to put a hold on application file # 1415573 until such time as:

- **independent** professionals can review the application and publish their findings in such a way as to be easily accessible by all the residents of Salt Spring Island

- we publicly hear a response from all concerned First Nations.

- we publicly hear from **independent** marine biologists about the impact this may have on the Eelgrass beds, on the spawning grounds of Pacific Herring, Sand Lance, Surf Smelt and Plainfin Midshipman fish, and on the Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, River Otter and Bald Eagle nesting and hunting grounds.

- we are assured by **independent** engineers that the tons of shoreline fill (labeled shore "nutrition" in the application) will not shift and cover other areas of the beach -- smothering the biodiversity of marine life on the beach.

- we publicly hear from **independent** erosion experts that the property owners' concerns regarding erosion are, in fact, accurate and that the erosion is from waves; not created from poor drainage and/or interruption of plant growth on the slopes. Such a review must assess the degree of success this project would achieve in realizing its stated goals.

- we have public forums involving the Islands Trust, the CRD and islanders, to ensure a favourite swimming, socializing, walking, exploring, bird-watching and recreation site for everyone will not be degraded, blocked or impeded. " The foreshore application can be viewed and commented on

at: <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications?clidDtId=1415573&id=66bba8c1abb6b6002255d533>

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You can view the petition site yourself at: <https://www.change.org/p/save-baker-rd-beach-its-rare-midshipman-fish-habitat-sign-this-petition>

You will be able to see the comments people have written when you go to the site. Here are a few that really struck me:

"It is hubris to dramatically affect the rare and natural ecosystem of a wild public beach beloved by many islanders, without serious community consultation, scientific and otherwise." Mona Fertig

"I read the documents submitted by the applicants and did not see a full evaluation of the ecological impacts of this project. Nor did I see any consultation with affected First Nations." Susan Hannon

"... This is a sacred and incredible special Oasis for the community. This is not a 'transformation', it is a DESTRUCTION! Please don't allow this to happen, the wealthy trying to take what should not belong to anybody. This area needs to continue being enjoyed and respected by the community. Doggy play dates, swimming,

bioluminescence, beach fires, star gazing, kayaking, diving, dancing, connecting with nature. Please don't allow them to destroy it!!" Juliet Brown

Before November 14th, I will send you a short list of names and postal codes of the people who have signed this petition. I hope to present the entire list, printed out, at the meeting.

Thank-you for your time and attention to this,

Respectfully,

Diana Thompson

