

From: Brooke Angela <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:06 PM
To: Rob Pingle
Subject: Baker Beach Project

Dear Salt Spring Local Trust Committee

I'm writing as a concerned resident of Baker rd. I am one of many residents who is unclear on how a project of this scale gets approved by Islands Trust without outside assessment (outside of the company hired to complete the project). Furthermore after weeks of research and reviewing websites and all of the applicant information, I cannot determine how the project is qualified. Does Islands Trust and DFO take the applicants at their word that the foreshore is urgently eroding due to wave action? It is clear that the banks are experiencing some erosion but the application and the signage posted at the beach entrance claims that the foreshore is eroding as well. A confusing statement.

As I am sure you are aware there are many at-risk species that inhabit this beach. Can Islands Trust provide any information to how a project of this nature will ensure their safety, or as the application claims, create a net-benefit for the ecosystems involved?

Besides the critical issue of harm to sensitive ecosystems, clusters of boulders are proposed to be placed below the low tides marks of popular swimming areas. As a resident who visits the beach frequently, daily in summer, the south end of the beach is a sandy rock-free bay where hundreds of people swim during the warm season. The boulder piles would block access to this swimming beach and potentially cause injury. This directly impacts the public's use of the beach. It is difficult to image 1-meter tall 'loaves' of gravel along the foreshore so I am unsure how this part of the project would impact the public other than making walking a bit wonky.

Finally, please let the public know how First Nations have responded to the application process in collaboration with IT. The beach is used annually by local bands to harvest shellfish and is considered a traditional harvest area. While the land agreements that require First Nations collaboration are being debated by Federal and provincial governments, my understanding was that our local governments do work with local Indigenous groups to steward and protect sensitive areas. The applicants have been unable to provide any evidence of collaboration with indigenous groups.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brooke MacDonald