

From: Gillian Kidd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 2, 2024 9:02 AM
To: Rob Pingle
Subject: Baker Beach Proposal

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Dear Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (and DPA Planners)

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed changes to our much loved and well used Baker Road Beach on Booth Bay. I have lived in this neighbourhood since 1976 and along with our neighbours and others have enjoyed walking, swimming and picnicking on this beach. Salt Spring Island is not gifted with many accessible beaches so it is important to protect this amenity.

Baker Beach has a rich diversity of marine life such as oysters, clams, the Blue Heron, winter ducks, seals and otters. In May there is a special event when the Midshipman fish spawns under the rocks in the intertidal zone. During this time a spectacular number of eagles are attracted to the area as well as photographers and nature enthusiasts

If this proposal is approved this sensitive marine environment would be impacted with 1000 cubic yards of aggregate material to build 4 terraces 1 meter high and 5 meters towards the sea along 600 m of beach in the public foreshore. There would also be damage to the shell fish from the barge and the machine delivering the material along the beach. Rocks ranging from .5 to 1.2 metres will be placed in the foreshore creating a hazard for swimmers, dogs, kayaks and paddle boarders. For decades Booth Bay Beach has been known for wonderful warm swimming in the summer and rock clusters in the intertidal zone will impede this enjoyment of the beach.

If the upland property owner's boundary is marked by the high tide then do the terraces create a new high tide level so now who would own that part of the beach? Also who would pay for and maintain these terraces especially if future new owners refuse to do so.

Over the past 45 years I have walked this beach I have observed very little change in the cliffs from the action of the sea. Most erosion has been caused by trees falling from above and bringing soil down with them, due to weathering and ground water effects

What guarantee do the people of Salt Spring have that this extensive work on the public beach would solve the problem of cliff erosion but would not harm the marine life or impede use of this popular beach?

I cannot support a proposal that threatens the marine life, changes the appearance and use of the beach yet may not solve the of problem of long term cliff erosion.

Please do not allow this possible travesty to happen to our still natural public beach!

Sincerely
Gillian Kidd

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